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 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 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.
FALL OF 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.
- Begin to think about research beyond your thesis.

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 Emerging Research Seminars.
- In second term, complete theORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CRFC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- 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 Expanding Horizons.

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, the Canadian Association of Geographers or the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists).

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Find a career that fits with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career counselor.
- Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That?
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

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.
- 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 Police Speakers Series and the Environmental Studies Speakers Series.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- 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. Enroll in SGS902 or SULT Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

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.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, or GeoConvention.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.
- 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, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- 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.
- 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 environmentby taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- 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, the Canadian Association of Geographers or the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists).

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
- Pervereverse
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsibility in 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 and software development
- Government
- Policy research

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

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
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 Academics: 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.

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. 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 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' information on awards and scholarships.