



Academic Programs - Short Course 2025

Introduction to Human Osteology

Course Description

This four day course offers an in-depth study of the human skeleton through informative lectures and interactive hands-on practical sessions using real human skeletal remains from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine's (VIFM) reference skeletal collection.

The course will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of human skeletal and dental anatomy, and give participants the opportunity to learn how to identify and side skeletal elements (including major anatomical landmarks) and classify dental remains. Participants will also be introduced to the osteological principles of differentiating human from non-human bone, identifying juvenile remains, identifying fragmentary remains and creating a biological profile (i.e., estimating age, sex, ancestry and stature).

This course is beneficial for archaeologists, museum curators and heritage officers who may work with skeletal remains; students who are interested in pursuing studies/careers in biological archaeology or forensic anthropology, and medical professionals (i.e., forensic pathologists) who are required to undertake anthropological examinations of skeletal remains.

No prior knowledge of human osteology is required for this course. Lectures will be delivered by discipline specific experts from the VIFM and external organisations.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course participants will be able to:

- understand the basic principles of bone biology and skeletal growth;
- understand the basic principles of human variation;
- identify the major anatomical landmarks and key features of each bone;
- side each bone in the human body;
- distinguish human bones from some of the most common animal bones; and
- identify the main bone features that are used to provide a biological profile (sex, age, ancestry and stature).

Course Dates

Monday 30 June - Thursday 3 July 2025

Cost

\$1,100 Full / \$900 Student (includes GST)

Cost includes:

- Course manual
- Copy of textbook "The Human Bone Manual" By White & Folkens 2005
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea
- Group dinner
- Certificate of completion

Location

The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine
65 Kavanagh Street Southbank, Melbourne
VICTORIA 3006

Please Note: There is no on-site parking available. Further information about parking and building access will be provided to you prior to the course commencing

How to Register

To register, please visit:

<https://shop.monash.edu/introduction-to-human-osteology-2025.html>

Course Convenor

Dr Samantha Rowbotham



Senior Forensic Anthropologist & Manager, Human Identification Service, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

Terms & Conditions

Registrations are limited to 24 attendees and are allocated on a first come first serve basis. Registrations will close once this quota has been reached. Should the course fail to attract more than 12 registrations 4 weeks prior to the start date, the course will be cancelled. In the event of a cancellation, full refunds will be processed. If you have registered and become unable to attend, registrations can either be transferred to another party or a refund issues. Refunds need to be requested in writing and sent to short.courses@vifm.org at least 7 days prior to the course commencing. Refunds requested within 7 days of the course commencing will be subject to an administrative fee of \$150. The program is accurate at the time of publication. It may be subject to change. If there are substantial changes, the participant will be notified.



Course Programme

Monday 30 June - Thursday 3 July 2025

Day 1: Monday 30 June 2025

09:00 - 09:15	Welcome & introductions
09:15 - 09:45	Setting the scene
09:45 - 10:30	Bone biology
10:30 - 11:00	Morning tea
11:00 - 11:30	Anatomical terminology
11:30 - 13:00	Skull
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:45	Dentition
14:45 - 15:45	Practical 1 - skull and dentition
15:45 - 16:15	Afternoon tea
16:15 - 17:00	Vertebrae

Day 2: Tuesday 1 July 2025

09:00 - 09:45	Ribs & sternum
09:45 - 10:45	Practical 2 - vertebrae and ribs
10:45 - 11:00	Morning tea
11:00 - 11:30	Shoulder girdle & arm
11:30 - 12:15	Forearm & hand
12:15 - 13:15	Practical 3 - upper extremity
13:15 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:30	Pelvic girdle
14:30 - 15:00	Leg
15:00 - 15:30	Foot
15:30 - 16:00	Afternoon tea
16:00 - 17:00	Practical 4 - lower extremity

Day 3: Wednesday 2 July 2025

09:00 - 09:45	Sex Estimation
09:45 - 10:30	Practical 5 - sex estimation
10:30 - 11:00	Morning tea
11:00 - 11:45	Age-at-death estimation
11:45 - 12:30	Practical 6 - age-at-death estimation
12:30 - 13:15	Lunch
13:15 - 14:00	Ancestry estimation
14:00 - 14:45	Practical 7 - ancestry estimation
14:45 - 15:15	Afternoon tea
15:15 - 16:00	Stature estimation
16:00 - 17:00	Practical 8 - stature estimation
18:30	Group Dinner - "Blue Train"

Day 4: Thursday 3 July 2025

09:00 - 10:00	Differentiating human from non-human
10:00 - 10:30	Documentation I: recording forms
10:30 - 11:00	Morning tea
11:00 - 11:30	Documentation II: photography
11:30 - 12:30	Juvenile osteology
12:30 - 13:30	Practical 9 - complete osteological analysis
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:15	Identification of bone fragments
15:15 - 16:15	Practical 10 - fragments
16:15 - 16:30	Summary and course conclusion