



60-second interview: Manisha Pandey

Manisha is an AS level student who recently stumbled across Anthropology. She hopes to study the subject at university possibly combined with Archaeology. Currently she is studying Art, History, English Literature, and German at sixth form. In her spare time she enjoys painting, martial arts, and trying to play the piano!

How did you first learn about anthropology?

I was researching degrees on the internet and the first description I read of anthropology was that it was an academic subject for people who like people watching! From then on, I was intrigued...

What makes you interested in studying the subject at university?

Because it sounds like a really exciting degree with an endless number of thought-provoking questions to be answered on what it means to be human. As well as a degree at the end, if you really engage with it, I think you could gain a completely accepting and non-prejudice view on humanity. What more do you want!?

How do people react when you say you want to study Anthropology?

Most people who've asked me don't know what it is! I think once you explain, they usually find it really interesting and I think it's true that there's so much scope for going onto different things afterwards so you can reassure your parents because the world is quite literally your oyster☺

Which university are you thinking of applying to and why?

UCL because its course is a combination of Social and Biological Anthropology and also Material Culture and I think going to university in London would be great for Anthropology with lots of museums right on my doorstep!

What do you think makes anthropology distinct from other social sciences such as geography or history?

Anthropology is so much broader! It encompasses all of those things anyway because you would naturally need to consider things like the geography and history of a place to gain a better understanding of its culture.

Are there any books, websites or films that you could recommend to people interested in learning more about the subject?

The book I'm reading at the moment is '*Guns, Germs and Steel*' by Jared Diamond. It's a really accessible journey through the history of the world and I would definitely recommend it. I also think '*Small places, large issues*' by Thomas Eriksen is a good introduction to Social Anthropology. But there are so many different things out there.. in newspapers, on Youtube and on TV! Type in 'BBC4 Anthropology' on YouTube. Have a look at the Sunday Times magazine's 'The World in Pictures' and definitely come to the next London or Wales Anthropology day!