

5 WORK SKILLS GEOGRAPHY WILL GIVE YOU



DATA ANALYSIS



In school: When you're studying geography you'll gather data from a range of sources. This might be numerical or spatial data, crowd-sourced data or factual texts. You need to take this information and analyse it, usually in the context of a specific issue.

CRITICAL THINKING



In school: It's not enough to just accept the information presented to you. You need to think about where it's come from and what implications that has. Is it reliable or biased? Could there be errors? You need to explain all of this when you're drawing conclusions about different scenarios.

IT



In school: You'll use many tools to collect, store and process data, presenting it in a form that's easy to understand. You'll learn about computer modelling and electronic databases. You'll also use IT to produce a range of diagrams, graphs and maps.

RESEARCH



In school: You'll carry out primary research, as well as using your research skills to find relevant literature to support your theories. You'll need to gather information from different sources and present it clearly.



TEAMWORK



In school: You'll work with your classmates to collect data for investigations in human and physical geography. You'll also work on group projects, where you'll need to listen to different ideas and points of view before agreeing on your eventual findings.

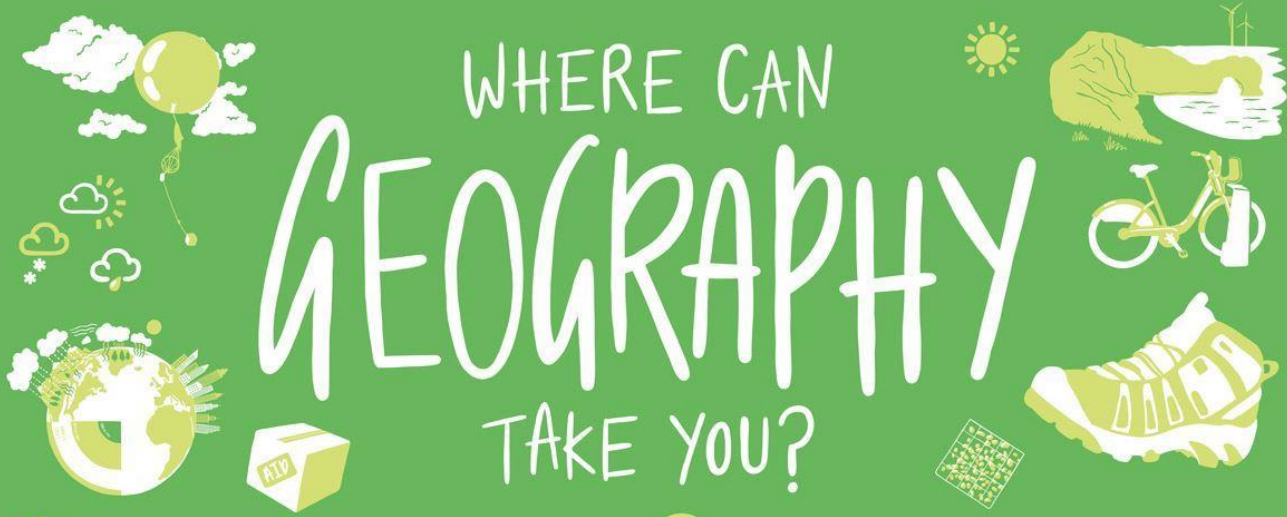


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Sources: For source data please request the information by emailing data@successatschool.org

WHERE CAN GEOGRAPHY TAKE YOU?



AGRICULTURE

This sector employs over 350,000 people across the UK. Although core agricultural roles are expected to drop by 2030, **many new jobs will be created in “agri-tech”**.

Career paths: Ecologist, farmer, food scientist

CONSULTANCY

In the future, consultants with skills and knowledge in IT and technology, data analysis, digital marketing and cyber security **will be in demand**.

Career paths: Cost consultant, logistics analyst, transportation consultant

EDUCATION

Primary school and nursery teachers have one of the **highest rates of job satisfaction** in the UK. Over 450,000 teachers work all across the UK.

Career paths: Careers advisor, secondary school teacher, teaching assistant

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Today, about 500,000 people work in the energy sector. But with the demand for green energy growing, **by 2020 half a million people could be working in renewables alone**.⁵

Career paths: Geotechnical engineer, surveyor, water consultant

PUBLIC SECTOR

The Public Sector – which includes things like NHS hospitals, state schools, local councils and the police – **employs more than 5 million people** across the UK. That’s over 17% of the workforce.

Career paths: Environmental officer, planning officer, transport planner

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Between 2016 and 2023, jobs in science and research will grow at twice the rate of other industries, creating 142,000 new jobs. **1 in every 6 jobs will be in science and research**.⁶

Career paths: Geo-technologist, renewable energy researcher

EMPLOYER:

INVESTMENT20/20
See your future in finance/20
Part of The Investment Association

Investment20/20 want people that are good at analysing and presenting data. Studying geography you put those skills to the test, these are the skills that will help you start a career in Investment Management.

WANT MORE CAREERS ADVICE?



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Data sources: https://www.engineeringuk.com/media/356/enguk_report_2017_synopsis.pdf; <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/news/11-01-2018/6247-higher-education-student-statistics/subjects> (Fig. 13); ⁵No of workers: <https://www.ois.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplework/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/employmentbyindustryyp3> (May 2018); No of new rail jobs: <https://successatschool.org/educational/947/careers-in-rail> (YRP); ⁶No of workers: <https://www.ois.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplework/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/employmentbyindustryyp3> (May 2018); No of businesses: <https://www.statistics.gov.uk/377/construction-industry-in-the-uk>; ⁵New jobs: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BSBService?social=141078&lng=en> (UK 2011 roadmap references here); No of workers: <https://www.ois.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplework/>; <https://www.ednrg.com/stat/default.htm#jobs-of-the-future.pdf> (p.4)

Careers in Geography

Geography is the study of the world we live in, its environments, landscapes and natural disasters, and the relationship between people and environments.

One of the most wide-ranging degree subjects, geography is a mix of social and physical sciences, combining study of the planet's physical properties with a focus on societies and how they interact.

Physical geography covers the Earth's climate, atmosphere, landscapes and natural processes including tectonic plates, glaciers, erosion and volcanology, while human geography covers the distribution and interactions of societies across the globe. While there are few well-defined boundaries, human geography covers population growth, globalisation, farming, forestry, fishing, urbanisation, transportation and tourism.

Many universities offer both human and physical geography programmes, while a number of institutions give students the option to pursue a combined course.

Jobs directly related to Geography include:

- Cartographer
- Commercial/residential surveyor
- Environmental consultant
- Geographical information systems officer
- Planning and development surveyor
- Secondary school teacher
- Town planner

Jobs where Geography would be really useful include:

- Astronomer
- International aid/development worker
- Landscape architect
- Logistics and distribution manager
- Market researcher
- Nature conservation officer
- Political risk analyst
- Sustainability consultant
- Tourism officer
- Transport planner

Typical employers

A geography degree enables you to embark on a career in a range of fields, including those in the education, commerce, industry, transport, tourism and public sectors. You'll also have many transferable skills, attracting employers from the business, law and finance sectors.

Employers include:

- the armed forces
- charities
- the Civil Service
- environmental consultancies

- environmental protection agencies
- information systems organisations
- local government
- Ministry of Defence
- police service

Skills for your CV

By studying geography, you'll gain an insight into a range of practical, social, economic and environmental issues. Geography offers the opportunity to tackle some of the most important issues facing modern society, from climate change, natural disasters, to overpopulation and urban expansion.

In addition to core geographic skills, for example field work and the use of specialist equipment, preparing maps and diagrams and using social survey and interpretative methods, you'll also develop a range of key skills that are relevant to many jobs and sectors.

These include:

- skills in research and data collection, analysis and evaluation
- mathematical and computational skills
- IT skills, for example computer cartography and the use of databases and spreadsheets
- written and oral communications skills, including report writing and data presentation
- the ability to understand abstract concepts and articulate these to a range of audiences
- planning and problem-solving skills
- creative thinking and the ability to recognise the moral and ethical issues involved in debates
- the ability to work independently and also in a team, taking on board ideas and coming to a consensus
- self-motivation and self-reliance
- time management and the ability to meet deadlines.

Studying Geography at university – topics you may cover:

- rivers
- sustainability
- environmental modelling
- the physical environment
- the politics of climate change
- the making of the modern city
- political geography and geopolitics
- economic geography
- coastal and estuarine environments
- environmental hazards and energy resources.