Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Honours Bachelor’s degree.
- Grade requirements: minimum upper second class standing (B+ average of all courses).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of research interest.
- Curriculum Vitae.
- If English is not your native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. You will need (1) a total TOEFL (paper-based) score of at least 600, or (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30), Speaking (22/30), Reading (22/30), Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score) or (4) PTE Academic: 65.

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.

What about FUNDING?

Master’s students in the Geography program are guaranteed minimum funding of $14,000 per year for two years. Minimum funding levels are, however, generally higher than the guaranteed minimum. International students will be provided with an additional $5,000 per year to help offset higher tuition costs. This basic funding package consists 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 consider your application for available resources.

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, ecologic change in 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.

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

- Rebecca Edwards, MSc

Program STRUCTURE

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

- Method I: 1 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

- Work, Identity, and Place (Labour Geographies)
- Globalization, Development, Economies, and Sustainability
- Bodies, Health, and Healthcare
- Citizenship, Identity, Justice, and Governance
- Post-Colonialism, Indigenous Peoples, and Place
- Earth Systems Science, with a strong focus on Arctic systems, forests, and resources
- Geographic Information Science
- Urban and Regional Planning

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 him/her 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.

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 330 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.

What 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 career services 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 KSS Habitats for available resources.

Where can I get help?

My Grad Map

For available resources.

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**Geography MA & MSc Map**

**FALL YEAR 1**

- 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 Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.
- Start to research and write your thesis proposal as part of GPHY 857.

**SUMMER OF YEAR 1 / FALL OF YEAR 2**

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

**END OF WINTER TERM YEAR 2**

- Complete your thesis.
- Publish elements of your research if possible. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Present in departmental and Geography Graduate Student Council Emerging Research seminar series.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

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

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

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.

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Consider visiting the Queen's Journal, SGS Blog, and the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Sustainable Kingston, Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, and Kingston Community Health Centres.
- 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.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Consider positions in student services, the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CPRD, Studio G, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Consider putting options for your research.
- Consider attending or participating 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 competition.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- 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 putting an article in The Conversation.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Consider putting options for your research.
- Consider attending or participating in graduate seminars in our department and in other departments such as the Policy Speakers Series and the Environmental Studies Speakers Series.
- Consider presenting your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SSG902 or the 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.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

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- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Find a career that fits with starting yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career counsellor. Check out books like What Do You Want To Do With That? or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
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- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "Ask an Alum".
- 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, or interviews.

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