



## What is Geography?

Geography is the study of the interaction between people and the environments they live and move in. Physical, social, and spatial sciences underpin Geography's interdisciplinary field, which also has links to Geology, Environmental Science, Law, Physics, Engineering, Data Science, and Health Sciences.

Geography focuses on finding innovative solutions to our society's most pressing issues and debates, and the human response to these challenges, such as climate change, poverty, sustainability, health, and inequality.

## Career and study information

Some study pathways and degrees have a recommended school background, and some careers may require further study beyond a first degree or additional experience.

### Gather helpful information from:

- Subject-specific content at [www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/subjects/geography](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/subjects/geography)
- Job profiles on career websites like [www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)
- Job adverts/vacancy descriptions
- Industry professional bodies.

This resource is part of a set of brochures focused on subject majors; many can also be studied as minors.

## What skills can graduates gain?

Through studying a degree in Geography, graduates develop a valuable set of skills and competencies, which can include:

- The ability to design and carry out research projects
- Analytical skills, including cultural, statistical and geospatial analysis
- Ability to identify positive and negative aspects of the interaction between human activities and the environment
- Practical application of sustainability concepts
- Practical methods for collection of field data; including observational skills
- Enhanced ability to synthesise different viewpoints and types of information
- Problem solving
- Technology literacy
- Teamwork and independent thinking
- A holistic and integrated worldview
- High level of ability to communicate orally and in writing
- Time management, planning and organisation.

### Applied learning

Community-based learning, field-based courses and internships with potential employers are available. Such experiences deepen graduates' skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge and employability.

### What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, client/customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness, teamwork and initiative.

With technology, globalisation, and other drivers changing society, skills such as resilience, problem solving, and adaptability are important.

Skills that are likely to grow in importance include analytical and creative thinking, systems thinking and technological literacy.\*

\*World Economic Forum: [www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills)

### How can these skills be developed?

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**Is urban planning and transport something you have always been interested in?**

Kind of, yes. My favourite subject at high school was geography, I love understanding how the world works and why it doesn't. How our urban form influences all facets of society and our hauora is fascinating to me.

I'm also a huge advocate for the humble bicycle and bus, riding both to this day. It's helped shape my worldview by seeing the incredible positive benefits active transport has on an individual, collective, and environmental scale.

**How did your degree help to prepare you for your chosen career path?**

Majoring in Geography helped me comprehend the context of the world we live in and the various challenges we face. I channelled this knowledge towards urban1 (l)c8c0 (tiv)y11 gs