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.

**Alumni Story**

“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

**TOP ALUMNI JOBS**

- 4% of alumni work in **CONSULTING**
- 6% of alumni work in **BANKING & INVESTMENT**
- 16% of alumni work in **GOVERNMENT**
- 32% of alumni work in **EDUCATION**

**2023-24 Plan Thresholds**

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit [quartsci.com/planselection](quartsci.com/planselection).

Interested in finding out how to augment your degree with Experiential Learning? Learn what opportunities and resources are available for you on the [Experiential Learning website](Experiential%20Learning%20website). You can also reach out to the team directly at [asc.el@queensu.ca](asc.el@queensu.ca).

**Acquire Skills. Gain Experience. Go Global.**

That is a degree from Queen’s.  
[queensu.ca/geographyandplanning](queensu.ca/geographyandplanning)
1ST YEAR

In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Geography in biology, chemistry, geography, and geology along with some electives. 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. Interested in getting a head start in learning and working in a digital world? Take ASCX 150 and develop future-ready skills!

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen’s Project on International Development (Queen’s PIDD) 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 QUIC (Intercultural Competency Certificate), and research possible immigration regulations. Speak to a QUIC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Grapping with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

2ND YEAR

Start getting deeper into the discipline of Geography, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Geographic Information Science and/or Urban Planning Studies. Learn more about Certificates and Internship options. Develop your entrepreneurial skills by participating in the Queen’s Challenge Maker Challenge (ASCX 200/900).

3RD YEAR

A chance to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of Geography. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

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 third year exchange through the International Programs Office.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Explore different careers 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

In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Graduate School or your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s). Interested in working on a real-world problem with an actual client? Take ASCX 450 and develop your consulting and project-management skills.

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

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 SQuIP 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 Geos. 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.

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
- Oceography
- 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.

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.

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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.

WHY STUDY IN KINGSTON?

FOR 175 YEARS, OUR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN MORE THAN A COLLECTION OF BRIGHT MINDS – QUEEN’S HAS ATTRACTION 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.