Geography can be defined as the integrated study of the Earth’s places, societies, environments and landscapes. Among academic disciplines, Geography is unique in combining the social sciences and humanities with the physical sciences. In physical geography, or earth system science, we study natural processes, their interactions, as well as natural and human-generated environmental issues, such as climate change.

“Traveling and asking sometimes difficult questions was an integral part of my two geography degrees at Queen’s... the trilogy of land, people, and the struggle over resources, which formed the basis of much of my geography training, shapes not only how we should understand conflicts, but also how we can work to resolve them.”

-Krista House, BAH ’97

“Acquire Skills. Gain Experience. Go Global. That is a degree from Queen’s.”

queensu.ca/geographyandplanning
In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Geography in biology, chemistry, geography and geology along with some electives. Start going deeper into the discipline of Geography, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Geographic Information Science and/or Urban Planning Studies. Attend Degree + in the Fall term to learn more about Certificates and Internship options. Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help. Get ready for life after graduation by exploring 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.  

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps for the online version with links!
In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Graduate School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

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.

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

What will I learn?
A degree in Geography can equip you with:
- 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

Where can I go?
A degree in Geography can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master's. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
- Climatology
- Demography
- Farming
- GIS specialist
- Heritage conservation
- Immigration services
- Landscape architecture
- Mapping and surveying
- Oceanography
- Urban and regional planning

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

Consider a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

Conduct research 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 Graduate School applications, or other decisions. Apply in the fall for SSHRC and OGS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

Targeted networking with alumni working in your areas of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen's Connects. Connect with professors at our or workshops hosted by the DSC. Volunteer at a conference or workshop (e.g. the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual General Meeting).

Identify your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills, perhaps through the French for Professionals certificate.

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.

*This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Major Map using our online My Major Map tool.
Why study in Kingston?

For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen’s has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen’s has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.