Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

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

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of research interest.
- Curriculum Vitae.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the TOEFL test requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. You will need a total TOEFL score of at least 600 or TOEFL iBT minimum scores of: writing (24/30), speaking (22/30); reading (22/30), for a total of 88/120. Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score.

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

Graduate applications are done online. Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

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. Additional funding is highly likely.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically consider all eligible external funding in the assessment of your application, and funding is highly likely.

BEGINNING IN MARCH
- Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for professional development opportunities.
- 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.
- 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.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GEOGRAPHY?

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

Why QUEEN’S?

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.

“Studying Geography has allowed me to go places I never thought I would be able to go.”

– Rebecca Edwards, MSc

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), 4 graduate term-length courses, a full thesis, and an oral defence.

Method II: 6 graduate term-length courses, a half-thesis, and an oral defence.

RESEARCH Areas

- Work, Identity, and Place (Labour Geography)
- Globalization, Development, Economies, and Sustainability
- Biodiversity, Health, and Healthcare
- Citizenship, Identity, Justice, and Governance
- Post-Colonialism, Indigenous Peoples, and Place
- Earth Systems Science, with a strong focus on Arctic systems, forests, and resources
- Geographic Information Science
- Urban and Regional Planning

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 at the departmental events for prospective students.
Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!