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.

TOP 5 Reasons to study Geography and Planning

1. Hands-on lab and field work. Engage communities, see results.
2. Gain a wide range of transferable skills that stand out in the labour market, like teamwork, cultural sensitivity, and tech savviness.
3. Learn to make sensible judgements about matters involving the physical environment and society.
4. Question the world you live in and get the skills you need to change it.
5. Join a community of scholars with close and interactive relationships with each other.

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

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

Add a Certificate

Data Analytics
Disability and Physical Activity
Employment Relations
Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity
French for Professionals
Geographic Information Science
Global Action and Engagement
Indigenous Languages and Cultures
International Studies
Media Studies
Sexual and Gender Diversity
Urban Planning Studies
quartsci.com/certs


That is a degree from Queen's.

queensu.ca/geographyandplanning
## Geography MAJOR MAP

### BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) or BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS): MAJOR, JOINT HONOURS, MINOR

### GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

**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 QASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.

**2ND YEAR**

- Start going deeper into the discipline of Geography, while considering a minor or certificate such as Geographic Information Science and/or Urban Planning Studies. Attend Degree 2 in the Fall term to learn more about certificates and internship options.

**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.

**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 to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

### GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**1ST YEAR**

- 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.

**2ND YEAR**

- Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work through SWP or Work-Study.
- Take more responsibility within different clubs or extracurriculars. Think about applying to positions in student services or the Alma Mater Society.

**3RD YEAR**

- 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 Queen’s Internship between your third and fourth year.

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**

- 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 CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

**1ST YEAR**

- Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations, such as local charities or clubs like The Earth Centre.

**2ND YEAR**

- Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).
- Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

**3RD YEAR**

- Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Connect. 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).

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**

- Consider joining professional associations like Canadian Association of Geographers, the Canadian Remote Sensing Society.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Geography.

### GET THINKING GLOBALLY

**1ST YEAR**

- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and possible foreign immigration regulations.
- Speak to a QUC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

**2ND YEAR**

- 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.

**3RD YEAR**

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

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**

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

### GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

**1ST YEAR**

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

**2ND YEAR**

- 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 by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

**3RD YEAR**

- 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.

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**

- 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 SASS and QGIS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

### CONSIDER A 12-16 MONTH QUIP INTERNSHIP

**1ST YEAR**

- 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:

  - Urban and regional planning
  - Oceanography
  - Mapping and surveying
  - Landscape architecture
  - GIS specialist
  - Heritage conservation
  - Immigration services

**2ND YEAR**

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

**3RD YEAR**

- 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 SASS and QGIS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**

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

### 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.

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.