Overview

The Department of Geography and Planning is an integrated department that studies the earth's places, societies, environments and landscapes. The Department is unique in bridging the social sciences and humanities (i.e., human geography) and planning with physical geography. Geography and Planning puts this understanding of social and physical processes within the context of places and regions - recognizing the great differences in cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes, and environments across the world, and the links between them. In physical geography we study natural processes, their interactions, and both naturally and human-generated environmental issues. In the social sciences we study a variety of social problems, with a special focus on the uneven distribution of resources and services at scales from the local to the global. In humanities research we explore how human beings have made, and continue to make, the places (physical, social and metaphorical) in which they live. In all these areas, Queen's Geography and Planning has scholars and teachers of international repute who are dedicated to making a dynamic and innovative research and teaching environment and a warm and supportive interpersonal environment for our students and faculty.

Students who choose geography and planning for their degree in either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science programs will develop the independent and self-directed learning skills needed to think laterally, critically, and creatively. These are skills that are critical to meeting the demands of the world as they will find it, and over which they may have influence. Geography and Planning provides an ideal framework for integrating other fields of knowledge. It is not surprising that geographers and planners often contribute substantially to the applied management of urban and regional systems, resources, and environments. Students in our program can select from courses in urban, economic, social, historical, and cultural geography, urban planning, as well as physical geography. Students can also take one of our two certificate programs in Geographic Information Science (GIS) and Urban Planning Studies to focus on these two important areas of employment and research. A degree from the Department of Geography and Planning also provides a solid foundation in qualitative and quantitative research methods, remote sensing, and Geographic Information Science (GIS) and Urban Planning Studies to focus on these two important areas of employment and research. Students will be exposed to teamwork, active learning, real-world projects, and research in all aspects of geography.
Advice to Students

Prerequisites

Students wishing to take a course at the 200- or 300-level, for which they lack the stated prerequisites, may appeal to the Course Instructor to have the prerequisites waived. For admission to all 500-level courses, students need the consent of a supervising member of the Department and permission of the Undergraduate Committee based on the submission of a proposal.

Students in GPHY 502 and GPHY 503 are required to file a soft-cover, bound copy of their thesis with the Department upon completion of the course. Students in GPHY 503 are normally required to present their results orally to the department as a requirement for successful completion of the course. Students in GPHY 502 are encouraged, but not required, to do so.

Study Abroad Option

Students participating in any international study program are expected to meet all fourth-year prerequisites by the end of third year and need to plan their programs accordingly.

It is often difficult to equate directly courses completed on exchange programs to Queen's courses. Therefore, students planning to participate in a third-year exchange must complete the following courses at Queen's during their first two years:


Select two from the following: 6.00
- GPHY 227 Cities: Geography, Planning and Urban Life
- GPHY 228 Geographies of the Global Political Economy
- GPHY 229 Place, Space, Culture, and Social Life

Select one from the following: 3.00
- GPHY 243 Geographic Information Science

Select two from the following: 6.00
- GPHY 240 Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Geography
- GPHY 243 Geographic Information Science
- GPHY 247 Introduction to Statistics

Geography and Planning
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