Geography

See also Sustainable Development page 150

Degree options in the Faculty of Science or Faculty of Arts

BSc or MA (Single Honours degree)
Geography BSc

BSc or MA (Joint Honours degrees)
Geography and one of:
- Arabic (MA)
- Art History (MA)
- Biology (BSc)
- Comparative Literature (MA)
- Economics (BSc or MA) BSc
- Film Studies (MA)
- French (MA) II, F
- Hebrew (MA)
- International Relations (MA)
- Italian (MA) W
- Management (BSc or MA) BSc

BSc or MA "with" degrees
Honours in which the majority of the course deals with the first-named subject:
- Geography with Persian (MA)
- Geography with Social Anthropology (MA)
- Geography with Spanish (MA) W
- Mathematics with Geography (BSc) M
- Psychology with Geography (MA)
- Russian with Geography (MA) W
- Social Anthropology with Geography (MA)
- Spanish with Geography (MA) W

For BSc degrees – at least two Highers or one A-Level must include Biology (or Human Biology), Chemistry, Computing Science or equivalent, Geography, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, or Psychology.

For the MA: Requires French – A at Higher or A at A-Level or HL6 at IB.

For BSc degrees in addition to Mathematics, a Higher from Biology (or Human Biology), Chemistry, Computing Science or equivalent, Geography, Physics, or Psychology.

Available With Integrated Year Abroad – see Modern Languages.

If you wish to study Arts subjects in your first and second years, apply for the MA rather than the BSc degree – see Cross-Faculty subjects on page 5.

What will I study – BSc or MA?

At St Andrews you have the choice of either a BSc or MA Geography degree, depending on your background and what other subjects you want to study in your first two years, but both programmes give you access to all our optional modules across the full breadth of Geography (for other BSc requirements see page 5). You are also able to take modules offered by the Sustainable Development programme.

Likely grades considered for an offer

We consider all aspects of every application, including context, equivalent qualifications and the Personal Statement and offers may be higher or lower than the grades stated here.

SQA Highers: AAAB (see specific subject footnotes above)
GCE A-Levels: AAA (see specific subject footnotes above)
International Baccalaureate Points: 38 (see specific subject footnotes above)

For full Faculty entrance requirements, see page 53.

Why study Geography here?

- The School was top in Scotland in the UK’s Research Excellence Framework 2014.
- Externally acclaimed training in quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Wide range of module choice spanning the full range of Geography.
- Particular strengths in:
  - Climate change
  - Environmental management
  - Palaeoecology
  - Glacial Studies
  - Population and health
  - Migration and mobility
  - Development
  - Geopolitics
  - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Excellent laboratory, IT and field training.
- Fieldwork opportunities in all four years, both in Scotland and overseas.
- Highly literate and numerate graduates with excellent employment prospects.

For degrees combining more than one subject, the subject with the higher likely grades determines the grades you need. You will also need to meet any further subject-specific requirements as outlined on their pages.

For further country-specific qualifications and pre-degree foundation programmes see:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international

Do I need previous knowledge of this subject? – No.

Subject enquiries

Dr Charles Warren
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We explore a fascinating range of important environmental, cultural and economic phenomena at local, national and global scales. These are examined through a combination of classroom, laboratory and practical fieldwork in a range of settings. Teaching styles move from lectures to small-group seminars and to individual mentoring. Throughout, we emphasise the development of transferable skills in computing, analysis and presentation. Above all, while degrees provide the opportunity to specialise in either physical geography, human geography or geographic information science, our degrees offer an exciting challenge to those who wish to think critically and creatively about the world around them, and to understand the interaction of biophysical and social systems.

**Geography element of your Honours degree**

**First year BSc and MA (2 x 20-credit modules required)**

Our first-year modules stress the value of developing an integrated, coherent vision of the world. They adopt a global perspective in exploring the complex interrelationships between people and planet, and the implications of humans becoming a force of nature. The topics studied include climate change, the idea of the Anthropocene, biodiversity loss, natural hazards, capitalism and development, migration and population, and GIS. Such topics are used to emphasise that the study of society and the environment belong together.

**Second year BSc and MA (2 x 30-credit modules required)**

Our second-year modules build on first year by exploring the rich and diverse nature of the discipline of geography, and prepare you for Honours study. These modules provide both a conceptual and an applied (methods-oriented) grounding in physical geography, environmental geography and human geography. The modules cover the historical and philosophical development of geography as a discipline, environmental management, biogeography, paleoecology, and glacial process; and Geographic Information Science (GIS) and statistical data analysis; population and demography; the cultural and political geography of the contemporary world.

**Honours – third and fourth years**

A core programme (comprising approximately 30% of credits) in research training culminates in an independent research project. This core programme is complemented by a suite of themed option modules that offer in-depth, research-led study of topics spanning the breadth of geography. This range of option modules evolves to reflect exciting new research trends and the expertise of staff in line with the strengths identified above.

Core skills are developed in ‘hands-on’ modules giving you direct experience of state-of-the-art data collection and analysis: statistical analysis; survey and questionnaire design; scientific sampling and dating; qualitative research methods (such as interviewing and participatory approaches); GIS and remote sensing; and field-based skills. Fieldwork is conducted both locally and overseas. Recent locations have included Norway, the Pyrenees, Iceland and Ireland. Your final semester is devoted largely to your research project.

“Brimming with friendly faces, cutting-edge facilities and world-class academics, the Department at St Andrews is second to none. 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 gifted me with countless wonderful memories, one of my most fond is surely our week-long Honours field trip to the stunning glaciated landscapes of Norway.”

**James** (Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, England)

BSc (Hons) Geography (2015)

**Typical class sizes and teaching information**

**First year:** lectures 150 - 200, laboratory sessions 30 - 40, tutorials 10-12. Fieldwork across two days.

**Second year:** lectures 80 - 120, laboratory sessions 30 - 40, tutorials 6 - 10. Residential fieldwork.

**Honours:** lectures 10 - 60 formats and class sizes vary.

Residential international fieldwork. Individual research mentoring.

**Typical methods of assessment**

All 1000- and 2000-level modules are assessed by a combination of coursework (individual and some group work; essays, written reports on field and laboratory activities, class tests, multiple choice assignments), and examinations. At Honours level, assessment is more varied reflecting the diverse specialisms, but consist of a mixture of essays, field report writing, analyses in various forms, and individual research projects designed to advance your transferable skills.

**Scholarships and fieldwork support**

The School subsidises all compulsory fieldwork and has multiple ways to assist students with financial difficulties. Students also have the opportunity to apply for Departmental scholarships. The MacIver Award is offered each year to support students carrying out Geography fieldwork (other than for their dissertation) during the summer vacation. The Dorothy McKinney Awards support dissertation fieldwork in human geography.

**Study abroad**

You may apply to the University’s St Andrews Abroad programme. See page 22.

**Careers**

Because of the broad nature of geography, graduates leave St Andrews with a diverse and unique skill set, putting them in a very strong position in the job market with careers paths in government, environment, sustainability, tourism and leisure, planning and development, business and finance, location and security analysis, as well as research science. Many of our students are also successful in competing for postgraduate opportunities, both nationally and internationally, at both Masters and PhD level.

See also page 46 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.