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 (23/30), 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' awards and scholarships page.

FUNDING

GRADUATE STUDIES MA, MSc Map

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GEOGRAPHY?

Explore critical questions about our environment and 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 I: 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 experiences. 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.

Visit the Department of Geography and Planning For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ web page.
**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.

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.*