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.
SUMMER OF YEAR 1 / FALL OF YEAR 2

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, and doing your coursework.
- Consider 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 research and write your thesis proposal as part of GPHY 857.

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 CORE 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, CFCR, 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 Bosphere 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

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career counselor.
- Check out books like Career Cruising.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. For more information, check out Career Cruising.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest, reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

FALL OF YEAR 1

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

SUMMER OF YEAR 1 / FALL OF 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.

END OF WINTER TERM YEAR 2

- 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.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Geography can equip you with:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills
- Multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management
- Time management
- Managing competing demands
- Project management
- Critical appraisal
- Creativity
- Interdisciplinary
- Perseverance
- Collaboration
- Awareness
- Professionalism

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

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

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities for careers and 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.