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 / Minor in Geography / Specialization in Earth System Science  
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)  
Major / Medial / Minor in Geography  
Internship option available

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

Queen’s ADMISSION
BAH 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 or 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.

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
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. 

**1ST YEAR**
- BSC or BAH students should take GPHY 101, 102, 6.0 units of MATH or STAT and 6.0 units of CHEM or PHYS.
- Build your transferrable skills in time management, problem-solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.
- Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen’s Project on International Development (OPID) and the Geography Explore Camp.
- Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations, such as local charities or clubs like The Earth Centre.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
- Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

**2ND YEAR**
- See the Department website and the Academic Calendar for required units and suggestions for various programs in Geography and Planning.
- 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.
- Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work-Study.
- Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).
- 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.
- 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 GRE, and get help thinking about grad school from Career Services.

**3RD YEAR**
- Remember to check the Department website and the Academic Calendar for units required and course suggestions.
- Contact faculty members during their office hours or through the geography website to inquire about summer assistant positions.
- 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).
- Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills.
- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills.

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**
- 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.
- Consider joining professional associations like Canadian Association of Geographers, the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis and the Canadian Remote Sensing Society.
- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- 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.

**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
- Some careers may require additional training.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
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

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.

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 Canada, and Kingston has more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America; your time here is guaranteed to be ‘fresh made daily’.

We’re closer than you think.

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