Get to know GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

Geography bridges the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. Students in Geography approach problems from ecological and spatial perspectives. An ecological perspective is useful for investigating many environmental and resource management questions that focus upon relationships between humans and the natural environment. Alternatively a spatial perspective is concerned with understanding locational choices and relationships underlying human (social, cultural, historical, economic or political) behaviour at geographic scales ranging from the local to the global. The Department of Geography and Planning offers two ways to boost your resume – a fast-track professional master’s degree in urban and regional planning and a certificate in Geographic Information Science. The fast-track program combines a BAH or BScH with a Master’s degree by extending your studies by only 15 months instead of 24 months.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Science (Honours)
Major / Minor / Specializations in Earth System Science, Geography
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor
Bachelor of Science (General)
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Certificate in Geographic Information Science
Internship option available
Accelerated Masters

“A top-performing department both in world rankings and within Queen’s, Geography and Planning puts students on the map.”

A Common START

Students in our Faculty are admitted into Arts, Science or Computing but the focus is on a common first year. Through self-exploration, and while you settle into university life, you have the opportunity to work with our advisors and faculty to discover your real interests and identify opportunities for success. Sometimes that discovery happens fairly quickly, and for other students it takes some work and time before the “ah-ha!” happens – either way your first year at Queen’s will be a great experience.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Courses in Geography typically fall in either the physical or human side of Geography – in first year there is a course for each. Some popular courses include Climate Change; Water Resources; Cities: Geography, Planning and Urban Life; Sustainable Transportation; Place, Space, Culture and Social Life; Human Migration; Aboriginal Geographies of Canada; Watershed Hydrology; Bioenergy; Landscape Ecology; Geography, Environment and Human Health; and Medical Geography. We also offer a suite of courses specializing in geographic information systems and remote sensing.
### Geography and Planning Major Map

**1ST YEAR**
- **BScH**: take GPHY 101, 102, 6.0 units MATH or STAT and 6.0 units of CHEM or PHYS.
- **BAH**: take GPHY 101 and 102.

Each Plan will have at least one required first-year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.

### GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

See the Department website for required units and suggestions for various programs in Geography and Planning.

If interested in the Certificate in Geographic Information Science (GIDS), start taking courses now.

Please see the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the correct courses.

### GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- 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.
- Volunteer off or on campus with different community organizations, such as local charities or clubs like The Earth Centre.
- Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).
- Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.
- Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work throughSWEP or Work-Study.
- Take more responsibility within different clubs or extracurriculars. Think about applying to positions in student services or the Alma Mater Society.
- Contact faculty members during their office hours or through the geography website to inquire about summer assistant positions.
- If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

### GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Volunteer off or on campus with different community organizations, such as local charities or clubs like The Earth Centre.
- The Queen's University International Centre is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience.
- Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their programs, events and training opportunities.
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- Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3rd year exchange through your Faculty's International Office. If exchange isn't for you, come talk to QUIC about some other options to gain international experience.
- Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills. Check QUIC's resources for ideas to go abroad, and volunteer or attend one of their events.

### GET THINKING GLOBALLY

- 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.
- 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.

### WHERE COULD I GO AFTER GRADUATION?

- Agricultural science
- Climatology
- Community development
- Demography
- Development and humanitarian assistance
- Diplomacy
- Environmental conservation and management
- Farming
- Forestry conservation
- Geology
- Geospatial analysis
- GIS specialist
- Health administration
- Heritage conservation
- Immigration and settlement
- Immigration services
- Landscape architecture
- Law
- Logistics
- Mapping, surveying and cartography
- Meteorology
- Oceanography
- Professor
- Project management
- Real estate
- Social work
- Teaching
- Toxicology
- Transportation
- Urban and regional planning
- Water conservation

### 2ND YEAR

- Complete your degree requirements. By fourth year you should be working on your remaining core, option, supporting and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.
- Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

### 3RD YEAR

- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Assess what experience you're lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.
- Consider joining professional associations like Canadian Association of Geographers, the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis and the Canadian Remote Sensing Society.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Geography.
- Consider the Urban and Regional Planning accelerated program to fast-track a Master's degree to only 15 months instead of 24 months.

### 4TH OR FINAL YEAR

- 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.
- Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
What employers want
The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:
1 People skills
2 Communication skills
3 Problem-solving skills
4 Analytical abilities
5 Leadership skills
6 Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING?
- 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
- Academic research skills to conduct research using databases and journal articles through library sources