

Geography MA, MSc Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GEOGRAPHY?

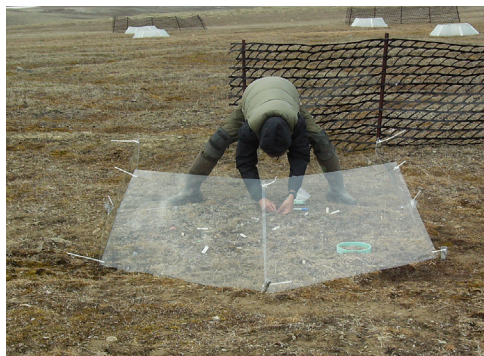
Explore critical questions about our environment and our society as you develop research skills. Study with award-winning faculty in an interdisciplinary department that combines fundamental analysis and research with practical, applied approaches to planning and implementation.

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 and international scale. Many of our students work on questions of global significance, including development projects in Latin America or Africa, ecological change in

"Studying Geography has allowed me to go places I never thought I would be able to go."

– Rebecca Edwards, MSc



GRAD MAP FOR MA, MSc STUDENTS 



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

The 2-year Geography graduate program can be completed as a MA or MSc, with two methods:

- Method I: completion of GPHY 857 (Masters Research Seminar), 4 graduate term-length courses, a full thesis, and an oral defence.
- Method II: 6 graduate term-length courses, a half-thesis, and an oral defence.

RESEARCH Areas

- Bodies, Health, and Healthcare
- Citizenship, Identity, Justice, and Governance
- Earth Systems Science, with a strong focus on Arctic systems, forests, and resources
- Geographic Information Science

- Globalization, Development, Economies, and Sustainability
- Post-Colonialism, Indigenous Peoples, and Place
- Urban and Regional Planning
- Work, Identity, and Place (Labour Geographies)

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 them and tell them about your interest in graduate work, areas of research interest, and related experience. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Consider meeting with your potential supervisor at the departmental events for prospective students.

Geography MA & MSc Map

MASTER OF ARTS (MA), MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSc)



FALL OF YEAR 1

SUMMER OF YEAR 1 / FALL OF YEAR 2

END OF WINTER TERM YEAR 2

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, and doing your coursework.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of departmental and School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair, and SGSPA.

- Complete your coursework.
- Start research with goal of completing most of your research by January of your second year.

- Complete your thesis.
- Publish elements of your research if possible.
- Present in departmental and Geography Graduate Student Council Emerging Research seminar series.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC, NSERC, OGS, and any other award funding for which you are eligible.
- Attend departmental and Geography Graduate Student Council seminar series.
- In second term, complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Association of Geographers, Ontario Division meetings.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars in our department and in other departments such as the Policy Speakers Series and the Environmental Studies Speakers Series.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) or GRADflix competition.

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, or GeoConvention.
- Consider being interviewed on the SGSPA radio show Grad Chat to talk about your research.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGSPA Blog.
- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees. Join the departmental Graduate Student Council and seek ways to get involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from SGSPA professional development.

- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant, Research Fellow, or Teaching Assistant Position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in SG5902 or PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- 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.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Sustainable Kingston, Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, and Kingston Community Health Centres.
- Take advantage of the numerous facilities and laboratories and learn what research is occurring in the various departmental research groups.
- Get involved in student or young researchers organizations (e.g. through the Canadian Geophysical Union, or the Canadian Association of Geographers).

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueensConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association of Geographers if you have not already.
- Engage in professional groups such as GoGeomatics

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career educator and coach.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. For more information, check out Career Cruising.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest, reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Geography can equip you with:

- **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 sound **ethical practices**, **social responsibility**, responsible research, and **cultural sensitivity**
- **Professionalism** in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- **Leadership:** initiative and vision leading people and discussion

Career Possibilities

A Master's degree in Geography can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA and MSc students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Further academic studies
- Consulting
- Geographic information systems
- International development
- Government
- Policy research

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps.

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the [SGSPA website](#) for available resources.

What is the community like?

At Queen's, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen's more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world's best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen's offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen's is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston's history and culture, see Queen's University's [Discover Kingston](#) page.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Honours Bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- **Grade requirements:** minimum B+ average of all courses (equivalent to 77-79.9% or 3.3 GPA out of 4.3 grading scale at Queen's University).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- If English is not your native language, prospective students must meet the **English language proficiency requirements** in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (5) Canadian Academic English Language (Computer Edition) (CAEL CE): 70 (minimum overall score).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** January 31 (Domestic & International students), which must include all supporting documents. However, late applications may be considered on a rolling basis until all spots are filled.
- **Notification of acceptance:** Beginning in March.

Graduate applications are done online. Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

Master's students in the Geography program are guaranteed minimum funding of \$15,000 per year for two years. Minimum funding levels are, however, generally higher than the guaranteed minimum. This basic funding package may consist of graduate awards and teaching assistantships. Additional funding is highly likely.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$5,000 award to incoming Masters students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships.

