Geography and Planning

MAJOR MAP

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.

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. Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Succeed in the workplace

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 a Career Services 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 using databases and journal articles through library sources

Why study in Kingston?

For over 175 years, the Kingston community has been a collection of bright minds. We are proud that our city was named one of the top Intelligent Communities across the globe, an accolade largely due to the thousands of students who study here every single year. In fact, the BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world, which might be why Instagram named the city “the happiest place on the planet.” Just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York, Kingston is a safe and liveable city. Not only are we known as the freshwater sailing capital of the world, Kingston is arguably the birthplace of hockey. Wondering what to do while you’re attending school? Queen’s has more clubs per capita than any other university in North America, and Kingston has more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America. Your time here is guaranteed to be “fresh made daily.”


That is a degree from Queen’s.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

Faculty of Arts and Science
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613-533-2610
queensu.ca/geographyandplanning

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 PLANS

Bachelor of Science (Honours) Major in Geography / Specialization in Earth System Science Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Major in Geography / Specialization in Environmental Science Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Major in Geographic Information Systems

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; Waterhed 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.

Queen’s ADMISSION

BAAH students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities’ Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). 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.

BScH students apply to Queen’s Science (QS) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities’ Application Centre) website. Secondary School prerequisites include English 4U, Advanced Functions 4U, Calculus and Vectors 4U, plus 2 of Physics 4U, Chemistry 4U, Biology 4U or recognized equivalents.

Visit queensu.ca/admission for additional information regarding requirements and admission to Queen’s.

A Year to CHOOSE

We often say that our students are like explorers. In Arts and Science, your first year is all about making choices and exploring new paths. Whether you are in Arts, Science or Computing, you will choose your courses from a wide variety of subjects as you settle into university life and become familiar with new styles of learning. By the end of your first year, you will have discovered your areas of interest, passion and success, and will then declare your major. Your first year, whether you consider it to be undeclared, undecided or simply a time for exploration, is bound to be a year full of adventure.


That is a degree from Queen’s.

QUArtsci.com
**Gender Equality**

*This map is intended to provide suggestions for potential activities and career paths, but everyone's abilities, experience, and constraints are different. Build your own map using our online tool.*

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### Geography and Planning MAJOR MAP

#### Bachelor of Science (Honours): Specialization, Major, Minor | Bachelor of Arts (Honours): Major, Medial, Minor

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#### 1st Year

- **Get the courses you need**
  - BScH students should take GPHY 101, 102, 6.0 units MATH or STAT and 6.0 units of CHEM or PHYS.
  - BAH student should take GPHY 101 and 102.
  - Build your transferable skills in time management, problem-solving, writing and more with the Student Academic Success Services.

- **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**
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUC's Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
  - Speak to a QUC advisor to 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 Counselling 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.

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#### 2nd Year

- **Get the courses you need**
  - See the Department website and the Academic Calendar for required units and suggestions for various programs in Geography and Planning.
  - Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

- **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 the International Programs Office.
  - Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills.

- **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.

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#### 3rd Year

- **Get the courses you need**
  - Remember to check the Department website and the Academic Calendar for units required and course suggestions.
  - Consider the Urban and Regional Planning Combined Degree Program to fast track a Master's degree to 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**
  - Consider joining professional associations like 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.

- **Get ready for life after graduation**
  - International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

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#### 4th or final year

- **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.

- **Get the courses you need**
  - By fourth year you should be working on your remaining core, option, supporting and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and (or certificate(s)) as well. Complete all of your degree requirements.
  - Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

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#### Where could I go after graduation?

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

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