Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?

A PhD in Geography can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Academia and teaching
- Real estate
- International banking
- Government
- Policy

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Ph.D. Career Outcomes in Canada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Sector</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management, Business, &amp; Finance</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Academia</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other 6%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>19%</td>
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</tbody>
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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.

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?

“Geography gave me the support I needed. I was able to take a complex project and really run with it.”

– Dr Sarah de Leeuw, PhD

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.

Why KINGSTON?

Described by students as both “quaint” and “eclectic,” Kingston is big enough to provide all the conveniences of modern life, and 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, culture, and Queen’s University, visit Queen’s University Discover Kingston page.
ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, etc.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as the Policy Speakers Series and the Environmental Studies Speakers Series.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics or do research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OSAP, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Geography Graduate Committee for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC TV, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in the community.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL).

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations such as Sustainable Kingston or the Queen’s Alumni Association.
- 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 (LaGISA), and more.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate options such as the Canadian Association of Geographers.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association of Geographers.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations such as Sustainable Kingston or the Queen’s Alumni Association.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. 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 or browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alum for more information.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.

YEAR I

- Continue to pursue publication options for your work.
- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- 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: Contact a career counsellor for help. Check out the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.
- List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association of Geographers.

YEAR II

- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting or the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting.
- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp, or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Consider presenting elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with colleagues in your field.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations such as Sustainable Kingston or the Queen’s Alumni Association.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options.

YEAR III

- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association of Geographers.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- Complete and defend your dissertation.
- Continue to pursue publication options for your research.
- Complete and defend your dissertation.
- Continue to pursue publication options for your research.
- Participate in the Queen’s Alumni Association Leaders for Success program.
- Interview for or apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures.
- Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.