Geography

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/geography

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See also Sustainable Development

Geography here offers rich insights into the social and natural worlds and into the fascinating interplay between them; you will cover a wide range of topics from cultures, societies and economies to physical landscapes and environmental processes.

- Great flexibility in the choice of subjects spanning the full range of geography, all taught by leading experts, plus the breadth and flexibility of the Scottish university system which opens up numerous fascinating course combinations.
- Fieldwork opportunities within Scotland in all four years, plus an overseas residential field trip in third year to, for example, Iceland or Ireland.
- Externally acclaimed training in a range of valuable transferable skills, including quantitative and qualitative analytical methods, teamwork and presentation skills, and training in critical thinking.
- Study in a stunning location and in a friendly School, finishing as a highly literate and numerate graduate with excellent employment prospects.

What will I study?
You can take Geography in either the Faculty of Arts (MA) or the Faculty of Science (BSc). While Geography itself is taught as a single, integrated subject, the MA/BSc choice gives you the option of combining Geography with subjects from the Faculties of Arts or Science during your first two years. Within our flexible structures, all aspects of geography are available to you in all four years, allowing you to explore your evolving interests. You will be taught in many different styles and settings. Small-group teaching begins in first year, and average class sizes progressively diminish through the degree; in fourth year, some courses offer one-to-one supervision. Geography can also be combined with a wide range of other subjects as a joint degree.

The programmes you follow for the BSc or MA are exactly the same within the Geography element of your degree. The curriculum in the first two years is a balanced mix of physical, human and environmental geography, and is followed in third and fourth year by the opportunity to specialise in what you are most interested in. We have particular strengths in: climate change, glacial studies, population and health, migration and mobility, studying past and present environments, development and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

First year
You will gain a broad grounding in geography, and explore the relevance of integrated, geographical thinking for understanding both human and natural environments. The complex interrelationships between people and planet are a key focus. Topics include the idea of the Anthropocene, climate change, capitalism and development, migration and population, and GIS.

Entry requirements
We consider all aspects of every application, including context, equivalent qualifications and the Personal Statement. Offers may be higher or lower than the grades stated here. See also page 169.

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/entry

SQA Highers: AAAB
GCE A-Levels: AAA
International Baccalaureate Points: 38

“Everything was an experience. The programme of study allows students to immerse themselves in a wide range of topics; develop a plethora of mixed research skills, and study in numerous settings, including in the computer and research labs, in classroom tutorials and, everyone’s favourite, out in the field. Though St Andrews has provided me with countless wonderful memories, my favourite one was our week-long Honours field trip to the stunning glaciated landscapes of Norway.”

James (Lancashire, England)
Geography

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Second year
Building on first year and preparing you for Honours-level study, second year combines conceptual and applied approaches to a range of geographic issues, including: glacial processes, cultural and political geography, environmental management, population studies and biogeography, and also the nature of geography as an academic discipline.

Third and fourth years (Honours)
The Honours years allow you to specialise in your particular interests by choosing from our unusually wide range of specialist courses, all taught by experts in their field. You will also be trained in high-level research skills, including quantitative, qualitative and fieldwork methods, equipping you to carry out your own research dissertation guided by one-on-one supervision.

Study abroad
Geography students participate in the University-wide St Andrews Abroad programme. For information about study abroad options, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study-abroad

Careers
Reflecting the broad nature of Geography, graduates leave here with a diverse and unique set of highly transferable skills, putting them in a very strong position in the jobs market.

Career paths include government, environment, sustainability, tourism and leisure, planning and development, business and finance, security analysis, as well as science research.

Employers seek out Geography graduates because of their rare combination of quantitative and qualitative skills, their ability to integrate and analyse diverse data, their understanding of human/environment interactions, their competence in GIS and spatial analysis, and their ability to think critically and creatively about the big social and environmental challenges facing us.

Our graduates have gone on to excel in a wide range of careers, reflecting the breadth of the subject. Geographers often end up in surprising places.

Significant numbers of our graduates progress to postgraduate study, both at Masters and PhD level.

Additional information
The School covers the full cost of all obligatory field trips, and offers a range of scholarships and awards to support your studies.

“I chose to study Geography because it is a very relevant topic in the world today. It encompasses so many different subjects and different points of view that I feel like it will help me gain a broader perspective on the world. The lecturers are so passionate about the subject, which makes it all the more exciting. It is great at St Andrews because there are so many opportunities to go out and experience the topic we are discussing in person, and it helps to learn about the subject and how it is relevant to our everyday lives.”

Mia (Michigan, USA)

School of Geography & Sustainable Development