Grad Map FAQs

What do I need to know to apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• Honours Bachelor’s degree
• Grade requirements: minimum upper second class standing (8+ average of all courses).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• Statement of research interest.
• CV/Curriculum Vitae.
• If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the TOEFL requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
• Application due: January 15 (international students)/January 31 (domestic students). Late applications may be accepted.
• Notification of acceptance: Beginning in March.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate Studies application process.

How do I find a supervisor?

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the Department of Geography and Planning website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work, areas of research interest, and related experience. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Consider meeting with your potential supervisor for departmental events for prospective students.

What about funding?

Students in the Geography Department receive minimum funding of $14,000 per year. This basic funding package consists of graduate awards and teaching assistantships.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

How do I USE THIS MAP?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different — the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GEOGRAPHY?

Explore critical questions about our environment and our society, as you develop research skills and methods. Study with award-winning faculty in an interdisciplinary Department that combines fundamental analysis and research with practical approaches to planning and implementation.

Why QUEEN’S?

“Studying Geography has allowed me to go places I never thought I would be able to go.”
— Rebecca Edwards, MSc

The Department of Geography and Planning at Queen’s University offers a comprehensive graduate program based on innovative research and strong collaboration between faculty and graduate students. Our specialized Earth System Science labs include GIS and remote-sensing labs equipped with a wide range of the latest software and hardware, and facilities with the latest field equipment and laboratory instrumentation. In human geography, we provide strong support for fieldwork that engages topics of public interest from the community to the national or international scale. Many of our students work on questions of global significance, including development projects in Latin America or Africa, ecological change in the Arctic or the relationship between international migration and human rights. We provide a place for graduate students to learn and excel within a vibrant and supportive intellectual community.

At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen’s more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies.

Why KINGSTON?

Described by students as both “quaint” and “eclectic,” Kingston is big enough to provide an eclectic mix of nature and culture, small enough for students, staff, and faculty to feel instantly comfortable and at home.

Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city; only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

Program STRUCTURE

The 2-year Geography graduate program can be completed as a MA or MSc, with two methods:

• Method I completion of GPHY 857 (Masters Research Seminar), four graduate term-length courses and a full thesis.
• Method II: six graduate term-length courses and a half-thesis.

RESEARCH Areas

• Work, Identity, and Place (Labour Geographies)
• Globalizations, Development, Economies, and Sustainability
• Bodies, Health, and Healthcare
• Citizenship, Identity, Justice, and Governance
• Post-Colonialism, Indigenous Peoples, and Place
• Earth Systems Science, with a strong focus on Arctic issues, forests, and resources
• Geographic Information Science
• Urban and Regional Planning
### GETTING STARTED

- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
  - Consider how your course papers can contribute to your thesis.
  - Find your way through the academic process with the help of departmental and *Expanding Horizons* professional development workshops, the department Grad Chan and the SGS Habitat

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Start to think about the audiences for your research.
  - If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC, NSERC, and OGS funding.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, QTV and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
  - Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Geography Graduate Committee for tips on getting involved.
  - Check out professional development workshops from *Expanding Horizons*.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Sustainable Kingston or the Frontenac Arch Bioreserve Reserve.
  - Take advantage of the numerous facilities and laboratories, including, the Semi-Public Micro Computer Lab, Earth System Science Lab, Environmental Variability and Extremes Lab (EVEX), Laboratory of Geographic Information and Spatial Analysis (LUGISA), and more.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meeting with a career counsellor. Check out books like *So What Are You Going to do With That?* for advice on various career options.
  - Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
  - Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

### INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Complete your coursework.
  - Begin to research and write your thesis.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Association of Geographers Ontario Division (CAGONT) meetings.
  - Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as the Policy Speakers Series and the Environmental Studies Speakers Series.
  - Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
  - Expand your research audience through social media.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
  - Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
  - For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Email in SGS901 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate.
  - If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum”.
  - Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.
  - If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

### WRAPPING UP

- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Complete your thesis.
  - Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the *Expanding Horizons* Publishing workshop.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Consider publication options for your research.
  - Attend a major conference in your field, such as the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help with the Skills and Experience workshop.
  - Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, *Expanding Horizons*, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
  - Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest through Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association professional associations, and at conferences Check out Career Services’ Networking workshops.
  - Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association of Geographers.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- **Knowledge and technical skills** in area of specialization
- **Communication** effective and clear in written, oral and multimedia forms, for diverse audiences
- **Information management** prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- **Time management** meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands
- **Project management** develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- **Creativity and innovation** to address complex, multifacetted challenges
- **Perseverance** to work through challenges to achieve desired outcome
- **Independence and experience as a collaborative worker**
- **Awareness and understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity**
- **Professionalism** in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- **Leadership** initiative and vision leading people and discussions

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!