

Mātai Matawhenua Undergraduate Geography



Geographers ask questions about society and the environment. They study the natural processes of the physical environment, as well as the activities and consequences of humans in this environment.

What you will learn

Geography is the study of the world around us and how it came to be the way it is. If you're interested in the world around you and want to make a positive difference, then Geography is for you. Geography addresses a wide range of contemporary challenges such as: climate change and sea-level rise, dirty rivers, uneven economic development, sustainable communities, migration, housing and health policy, urban pollution, indigenous rights, and environmental management.

Geographers study places, human and physical interactions and the processes that shape those interactions. They explore why nations, regions, cities and communities develop differently in different settings, how landscapes are formed, how social, economic and natural landscapes are related, and how to make better worlds by responding effectively to human-environment opportunities and problems.

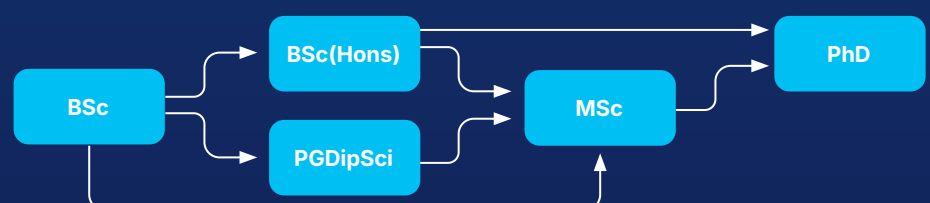
Students will have the opportunity to specialise in social and economic, geophysical, or environmental management processes, outcomes, and challenges. Fieldwork is an important part of majoring in Geography – you'll undertake field trips to explore New Zealand's landscapes.

You don't have to have taken geography at high school to be able to study Geography with us. However, if you have taken high school geography you will have been introduced to some key concepts and skills, which you'll find beneficial.

Choosing a subject

With so many options it's sometimes hard to choose what you want to study, but we've got you covered. You can study Geography in a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc). If you study Geography in a BA, you may wish to complete a second major in Sociology, Anthropology, Politics and International Relations, Māori Studies, or Pacific Studies. BSc students often double major in Environmental Science, Earth Sciences, or Psychology.

A BSc can also be taken as a conjoint degree and many students combine it with Global Studies, Law, Commerce and Arts.



Career opportunities

A foundation for a host of occupations

Geography is exciting, challenging and relevant to today's world. Geographers study the natural processes of the physical environment, as well as the activities and consequences of humans in this environment.

A Geography major gives graduates an edge. The skills you learn mean you can be found working in a wide range of occupations in an equally wide range of organisations. Geography graduates can use their training directly in multiple policy and management roles, while their broad education and flexible skills are in high demand across the job market.

You may specialise in coastal, glacial or fluvial processes and landforms, climatology, biogeography, hydrology or environmental change. Or you could find yourself exploring the transformation of urban places, globalisation and its effects, migration and population change, or issues of ethnicity and identity. You could also specialise in spatial analysis, bringing the power of geographic information science to bear on a wide range of research problems.

Our graduates have been employed in the following jobs:

- › Consultancy and planning services, Beca Group
- › Geospatial specialist, Auckland Council
- › Sustainability and climate change team, PwC
- › Coastal scientist, Tonkin + Taylor

Other positions and roles include:

- › Policy and planning
- › Environmental and resource management

What you can study

- › Weather, wave, tide and river monitoring and analysis
- › Demographic and economic analysis
- › Mapping, cartography and geovisualisation
- › Analysis of soils and sediments
- › How to interpret physical and cultural landscapes

An example of Stage I courses:

- › ENV 100 Shaping Planet Earth
- › ENV 101 Environmental Challenges
- › ENV 102 Social and Environmental Change
- › ENV 103 Digital Earth



Find out more about how your degree will be structured and what courses you need to take at

auckland.ac.nz/geography

Applications close on 8 December.



"Geography is such a fantastic subject in that it is broad and covers a wide range of courses from climatology to socio-economic change."

Courtney Simpson

BA Geography, BSc (Hons) Geography,
MSc Environmental Management.

Kuhua ki tō mātou hāpori, ā, Kimihia tōu Pūtaiao.
Join our community and find your Science.



Disclaimer: The information in this document is a general guide only for students and subject to alteration. All students enrolling at the University of Auckland must consult its official Calendar, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies. [2026]

Have any questions?
Contact the Student Hub

auckland.ac.nz/student-hubs