



Your Career with an Arts Degree

Careers with Geography



Geography graduates and the employment market

Geography students acquire a wide range of skills and qualities that are valuable in many professions. The combination of numerical and analytical skills are highly sought after by many sectors of employment. Some of the specific skills gained while doing a degree in Geography include:

- Interpreting different types of geographical evidence such as texts, imagery and maps
- Scientific laboratory techniques
- Using social survey and interpretative methods; collecting and analysing information using different methods
- Field research
- Map and diagram production
- Recognising the moral and ethical issues involved in debates and enquiries
- Using social survey and interpretative methods
- Collecting and analysing information using different methods (e.g. GIS, remote sensing)
- Research, writing and presentation skills
- Numerical skills, including interpreting and presenting relevant numerical information
- Self-management, time management and planning skills
- Information, communications and technology skills (ICT)
- Analytical skills - being able to analyse, synthesise, evaluate and identify problems and solutions
- Working with others as a result of developing interpersonal skills, planning skills and teamwork



Teacher

Historian

Journalist

Novelist

Information
Officer/
Librarian

Your
Dream
Job

Data
Analyst

Lawyer

Researcher

Typical jobs for Geography graduates...

Geography graduates find employment in diverse areas. Here are some of the most popular career destinations for our Geography graduates:

*Geological Surveyor • Academic Research
Teacher (Primary/Post-Primary) • Cartographer
Geological Assistant • Regional and Local Community Development
Local government planning • Logistics Manager • Environmental Consultant
Recycling Manager • Weather and climate Analyst • GIS Analyst • Land Surveyor • Risk Analyst
The Armed Forces • Media – Journalism/TV/Radio*

Career Destinations of our Geography Graduates

It is useful to know what fellow graduates have done after obtaining their degree at NUI Galway. The following are some of the roles our Geography graduates took up after graduation:

- *TEFL Teacher*
- *Data collector for Census*
- *Geography and Irish teacher*
- *Administrator and Tour Guide, Thomond Park*
- *Assistant Librarian*
- *Auctioneer*
- *Graduate trainee, Ordnance Survey Ireland*
- *Sea fisheries protection officer, Irish Naval Service*
- *Trainee Film Director*

Source: NUI Galway First Destinations Survey

Boosting your employability as a Geography Graduate

Geography students pursue a variety of careers and can work in advertising, marketing, banking, business management, media, tourism and as consultants (such as Environmental, GIS, and Planning) as well as development and aid agencies.

All these careers require the skills of research, analysis, numerical skills for which a Geography degree is an excellent preparation.

Work experience is also a key issue and any experience you have to add to your CV will be a bonus. Volunteering is also an excellent way of adding experience to your CV.

The Career Development Centre at NUI Galway has some reference books that may help find work experience and some of the websites listed at the end of this leaflet also offer many opportunities.

There are some publications that may help keep you up-to-date. These publications also have many advertisements from companies and consultancies and so can help also with job search and may be available to reference in the Careers Library.



What Postgraduate Courses do Geography Graduates do?

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training. Our Geography graduates frequently choose one of the following postgraduate programmes at NUI Galway:

- Structured PhD
- MA (Rural Sustainability)
- MA (Environment, Society and Development)
- MSc (Sustainable Resource Management-Policy & Practice)
- MA (Culture & Colonialism)
- MA (Gender, Globalisation and Rights)
- MA (Public Policy)
- H.Dip.Appl.Sc. (Software Design and Development)
- TEFL Course
- Higher Diploma in Business Studies
- Postgraduate Diploma in Education



Other postgraduate programmes undertaken by previous Geography graduates include:

- MA (Climate Change), Herriott-Watt
- MA (Sustainable Energy), Aberdeen
- MA (Climate Change), NUIM
- MA (Disaster Management Environmental), Kingston University-London
- MA (Coastal Geography), UCC
- MA (Environmental & Resource Management), UCD
- MA (Environmental and Earth Management), Kingston Uni
- MA (Regional and Urban Planning), UCD
- MA (Town Planning), Manchester
- MSc (Environmental Planning), QUB
- MA (Development), DCU
- MA (International Tourism), UL

For information on studying in Ireland and studying abroad with useful links for many countries worldwide visit: www.nuigalway.ie/careers

www.postgradireland.com also has useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland,

www.prospects.ac.uk is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/> covers the EU.

What our students say...



Emer Henderson
BA Geography and Law

As well as my degree in Geography and Law I hold a Masters of Literature (MLitt) in Geography, based within the planning and sustainability research cluster. This Masters gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge and develop as an independent researcher and writer through the support of professional academic supervision. In addition, I have communicated and explained my research to diverse audiences, both specialist and non-specialist, through presenting at national and international conferences.

I have spent the past year in Brussels completing traineeships within the European Parliament and the European Commission. I am currently working for an Irish Member of the European Parliament (MEP) as a junior assistant. I have gained an in-depth understanding of the internal processes and policies of the European Parliament. Furthermore I have developed a strong knowledge of powers and functions of the European Commission, Council of Ministers. I have previously worked within the European Commission's Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI).

My Arts degree gave me a passion for my subject area. It opened my mind to the vast world of academic literature and gave me a solid platform to continue on my journey towards my post-graduate Masters and subsequent career in Brussels. Through studying Arts I also developed my research skills, analytical capabilities, academic writing and presentation skills. I worked as part of a research cluster, researching in the area of environmental planning and sustainability. A personal highlight of my degree was having the opportunity to partake in the Geography fieldtrip to Shanghai, China.

Where can I find out more?

The following websites contain relevant, interesting information on career opportunities with a degree in Geography

Ordnance Survey of Ireland www.osi.ie Irish Institution of Surveyors www.irish-surveyors.ie

EUROPE

Geographical Association www.geography.org.uk/resources/careers/

Royal Geography Society (Our Work) www.rgs.org/

European Geography Association for students and young geographers www.egea.eu/

Land & Property Services NI www.dfpni.gov.uk/lps

British Cartographic Society www.cartography.org.uk/

Ordnance Survey UK www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/careers

ABROAD

Association of American Geographers www.aag.org/

Eathworks www.earthworks-jobs.com/geog.htm www.acsm.net

GENERAL STUDENT/GRADUATE WEBSITES

Career Development Centre, degree opportunities:

www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html

Gradireland www.gradireland.com

Prospects UK Geography profile www.prospects.ac.uk/options_geography_your_skills.htm

www.jobs.ac.uk [academic jobs, fellowships etc UK, Europe and worldwide]

