

Choosing geography at university

80 universities
offer over 1,400
geography related
degrees

75% of geography
graduates are
employed within
15 months after
graduating

Geography
graduate earnings
outperform many
other subjects

Why should I study geography?

With the growing importance of issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, population change and inequality, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geography courses are popular, demonstrated by strong completion rates and positive student feedback. Geographers are also highly employable and collectively receive competitive graduate salaries. Above all, geographers have potential to be well-informed global citizens, using their unique combination of knowledge and skills to make a positive difference in the world.



Which university course is best for me?

Most geography degrees, whether designated Bachelor of Science (BSc) or Bachelor of Arts (BA), offer combinations of individual human, physical and environmental geography courses in each year of study. So don't worry if you don't know what you prefer, or want to leave your options open, you don't have to commit now! Choose a geography course that allows the flexibility to develop your interests. Each university offers a unique course, so doing lots of research about what's taught on each course is important.

Remember to think about the whole package. It's important to think about the kind of place you want to live: are you looking to live at home or are you seeking a campus experience? Think about your other interests too! Universities offer a range of societies to support your other passions.

Ensure to check the entrance requirements. How do these relate to your expected grades? Be aspirational but also be realistic.

How can I find out more about geography at university?

You might like to attend university **open days**. These give you a feel for what the university is like, including the campus and accommodation. Open days offer you the chance to have a tour, meet tutors and experience taster lectures. Many universities now offer virtual open days too. You may also like to explore a university's social media and YouTube channel to find out more.



Preparing for a university open day or virtual event

Before you attend an open day, whether in person or virtual, familiarise yourself with what the university offers by looking through the website and prospectus. You could also check out the university's social media to get an idea of what to expect. Make a note of anything you would like to find out more about and prepare some questions to take with you on the day. You may want to think about what the department is known for, the courses they offer and assessment styles for example. Most importantly, go with an open mind and be ready to ask lots of questions!

What questions should I ask about the course?

Ask about the types of geography you might study during the degree. These might be topics you haven't heard about, or studied, before. Find out about what choices there are in each year.

Talk to staff about specific topics. Tell them about what you are interested in and ask them about their own research.

Ask about opportunities to be flexible with the course: do they offer a year abroad or placement year? Can you combine subjects? Can you take modules outside of the geography department?

Ask about fieldwork: what options are offered? What is paid for/what's not? Is there support for students financially?

Ask about the support from the department. Will you have an academic advisor?

What outreach does the department do? Are there opportunities for you to get involved in geography outreach?



What questions should I ask about the university?

Ask about geography societies. What opportunities and activities can you get involved with outside of your studies?

Ask about other tours and talks the university is offering, for example on societies and the students union, finances and grants, and facilities.

If you are planning to move away for university, ask about the accommodation options and see if the university are offering tours.

Ask about the health and wellbeing support offered to students throughout their time at university.

