Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GEOGRAPHY?

Explore critical questions about our environment and our 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.

“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

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.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): 3 courses (including GPHY 801), qualifying exam, dissertation and oral defence.

RESEARCH Areas

- Work, Identity, and Place (Labour Geographies)
- Globalization, 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 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.
**Geography PhD MAP**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

**YEAR I**
- Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, developing your research proposal, and preparing for your qualifying exam.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for supports. Attend and participate in graduate seminars in our Geography Colloquium and in other departments such as SNCO, Policy Studies, and Environmental Studies.
- Think about audiences for your research. Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, CGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.
- 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.

**YEAR II**
- Present your work at academic conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Start a research blog or build a website.
- Present your work at academic conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Continue to present at conferences and Emerging speakers series.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre to learn how to speak to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.
- Consider teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CIL, 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.

**YEAR III**
- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in the community.
- Start keeping an inventory of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SS901 or the PPTI certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Consider teaching within the department.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and professional realities for remaining in academia.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in preparing settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Participate in graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- If pursuing research abroad, investigate opportunities for support such as the Canadian Association of Geographers.
- Join groups on LinkedIn for specific careers or topics of interest.
- Get involved in student or young researchers organizations (e.g. through CUGS, CAG, APECS).
- Participate in some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Join CAG and AAG specialty group committees.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Organize panels at AAG and CAG.
- Organize special issues in key geographic journals.
- Expand your research network by connecting with researchers through social media, at conferences, or through LinkedIn.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty at or conferences, and with supervision to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary and defensible accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners, such as the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, or GeoConvention.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in preparing settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- The conclusion of formal academic training is the beginning of a new career path.
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners, such as the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, or GeoConvention.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiation and vision leading people and discussion

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

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
- Consulting
- International development
- 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.

Visit careers.queens.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
## Application FAQs

### What do I need to know to APPLY?

#### Academic Requirements
- Master’s degree. Transcripts from all previous programs/degrees are considered.

#### Additional Requirements
- Statement of research interest.
- C.V. highlighting scholarly outputs and work experiences.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

#### Key Dates & Deadlines
- Application deadline: January 15 (international students)/January 31 (domestic students). Late applications may be accepted.
- Notification of acceptance: March.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

### What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Geography PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1–4. The funding package may be comprised of graduate awards and teaching assistantships. Additional funding is highly likely.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to winners of federal government tri-council awards for PhD studies. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on [awards and scholarships](#).