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.

*“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 bulk 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

**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**

**2020-21 major thresholds**

- 1.9 GPA **AUTOMATIC ACCEPTANCE**  min C- in GPHY 1##
- 1.9 GPA **PENDING LIST**

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit [quartsci.com/planselection](http://quartsci.com/planselection)

**Add a CERTIFICATE to your degree**

- 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

queensu.ca/geographyandplanning
In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Geography in biology, chemistry, geography and geology along with some electives. Start going deeper into the discipline of Geography, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Geographic Information Science and/or Urban Planning Studies. Attend Degree + in the Fall term to learn more about Certificates and Internship options.

Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.

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.

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

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

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.

Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services. 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 or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

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

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).

What will I learn?
A degree in Geography can equip you with:
• Understanding of the interrelationships between people, places and environments
• Knowledge of social, cultural, economic and political factors affecting societies and environments; physical and biophysical aspects of the earth’s environments; and the earth system
• Oral and written communication to write reports and give presentations
• Field research skills to conduct field studies by installing sensors and data loggers to measure and monitor physical processes
• Laboratory research skills to collect snow, water, soil and vegetation samples for biogeochemical analysis in the laboratory
• Analytical skills to analyze spatial information and data using computer technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (e.g. ESRI ArcInfo), Remote Sensing and Image Processing, and statistical methods

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:
• Climatology
• Demography
• Farming
• GIS specialist
• Heritage conservation
• Immigration services
• Landscape architecture
• Mapping and surveying
• Oceanography
• Urban and regional planning

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

CONSIDER A 12-16 MONTH QUIP INTERNSHIP

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.

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

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 SSHRC and OGS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

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