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)**

**ACHEIVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- 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 support. Attend and participate in graduate seminars in the Geography Colloquium and in other departments such as SNS, Policy Studies, and Environmental Studies.

**YEAR I**
- Write and defend their 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**
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SSg Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

**YEAR III**
- 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.
- 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 ULC, 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, through Queen’sConnects 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.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty at or conferences and with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence 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 settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Expand your research network by connecting with researchers through social media, at conferences, or through LinkedIn.
- Organize panels at AAG and CAG.
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Attend or generate new ideas for other opportunities. Get help from Career Services with Jobs 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.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- 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, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.
- Present your work at departmental research groups.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars in our department or with departmental research groups.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association of Geographers, or with community organizations such as the Kingston Alumni Association or the Kingston Community Science Outreach Group.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Join the department Graduate Student Council and seek ways to get involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CRC, or the SGS Blog.
- Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Participate in cyber-enabled learning, by taking MyGradSkills to learn how to develop your online and tech skills.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from Career Services.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations such as Sustainable Kingston, the Frontenac Archaeological Reserve or a Kingston Community Health Centre.
- Take advantage of the numerous facilities and laboratories and learn what research is occurring in the various departmental research groups.
- Consider joining professional associations like 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 CGS, CAG, APECS).

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? Let’s the Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education to examine non-academic labour market trends.
- 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’sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alum. For more information check our Career Counseling.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Participate in hiring committees if possible 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.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
- A graduate degree in Geography can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
  - 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 social, ethical, and responsible research and cultural sensibility
  - Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
  - Leadership: initiative 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 go 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.queensu.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 incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.