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 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 BAH or BScH 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 / Specializations in Earth System Science, Geography
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor
Bachelor of Science (General)
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Certificate in Geographic Information Science Internship option available
Accelerated Masters

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

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 at Queen’s will be a great experience.

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.

That is a degree from Queen’s. quartsci.com
### 1ST YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
- **BSc:** take GPHY 101, 102, 6.0 units MATH or STAT and 6.0 units of CHEM or PHYS.
- **BAH:** take GPHY 101 and 102.

Each Plan will have at least one required first-year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
- Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen’s Project on International Development (QPID) and the Geography Explore Camp.
- See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen’s Get Involved page 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 and get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

### 2ND YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
- 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 (GISc), start taking courses now.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
- Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work-Study.
- Take more responsibility within different clubs or extracurriculars. Think about applying to positions in student services or the Alma Mater Society.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
- Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).
- Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
- Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3rd year exchange through your Faculty’s International Office. If exchange isn’t for you, come talk to QUIC about some other options to gain international experience.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
- 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.

### 3RD YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
- 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 in only 15 months instead of 24 months.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
- Contact faculty members during their office hours or through the geography website to inquire about summer assistant positions.
- If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
- Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Connects. Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC. Volunteer at a conference or workshop (e.g. the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual General Meeting).

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
- Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills. Check QUIC’s resources for ideas to go abroad, and volunteer or attend one of their events.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
- 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.

### 4TH OR FINAL YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
- Complete your degree requirements.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
- Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

### CONSIDER A 12-16 MONTH QUIP INTERNSHIP

- Consider joining professional associations like the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as the Canadian Association of Geographers, the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis and the Canadian Remote Sensing Society.

- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Geography.

- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

- Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions. Apply in the fall for SSHRC and OGS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

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

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

A balanced approach leads to long-term success. While you will learn a lot from your studies, taking time to gain relevant experience outside of the classroom, build your network, and gain international experience, will position you to be more competitive in your job search or grad school applications.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

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

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING?

- Understanding of the interrelationships between people, places and environments
- Knowledge of social, cultural, economic and political factors affecting societies and environments; physical and biophysical aspects of the earth’s environments; and the earth system
- Oral and written communication to write reports and give presentations
- Field research skills to conduct field studies by installing sensors and data loggers to measure and monitor physical processes
- Laboratory research skills to collect snow, water, soil and vegetation samples for biogeochemical analysis in the laboratory
- Analytical skills to 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 to conduct research using databases and journal articles through library sources