



University  
of Glasgow

# Geography

## Undergraduate study





Choose Glasgow

## Introduction

The University of Glasgow is rated as one of the top 100 universities in the world (*Times Higher Education QS World University Rankings*).

All of our students study for degrees that are recognised and respected by employers throughout the world, but we can guarantee you will receive a lot more besides. Some of the key benefits of student life at Glasgow are

### Satisfied students

Our students report high levels of satisfaction with their studies. According to the independent National Student Survey, an impressive 90% of the University's final-year students rated themselves as satisfied with their course in 2009, well above the national average of 81%.

### Flexible course choices

We offer more than 900 degree programme combinations and our flexible system allows you to study a broad range of subjects during your time at university and, in many cases, makes it possible to delay choosing specialist subjects until the end of second year.

### Teaching based on research

Glasgow is a research-led university, which means that you will be taught by academics at the forefront of knowledge in their subject areas.

### A student experience worth having

You will take away more than a degree from Glasgow. Over the last 550 years our students have built up a fantastic array of initiatives to keep you engaged, entertained and energised. The result is a student experience to be proud of. We have

- four award-winning student media teams
- over 100 clubs and societies
- two undergraduate student unions
- sporting facilities for all levels of fitness
- a study abroad and exchange programme that offers opportunities to study across the world as part of your undergraduate degree.

Geography is the study of the surface of the Earth. It considers:

- the variability in physical and human landscapes
- the inter-relationships binding these landscapes together.

Geography is a uniquely integrative subject, standing at the intersection of natural and social sciences, as well as drawing inspiration from the arts and humanities. It teaches a wide range of analytical and interpretative skills, including fieldwork and group work.

### Faster Route programmes

These might be of interest to you if you: are highly qualified at A-level or Advanced Higher level in relevant subjects; are motivated and keen to pursue an Engineering/Science degree with maximum concentration on the subject; wish to complete your degree faster than the normal time frame.

For further information about entry requirements visit [www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements).



## Geography

Degree: BSc, MA, MA (SocSci)

### Typical offer for BSc

- Highers** ABBB, preferably with two science subjects
- A-levels** ABB, preferably with two science subjects
- IB** 32 points including three science subjects

### Typical offer for MA, MA (SocSci)

- Highers** AABB (first sitting)  
AAAB (two sittings)
- A-levels** AAB (first sitting)  
AAA (two sittings)
- IB** 34 points

For entry requirements visit [www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements)

Geography is the study of the surface of the earth as the site of human living and working. It considers the variability in physical and human landscapes, along with the inter-relationships commonly binding them together.

### What can I expect in first year?

Although many of our first year students have studied geography at school or college before coming to university, you can start in first year as a novice to the subject.

Our first year course is called **Geography 1: Living in a changing world** and is designed to introduce you to a wide range of concerns and interests within both physical and human geography.

The themes covered are based under the following headings:

- a world of resources
- an underdeveloped world
- a world of changing environments
- a shrinking world
- a changing biosphere in a changing environment
- a world of difference.

Small group discussions, exercises and projects complement the lectures.

### What can I expect in second year?

Geography 2 builds on the foundations you have laid in first year.

**Human geography** focuses on globalisation and its counterpart: localisation, examining these processes in their economic, cultural, political and social dimensions.

**Physical geography** emphasises the role of processes in shaping landscapes and on the ways in which the Earth changes over different timescales.

You will:

- explore human and physical processes examining environmental problems and their possible resolutions through policy
- be trained in statistical methods and laboratory analysis using a mixture of fieldwork and our own IT and physical geography laboratories.

### Field courses

If you intend to continue to Honours Geography, you will also attend a week's residential field course to extend the field skills we introduced you to in Geography 1. The main focuses of this field programme are:

- group projects
- data collection
- problem solving
- presentations.

### What happens next?

#### Honours

At the end of second year you may progress to Honours Geography, which can be taken as a Single Honours degree or as a Joint Honours degree taken in combination with another subject.

You will study both core and optional courses over your third and fourth years.

Core courses are related to advanced training methods such as:

- Computerised data analysis
- Modelling
- Geographical information systems
- Interviewing
- Interpretative methods.

Optional courses complement the core courses and allow you to build a programme around your particular topical interests. Our staff has a wide range of research interests that feed into the options, allowing you the opportunity to work with academics who are at the cutting edge of geographical research.

### Joint Honours combinations

You may study Geography with another subject at Honours level. Subjects which may be taken in combination with Geography include:

- Applied Mathematics
- Archaeology
- Arts & Media Informatics
- Business & Management
- Celtic Civilisation
- Celtic Studies
- Classics (Classical Civilisation)
- Computing Science
- Economic & Social History
- Economics
- Environmental Chemistry
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Hispanic Studies
- History
- History of Art
- Italian
- Law
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Public Policy
- Russian
- Scottish History
- Scottish Literature
- Slavonic Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Theatre Studies
- Theology & Religious Studies.

The large number of options taught currently include:

- Africa
- Celtic geographies
- Coastal processes and forms
- Environmental hazards
- Fluvial processes
- Political ecologies
- Social geography.

We also have regional research expertise in Africa, South Asia and Polar environments.

Throughout your degree you will be assessed both alone and as part of a group.

Assessment includes:

- essays
- practical work
- presentations
- unseen examinations
- field projects
- poster design.



We also provide you with the necessary groundwork for the completion of a dissertation. This is an independent piece of research that you undertake on a subject of your own choosing. It provides an important way for you to demonstrate your expertise in your chosen subject as well as displaying your motivation, time-management and research skills. There are some opportunities to undertake dissertation fieldwork in organised visits overseas. In recent years, students have worked in Brazil, Iceland and Tanzania, among others.

### Designated degree

If you do not wish to study for a four-year Honours degree, you can obtain a Geography degree in three years of study. First and second year courses are the same as for an Honours degree and Level-3 courses build upon these to provide a good foundation in geography.

Three-year degrees offer routes into many careers, including teaching.

### Can I study abroad?

At Glasgow you can take advantage of a range of exciting opportunities to study abroad as part of your degree. Courses you take overseas form an integral part of your degree without adding an extra year or semester. The benefits are huge. You will not only be able to gain an entirely new perspective on your academic subject and enhance your employability, you will also find out new things about yourself, increase your independence, develop self-confidence, learn to live and work with people from different backgrounds and cultures and form a large circle of international friends.

Students who have studied abroad describe it as a life-changing experience – ‘the best year of my life’.

### Studying in Europe

You can study at more than 250 universities all over Europe under the Erasmus programme. Erasmus is an EC exchange programme that enables students in 31 European countries to study for part of their degree in another European country. Exchanges can last from 3-10 months and study credit is transferred to your home university.

### Beyond Europe

The International Exchange Programme allows you to spend a year at institutions in Australia, Canada, Central & South America, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA. All the institutions teach in English except Chuo University in Japan and those in Central & South America.

**The University holds a Study Abroad Fair every November. Information is also available on our website: [www.glasgow.ac.uk/studying/exchange](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/studying/exchange).**

### What are my career prospects?

Studying geography provides broad-based and flexible training, which means that by the time you complete your Geography degree you will possess a wide range of attributes that are attractive to a variety of employers. You will have skills in:

- producing structured, logical arguments in both written and oral form
- statistics and IT, which will aid you in data analysis
- cartography, enabling you to illustrate your arguments more effectively
- using a wide range of data sources such as maps, air photos, satellite images, published statistics and questionnaire surveys
- participating in, and managing team work.

In addition, you will have demonstrated your ability to conceptualise and manage a significant piece of independent work – the dissertation.

Whether your choice is directed towards vocational or business employment, future prospects are good with a Geography degree from Glasgow. Our graduates are involved in a vast range of careers, from planning to working for government and non governmental organisations, accountancy to journalism, in the UK and around the world.

### Where can I find out more?

For information about the Geography degree, please visit: [www.glasgow.ac.uk/geography](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/geography).

Or you can contact us on, tel: +44 (0)141 330 4782, email: [enquiries@ges.gla.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ges.gla.ac.uk).

### See what our students say

Further information about what it is like to be a student at Glasgow and about careers that our students now have can be found at: [www.glasgow.ac.uk/geography](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/geography).

### Come and visit us

#### Open Day

[www.glasgow.ac.uk/openday](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/openday)

In June and September we hold an Open Day to allow you, your family and teachers to visit us on campus and see a little of the city.

Open Day allows you to speak to academic staff, find out more about courses, tour the facilities, visit student accommodation and see for yourself what life would be like as a student at Glasgow. If you have a long way to travel you can also stay in one of our student residences.

#### Alternative visiting arrangements

Open Day is the best way for you to get a comprehensive picture of what being a student here would be like. However, if for any reason you can't make it on that date, then we will be able to make alternative arrangements. To find out more visit: [www.glasgow.ac.uk/afternoonvisits](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/afternoonvisits).

#### Applicants' Visit Day

At Glasgow we go the extra mile. If you receive an offer of a place at Glasgow, we will invite you to visit us before making your final decision. Applicants' Visit Day usually takes place in March. Details will be sent to you together with your offer of a place.

‘The staff are supportive, the atmosphere is encouraging  
– I couldn’t have hoped for a more rewarding  
experience during my University career.’

Sarah Procter, Geography

[www.glasgow.ac.uk/geography](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/geography)



‘Scotland at its artsy, riotous, high-octane, good-time best.’

Lonely Planet



## City of Glasgow

### What is it like living and studying in Glasgow?

Named as one of the world’s top ten cities by independent travel guide *Lonely Planet*, Glasgow attracts the largest student population in Scotland. The city’s reputation for friendliness means that wherever you come from, you’ll soon treat it as your second home.

#### Music and nightlife

In an average week Glasgow hosts 123 bands, 72 classical composers, 49 choirs, 38 orchestras and 21 jazz bands. Renowned for discovering acts from Franz Ferdinand to Primal Scream, the city has fantastic venues for live music including King Tut’s Wah Wah Hut – voted UK’s best live venue by listeners of Radio 1 three years in a row.

More than 700 bars, pubs and nightclubs mean no two nights in Glasgow are the same. Whether you’re after a record-breaking 100-foot long bar where everyone can be a barfly (the Horseshoe), or a pub with a log fire, stuffed stags’ heads and kilted staff that’s as appealing as it is unpronounceable (Uisge Beatha), Glasgow has a venue to suit. Dance until you drop at the Subclub, or travel back to 1920s America at the Vegas clubnight on the Renfrew Ferry, it’s up to you.

#### Festivals

At least one festival every month of the year shows Glasgow loves to celebrate. Some of our favourites include Glasgow International Comedy Festival, Celtic Connections folk music festival, Glasgay, Piping Live!, Glasgow Film Festival and Aye Write!, the city’s book festival.

#### Culture

The city of Glasgow owns one of the richest collections in Europe, displayed in 13 museums and art galleries – and admission is free. You are spoilt for choice, with the city’s famous Burrell collection vying for attention beside Scotland’s most visited attraction, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, located next door to the University.

#### Sport

The city will host the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Across the world people know Glasgow as home of Celtic and Rangers football clubs, but with no fewer than 27 public fitness centres including swimming pools, running tracks, 11-a-side pitches and tennis courts, you’re guaranteed to find something to get involved with, whatever your level of fitness.

#### Campus culture

Are you craving cosy campus living or do you prefer big city excitement. Whichever is your style, you’ll be impressed by the University’s excellent location in the compact West End. Just two miles from the city centre, with great bus and underground links, the West End has a reputation as the bohemian, trendy and cosmopolitan quarter of Glasgow.



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### What our students say

‘Glasgow is such a diverse and vibrant city with lots to offer and a great social scene with a fantastic range of bars, clubs and music venues.’

Alexander Hutchison

‘I chose Glasgow because compared to the other cities I visited it just seemed like a much more lively place. I think the high student population makes it a very young city.’

Elizabeth Ritz

‘The campus at Glasgow is unbelievably beautiful. It’s hard to believe sometimes when walking down busy Byres Road and turning into University Avenue, that this Hogwarts is situated right in the heart of the West End.’

Beverley Simpson

‘Glasgow is very vibrant. The West End is like the village within the city.’

Sarah Gibson