

# GEOGRAPHY (HBSc)

## Department of Geography

The **Geography BSc** offers a broad perspective on physical geography. In-depth studies include climatology, hydrology and ecosystems, with possible specialization in biogeochemistry, arctic regions, landscape ecology, natural resources and urban climate. The curriculum stresses the integrative nature of the discipline as well as the development of skills in geographical information analysis.

Our department prides itself in being at the forefront of student experience at UTM. Our faculty are very successful and active researchers, maintaining research programs, laboratories and supervise graduate students at UTM. They are also outstanding teachers, with several of our faculty being recognized with teaching awards from both inside and outside the university. We think that the wonderful opportunities and support in our department will make your degree in Geography not only a meaningful and valuable learning experience, but also an exciting and fun one.

## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT UTM!

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we've pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started. As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using **My Program Plan** found at [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans)

### Programs of Study (POSt)

- Specialist Program ERSPE2070 Geography (Science)
- Major Program ERMAJ2070 Geography (Science)
- Minor Program ERMIN2070 Geography (Science)

### Check out...

Learn how to conduct field research at a remote forest field camp for five days in GGR379H5. Ever thought of how snow and ice dominate the Canadian landscape? Seek to understand the dynamics of snow and ice in a hydrological context through GGR317H5.

### What can I do with my degree?

The career you choose will depend on your experience and interests. Visit the Career Centre to explore your career options.

**Careers for Graduates:** Resource management specialist; Outdoor guide; Soil conservationist; Pollution control consultant; Habitat researcher; Atmospheric data technician; Agronomist; Water resources specialist.

**Workplaces:** Government; Utilities; Print, digital and broadcast media; Consulting firms; Transportation; Forestry; Mining.



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## MAJOR Program Plan

## HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PLAN

Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you.

Visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) to create your own plan using [My Program Plan](#). Update your plan yearly.



	1 <sup>ST</sup> YEAR	2 <sup>ND</sup> YEAR
PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS*	<p>Enrol in courses GGR111H5 and 112H5. Attain 1.0 credits from Foundational Credits as listed in the <b>Academic Calendar</b>.</p> <p>Choose a program of study (Subject POST) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the <b>Degree Explorer Planner</b> and the <b>Academic Calendar</b> to plan your degree.</p> <p>Start strong and get informed with <b>utmONE</b> and <b>LAUNCH</b> through the Office of Student Transition. Join a <b>RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group</b>.</p>	<p>Attain 3.0 GGR credits at the 200 level from a list of courses in the Academic Calendar. Acquire 8 field days by the end of your final year.</p> <p>Throughout your undergraduate degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use the <b>Degree Explorer</b> to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements.</li> <li>see the <b>Office of the Registrar</b> and the <b>Geography Academic Counsellor</b>.</li> </ul>
BUILD SKILLS	<p>Use the <b>Co-Curricular Record (CCR)</b>. Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.</p> <p>Attend the <b>Get Experience Fair</b> through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.</p>	<p>Use the <b>Career Learning Network (CLN)</b> to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>Work on-campus through the <b>Work-Study program</b>. View position descriptions on the CLN.</p>
BUILD A NETWORK	<p>Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the <b>Student Association for Geography and Environment (SAGE)</b>.</p> <p>Visit the UTM Library <b>Reference Desk</b>.</p>	<p>Do you have a professor you really like or connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. Discuss an assignment. Go over lecture material. Don't be shy! Learn <b>Tips On How to Approach a Professor</b> available through the Experiential Education Office (EEO).</p>
BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET	<p>Attend events held by the <b>International Education Centre (IEC)</b> to explore different cultures through food, music, and sport or through sight-seeing around the GTA.</p>	<p>Embark on a <b>UTM Abroad Co-Curricular Experience</b> through the IEC. Speak to the <b>Global Mobility Coordinator</b> and the <b>Geography Academic Counsellor</b> to select the appropriate courses.</p> <p>Prefer traveling in Canada? Check out the IEC's <b>UTM Across Canada program</b>.</p>
PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE	<p>Attend the <b>Program Selection &amp; Career Options</b> workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and the CC.</p> <p>Check out <b>Careers by Major</b> at the CC to see potential career options.</p>	<p>Explore careers through the CC's <b>Extern Job Shadowing Program</b>. Ask the <b>Geography Academic Counsellor</b> about <b>Professional Advancement for Geography and Environment Students (PAGES)</b>.</p> <p>Considering <b>further education</b>? Attend the CC's <b>Graduate and Professional Schools Fair</b>. Talk to professors – they are potential mentors and references.</p>

\*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.

3 <sup>RD</sup> YEAR	4 <sup>TH</sup> OR FINAL YEAR
<p>Attain 2.5 GGR credits at the 300 level from a list of courses in the <b>Academic Calendar</b>.</p> <p>Consider applying for the <b>Research Opportunity Program (ROP)</b> course GGR399Y. Visit the EEO website for <b>ROP Course Prerequisites</b>. Attend the RGASC's <b>Program for Accessing Research Training (P.A.R.T.)</b> to enhance your research skills.</p>	<p>Attain 0.5 GGR credits at the 400 level from a list of courses in the <b>Academic Calendar</b>. Why not gain experience executing an independent senior thesis? Enrol in GGR417Y5. Speak to the <b>Geography Academic Counsellor</b>.</p> <p>Log on to ACORN and request graduation.</p>
<p>Do you want to make UTM eco-friendly? Become a <b>Green Ambassador</b> with the Environmental Affairs Office.</p> <p>Map and analyze vegetation, soils and aquatic systems in the field! Apply for GGR379H5. Speak to the <b>Geography Academic Counsellor</b>.</p>	<p>Skills are transferrable to any job regardless of where you develop them. Consider a practical work-based experience through the internship course JEG400/401Y5. Speak to the <b>Geography (Science) Faculty Advisor</b> for details.</p> <p>Planning on Graduate School? Apply to GGR417Y5, an honours thesis course.</p>
<p>Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).</p> <p>Attend department research seminars and participate in departmental <b>networking events</b> organized by SAGE.</p>	<p>Join a professional association. Check out the <b>Canadian Association of Geographers, Canadian Geophysical Union</b> and the <b>Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario</b>. Consider attending one of their local or student conferences.</p>
<p>Earn credits overseas! Study for a summer, term or year at one of 120 universities. The Geography department has identified partners who are most relevant to their students. Speak to the <b>IEC</b> for details about <b>Course Based Exchange</b> and funding.</p>	<p>Why not work abroad? Read up on worldwide employment trends and industry outlooks through <b>GoInGlobal</b>. Attend the <b>Go Global Expo</b>. See if you are eligible for <b>International Experience Canada</b>.</p>
<p>What's your next step after undergrad?</p> <p>Entering the workforce? Evaluate your career options through a <b>CC Career Counselling appointment</b>. Create a job search strategy — book a <b>CC Employment Strategies appointment</b>.</p> <p>Considering further education? Research application requirements, prepare for admission tests (LSAT, MCAT), and research funding options (OGS, NSERC).</p>	<p>Market your skills to employers. Get your <b>resume critiqued</b> at the CC. Attend the CC workshop <b>Now That I'm Graduating What's Next?</b></p> <p>Write a strong application for further education. Attend the CC's <b>Mastering the Personal Statement workshop</b>.</p>

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## Skills developed in Geography

To be competitive in the job market, it is essential that you can explain your skills to an employer. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate and market the following skills:

**Technical:** use specialized field equipment, satellite imagery and state of the art software; apply experience with computer modeling; conduct surveying and sampling; and conduct field studies.

**Research:** use statistical applications, as well as gather, organize and analyze data.

**Communication:** read and construct graphs/maps; summarize results of experiments; communicate across cultures; and maintain records.

## Get involved

Check out student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

- Student Association for Geography and Environment (SAGE)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs).

## Services that support you

- AccessAbility Services (AS)
- Career Centre (CC)
- Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)
- Experiential Education Office (EEO)
- Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)
- Indigenous Centre (IC)
- International Education Centre (IEC)
- Office of Student Transition (OST)
- Office of the Registrar (OR)
- Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)
- Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)
- UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)

## Department of Geography

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[www.utm.utoronto.ca/geography](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/geography)

## FUTURE STUDENTS

### Admission to UTM

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The approximate average required for admission is mid- to high-70s. More information is available at [utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook](http://utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook).

**NOTE:** During the application process, applicants will select the Social Sciences admissions category, but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Specialist, Major, and/or Minor) until after first year.

### Sneak Peek

How was the surface of the earth shaped? In GGR201H5 you'll learn about energy flows through the land and human modification of the landscape. What is hydrology? Find out in GGR217H5, a course that studies the transfers of water and energy in the Earth system.

Our students use equipment satellite imagery and state-of-the-art computers and software in the GIS laboratory. We also have an active weather station on campus monitoring local weather conditions. Students can run their own project related to weather monitoring using the latest data logging instruments.

### Student Recruitment & Admissions

Innovation Complex, Room 1270  
University of Toronto Mississauga  
3359 Mississauga Rd  
Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6

905-828-5400

[www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students)

