Get to know GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

Geography bridges the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. Students in Geography approach problems from ecological and spatial perspectives. An ecological perspective is useful for investigating many environmental and resource management questions that focus upon relationships between humans and the natural environment. Alternatively a spatial perspective is concerned with understanding locational choices and locational relationships underlying human (social, cultural, historical, economic or political) behaviour at geographic scales ranging from the local to the global. The Department of Geography and Planning offers two ways to boost your resume – a fast-track professional master’s degree in urban and regional planning and a certificate in Geographic Information Science. The fast-track program combines a BA or BSc with a Master’s degree by extending your studies by only 15 months instead of 24 months.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Science (Honours)
Major / Minor
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor
Bachelor of Science (General)
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Certificate in Geographic Information Science

“A top-performing department both in world rankings and within Queen’s, Geography and Planning puts students on the map.”

Queen’s ADMISSIONS

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario University Application Centre) website. Secondary School prerequisites include Six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Courses in Geography typically fall in either the physical or human side of Geography – in first year there is a course for each. Some popular courses include Climate Change; Water Resources; Cities: Geography, Planning and Urban Life; Sustainable Transportation; Place, Space, Culture and Social Life; Human Migration; Aboriginal Geographies of Canada; Watershed Hydrology; Bioenergy; Landscape Ecology; Geography, Environment and Human Health; and Medical Geography. We also offer a suite of courses specializing in geographic information systems and remote sensing.

A Common START

Students in our Faculty are admitted into Arts, Science or Computing but the focus is on a common first year. Through self-exploration, and while you settle into university life, you have the opportunity to work with our advisors and faculty to discover your real interests and identify opportunities for success. Sometimes that discovery happens fairly quickly, and for other students it takes some work and time before the “ah-ha!” happens – either way your first year will be a great experience at Queen’s.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
**Get the Courses You Need**

1ST YEAR

- **BACH**: Take GPHY 101, 102, 6.0 units MATH and 6.0 units of BIOL or CHEM or PHYS. BA/BAH: take GPHY 101, 102.
- For plan requirements or thresholds, see the department websites. Speak to an Academic Advisor at the Arts and Science Office or the Undergraduate Chair for help.

2ND YEAR

- See the department website for required units and suggestions for various programs in Geography and Planning.
- If interested in the Certificate in Geographic Information Science (GIIS), start taking courses now.

3RD OR FINAL YEAR

- See the department website for units required and course suggestions.
- Consider the Urban and Regional Planning accelerated degree program to fast-track a Master’s degree to only 15 months instead of 24 months.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

- Complete your degree requirements.
- Apply to graduate on SOLUS.

**Get Relevant Experience**

- Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen’s Project on International Development (QPID) and the Geography Explore Camp.
- Look in the Co-Curricular Opportunities Directory or AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.

**Get Connected with the Community**

- Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations, such as local charities or clubs like The Earth Centre.

**Get Thinking Globally**

- The Queen’s University International Centre is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience.
- Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their programs, events and training opportunities.

**Get Ready for Life After Graduation**

- Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Career Opportunities in Conservation and the Environment. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.
- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and get help thinking about grad school from Career Services.

**Consider a 12-16 Month QUIP Internship**

- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

**Where could I go after graduation?**

- Agricultural science
- Climatology
- Community development
- Demography
- Development and humanitarian assistance
- Diplomacy
- Environmental conservation and management
- Farming
- Forestry conservation
- Geology
- Geospatial analysis
- GIS specialist
- Health administration
- Heritage conservation
- Immigration and settlement
- Immigration services
- Landscape architecture
- Law
- Logistics
- Mapping, surveying and cartography
- Meteorology
- Oceanography
- Professor
- Project management
- Real estate
- Social work
- Teaching
- Toxicology
- Transportation
- Urban and regional planning
- Water conservation

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
How to use this map

- Got questions about careers and classes?
- Feeling a little lost or overwhelmed by choices?
- Wondering what you are “supposed” to be doing?

Use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of career and academic life. Each map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your accomplishments. To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Don’t stress if you haven’t done all of the suggested activities. The map is not a prescription – it’s a tool for finding your own way at Queen’s.

Getting what you need to succeed in the workplace

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?

In a recent survey from the Canadian Council of Chief Executives the top 6 skills sought by employers were:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

WHAT DO I GET THE SKILLS I NEED?

It is important to develop a balanced skill set – many of which you will develop during your studies. To stand out, take advantage of experiential learning through the multitude of clubs and activities in and around Queen’s. Check out the Get Relevant Experience section of this map.

WHAT CAN I LEARN STUDYING GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING AT QUEEN’S?

- Understanding of the interrelationships between people, places and environments
- Knowledge of social, cultural, economic and political factors affecting societies and environments
- Knowledge of the physical and biophysical aspects of the earth’s environments
- Knowledge of the earth system
- Oral and written communication – write reports and give presentations
- Field research skills - conduct field studies by installing sensors and data loggers to measure and monitor physical processes
- Laboratory research skills – collect snow, water, soil and vegetation samples for biogeochemical analysis in the laboratory
- Analytical skills – analyze spatial information and data using computer technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (e.g. ESRI ArcInfo), Remote Sensing and Image Processing, and statistical methods.
- Academic research skills – conduct research using databases and journal articles through library sources.

WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL?

No one will get exactly the same experience as you. Take the time to think about what skills you have developed to be able to best explain them with compelling examples in future applications to employers and further education. For help with this, check out the Career Services skills workshop.