

#ChooseGeography

Choose Geography at University

**Royal
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Advancing geography
and geographical learning

There has never been a better or more important time to study geography.



Why study geography?

With the growing importance of issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, population change and inequalities, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study.

Geography is, in the broadest sense, an education for life and for living. Learning through geography – whether gained through formal learning or experientially through travel, fieldwork and expeditions – helps us all to be more socially and environmentally sensitive, better informed, and more responsible as students and employees.

Above all, geographers have potential to be well-informed global citizens, using their unique combinations of knowledge and skills to make a positive difference in the world.

The benefits of a geography degree continue well beyond graduation. The 2020 IFS report placed Geography among the top subjects for graduate earnings. The data, derived from Department for Education statistics, showed that female Geography graduates earn over 10% more than the average female graduate, while male Geographers are more than 2% above par. Geography graduate earnings outperform many other subjects, including Technology, Biosciences and History.

Geography at University

Geography courses are popular, demonstrated by strong completion rates and positive student feedback.

More than 80 universities offer over 1,400 geography-related degrees. There are lots of great options and it is important to spend time thinking through what is the best option for you. Each geography course is different, and course specialisms will vary depending on the department's research interests.

You should think about the following questions as you look at geography courses – this will help you to find the course that is right for you:

- What aspects of geography do you want to study (e.g. human/physical)?
- Not ready to specialise? What about geography and...? Use UCAS to explore your options here.
- What types of teaching and assessment suit you best? Some courses offer fewer teaching hours and more independent learning.
- What about fieldwork?
- What about work placements or study abroad?
- Will you get in?
- What life outside of study can the university offer you?
- What are the options for working and financial support?
- Where might your degree take you after university?



<https://www.rgs.org/choosegeography>

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Careers with Geography

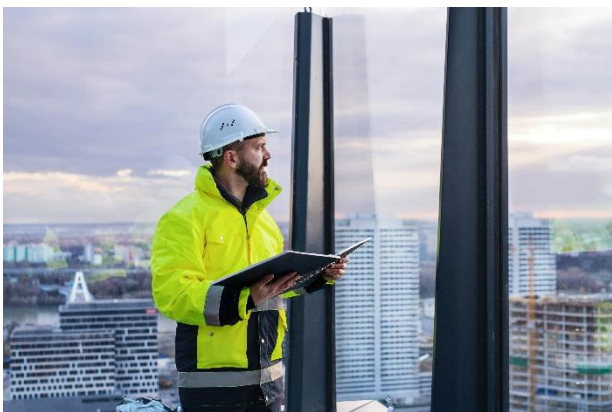
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Why are geographers so employable?

As a degree subject, geography is highly respected by employers. Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of graduate employment, pursuing a wide range of career paths.



Geographers are well placed to help identify and address economic, environmental and social challenges at a range of scales. This includes issues such as climate change, migration, inequality, geopolitics, and natural disasters.

Geography degrees provide graduates with an acute awareness of the current drivers of economic change, such as climate change, net zero, the green economy and environmental management. The subject also prepares graduates for changing economic, technological, and the cultural conditions of a green economy.

Geographers understand the importance of location data and how to unlock its value. They have skills in the collection, analysis and interpretation of geospatial data, with expertise in GIS and Earth Observation.

The 2023 Prospects report, What do graduates do?, provides insights and analysis from the UK's largest Higher Education Survey. The report shows that in 2019/20 geographers had the joint highest full-time employment rate for social sciences at 54.9% compared to an average rate of 50.1%.

Top ten professional jobs held by Human Geography graduates

1. Environment professionals
2. Secondary education teaching professionals
3. Chartered architectural technologists, planning officers and consultants
4. Human resources and industrial relations officers
5. Management consultants and business analysts
6. Advertising and marketing associate professionals
7. Construction project managers and related professionals
8. Business and related research professionals
9. Chartered surveyors
10. Business associate professionals

Top ten professional jobs held by Physical Geography graduates

1. Environment professionals
2. Secondary education teaching professionals
3. Business associate professionals
4. Human resources and industrial relations officers
5. Advertising and marketing associate professionals
6. Construction project managers and related professionals
7. Chartered surveyors
8. Management consultants and business analysts
9. Civil engineers
10. Chartered architectural technologists, planning officers and consultants

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