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GEOGRAPHY

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OVERVIEW

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

Cartographer

If you have an interest in maps and want to combine your design, technology and geography skills, consider becoming a cartographer. As a cartographer, you'll be involved with the scientific, technological and artistic aspects of developing and producing maps. You'll present complex information as diagrams, charts and spreadsheets, as well as in the form of conventional maps. The role varies widely from the development and design of geographical information to more strategic and technical work.

Geographical information systems officer

As a geographical information systems officer, you'll need sharp observation and good project management skills to combine working in the field with analytical work in the office.

Geographic information systems (GIS) are computerized systems used to collect, store, analyze, manipulate and present a range of complex geographical and spatial data. Data can come in a range of formats including cartographic, photographic, digital and remotes sensing, or in tables and spreadsheets.

Using GIS technology, a GIS officer can overlay all these types of data into one map, manipulating it so that all the sources have the same scales and allowing complex readings to be taken from the map.

Planning and development surveyor

Planning and development surveyors research a range of factors to best advise their clients on development and investment choices. Your role as a planning and development surveyor is to advise on all aspect's pf planning and development in order to help your clients make informed choices about investment. This can include issues such as site planning, development, conservation and transport options.

Town Planner

If you are interested in development, regeneration and sustainability, becoming a town planner could be the career for you. As a town planner, or planner, you'll be involved in the management and development of cities, towns, villages and the countryside. Your aim will be to balance the conflicting demands of housing, industrial development, agriculture, recreation, transport and the environment, in order to allow appropriate development to take place.

Landscape Architect

As a landscape architect you'll create landscapes and plan, design and manage open spaces, including both natural and built environments. Your work will provide innovative and aesthetically pleasing environments for people to enjoy, while ensuring that changes to the natural environment are appropriate, sensitive and sustainable. Collaborating closely with other professionals, you'll work on a diverse range of projects in both urban and rural settings- from parks, gardens and housing estates to city center design, sporting sites and motorway construction.

Nature Conservation Officer

If you're passionate about the environment and want to encourage others to enjoy and protect it, a career in nature conservation could be for you. As a nature conservation officer, you'll work to protect, manage and enhance the local environment. This can include grassland, woodland, forests, coastal areas, mountains and rivers. Depending on the region, you might also work in marine habitats. Part of the role is to encourage people to use the countryside and promote awareness and understanding of the natural environment. You'll develop policy which may have local and national impact.

Sustainability Consultant

As a sustainability consultant, you'll promote sustainable for the often-conflicting needs of people, the environment, development and successful business. You'll help businesses develop an environmental conscience, while simultaneously saving hem money by making choices that positively impact the earth and all who live on it. Your work will involve evaluating the impact a company is having on the environment and then minimizing that impact or planning the use of limited resources. You may be involved in all or some stages of a project from planning and building, through to remediation, restoration and reuse of land and property, for example.

Citation: - <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/water-quality-scientist>

WHO EMPLOYS GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES

Wondering where to Jump Start your career? Below is a list of employers who typically hire Geography Graduates.

- ✓ Forestry, mining, environmental issues, waste management, architecture or surveying companies
- ✓ Insurance, communications, international trade, transportation
- ✓ Private industry including utilities, construction, energy, environmental planning
- ✓ Government agencies
- ✓ NGOs (non-governmental organizations)
- ✓ Consulting firms
- ✓ Real estate developers
- ✓ Scientific or research groups
- ✓ Museums

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- ✓ Market research organizations
- ✓ Boards of education/universities/colleges
- ✓ Outdoor recreation companies
- ✓ Magazine/newspaper companies

Program related skills

Students with geography majors develop the ability to formulate concepts, allowing them to solve practical problems and to find better ways of meeting world needs. Such skills are applicable to job responsibilities in a variety of fields in the sciences, business, government and education. The following list presents some examples of the skills developed and used by students in environment majors.

- ✓ Analytical skills
- ✓ Summarizing research findings
- ✓ Perceiving patterns and structures
- ✓ Investigating skills
- ✓ Applying relevant concepts
- ✓ Technical skills
- ✓ Mapping/GIS
- ✓ Laboratory and field work skills
- ✓ Organization and data reporting
- ✓ Designing charts/graphs

Possible Career Path

Below is a sample of the many types of occupations and jobs pursued by graduates of this program.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list. Detailed career profiles are available in the Career Centre. Some occupations require further education and experience.

Human (social, economic, historical and cultural studies)

Location Analyst
Market Research Analyst*
Medical Geographer
Map Librarian
Historic Preservationist
Political Analyst

Physical

Hydrologist*
Resource Management Specialist
Outdoor Guide*
Soil Conservationist
Pollution Control Consultant
Meteorologist*
Ecologist*

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Foreign Service Officer*
Economic Development Officer*
Planner* (e.g. Urban Planner)
Real Estate Developer
Demographer
Travel/Tourism Planning
Community Developer
Municipal Advisor
Development Officer*

Computational and analytical methods

Cartographer*
Remote Sensing Analyst
Curator*
GIS/GPS Analyst
Land Surveyor*
Survey Tech*
Computer Mapping and Software Developer
Map Interpreter
Aerial Photo Analyst
Spatial Data Analyst
GIS Specialist*
Statistician*

Geologist*
Climatologist*
Habitat Researcher
Atmospheric Data Technician
Agronomist*

Environmental

Conservator*
Outdoor Recreation Management
Waste Management
Forestry Technician*
Hazardous Waste Planner
Outdoor Guide*
Conservation Officer*
Wildlife Technician*
Environmental Tech*
Ecotourism Planner
Wetlands Conservation Supervisor
Conservation Education Coordinator
Environmental Impact Assessment
Recycling Coordinator
Forester*
Zoologist*
Environmental Consultant*

* View these titles at Career Cruising, available on [CLN](#) under the *Resources* tab.

[HOW TO GET EXPERIENCE](#)

[Volunteer](#)

- Community Garden Animator – Toronto, ON
- Natural Resource Worker – City of Toronto, ON
- Coop Student, Building Sciences – WSP, Toronto, ON

[Internships](#)

- Summer – Consulting Intern, RSM USLLP, Toronto

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- Student – Environmental Assistant, North York, ON
- Junior Geo-Environmental Scientist, EXP, Markham, ON
- Inter, Environmental Program – Ivanhoe Cambridge, Vaughan, ON

Part-time positions

- City Dispatcher – Highlight Motor Freight Inc., ON
- Logistics Coordinator – Falco Group, Toronto
- Environmental Planner – Pinchin Ltd., Mississauga, ON
- Plant technician Wastewater – City of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Additional Related Student Organizations

Join a student club or an academic society at UTM to meet like-minded people, explore your interests, and make valuable connections. To view a list of current clubs and societies, visit the Centre for Student Engagement's website. Some organizations you may consider are:

- Student Association of Geography and Environment:
<https://www.ulife.utoronto.ca/organizations/view/id/127805>
- World Wildlife Foundation at UTM
- UTM Students' Union: <https://utmsu.ca>
- Habitat for Humanity UTM: <https://www.ulife.utoronto.ca/organizations/view/id/128144>

Create a LinkedIn Profile

Create a [LinkedIn](#) profile to connect with professionals in various fields, explore the career paths of UTM alumni, research employers, apply for specific positions, and more. Need help? Come to the Career Centre to book a LinkedIn profile critique.

Join a Professional Association

There are many benefits of becoming a member of association(s), such as developing a network of contacts, learning about industry trends, accessing industry-related job postings, and stating your affiliation on your resume. Some associations related to this major are:

- Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG): <https://www.cag-acg.ca/>
- Ontario Association for Geographic and Environmental Education (OAGEE):
<https://oagee.org/en/>
- Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS): <http://www.rcgs.org/>

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[SAMPLE JOB LISTINGS FOR GRADUATING/RECENT GRADUATES](#)

Below is a sample of delisted positions that have been posted on UofT's Career Learning Network (CLN). To access current listings, login to [CLN](#) and click on *Jobs*.

- Location Research Analyst, Pizza Pizza
- Hydrogeologist, MMM Group
- Agricultural Technical Copywriter, Kenna
- Community Cultural Coordinator, Ontario Native Women's Association
- Research Assistant - Water Pollution, Department of Economics, UofT
- Fisheries Habitat Technician, Credit Valley Conservation
- Student Planner, Toronto Transit Commission
- Waste Management Research/Policy Analyst, Department of Geography, UofT
- Meteorologist, The Weather Network
- Communications and Membership Coordinator, Ontario Clean Air Alliance
- Forestry Co-op Student, Regional Municipality of York
- Traffic Data Analyst, Tran-search
- Animal Control Officer, City of Toronto
- Cultural Research Database Developer, OISE, UofT
- Museum Program Instructor, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation, City of Toronto

[HOW CAN THE CAREER CENTRE HELP](#)

[Library Resources](#)

The Career Resource Library contains information about a wide range of occupations in all industries, resume and cover letter resources, effective work search methods, graduate/professional school preparation guides and more. Below listed are some sample of Career Centre Library Resources

- Canada's Top 100 Employers
- Canadian Environmental Directory
- Career Cruising (electronic career guide)
- Careers for Nature Lovers and Other Outdoor Types
- Careers in Environment
- Careers with a Conscience: Making a Difference While Making a Living
- Enviro Employment Guidebook
- Great Jobs for Environmental Studies Majors
- Red Career Information Binders
- The Big Guide to Living & Working Overseas
- The Canadian Student Employment Guide
- The Eco Guide to Careers That Make a Difference

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- What You Can Do With A Science Degree
- What You Can Do With An Arts Degree

You can also visit our on-line library collection by going to the Career Centre website:

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/> Click on the Career Planning icon and then scroll down to Library Resources. Once you register, you can download a book for up to 14 days.

[Appointments](#)

- Attend a one-on-one appointment with a career counsellor or an employment strategist to discuss what career options might work for you and determine a job search plan.
- Meet with an academic or departmental advisor, who can guide you in achieving academic success. Contact the Office of the Registrar or your department for more information.
- Resume critiques are individual 30-minute appointments which are available in the Career Centre. Online same-day sign-up is available on critique days starting at 9:00 a.m. For a list of critique days see our events calendar: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/events-calendar>

[Career Planning by Year](#)

Visit our Career Planning by Year page for ideas of important career related activities for each year. You can visit us in the Career Centre to find out more about careers that interest you. The UTM program plans are also a good resource to learn more about how you can use your degree and to find out how to map out your academic career path for each year while at UTM. Visit: www.utoronto.ca/program-plans .

[The National Occupational Code Binder](#)

The National Occupational Code Binders in the Career Resources Library provide very detailed, specific and extensive information relating to hundreds of careers. From general overviews of the job, to working conditions, to sample job postings related to the field and related articles, the binders are sure to provide you with in-depth answers to many of your job-specific questions.

[Tip Sheets](#)

Do you like information in an easy-to-read, easy-to-digest, take home format? Take a look at our tip sheets on subjects like Effective Interviewing, Networking and Preparing for Graduate School.

[Events](#)

Would you like a chance to interact with prospective employers and expand your networking circle? The Career Centre offers a number of events that help you brush shoulders with professional and experts from all fields. Attend the Get Experience Fair, Get Hired Fair, Professional School Fair and Summer Job Fair. Practice putting those networking skills to use and land yourself a job! Check out the events and workshops section of the Career Learning Network to find out what is happening on Campus.

www.clnx.utoronto.ca/home

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[Extern Job Shadowing Program](#)

Are you still curious about what career path is best for you? Would you like a chance to experience working in an industry to find out if it's really the path for you? The Extern Job Shadowing Program can help. This job-shadowing program grants you a one – to – five day placement in a career of your choice. Go to the Career Learning Network to register for the workshops that will help you to prepare for your placement. To register go to: www.clnx.utoronto.ca/home and then go to workshops and events to see when the next workshop is happening.

[Talk to Professors](#)

Connecting with your professors can be a great way to explore the different paths a major can lead you to, as well as learn about the possible opportunities for research, volunteer, or becoming a TA. Drop by their office hours or request an appointment.

[Career Counselling](#)

Are you feeling lost, unsure and overwhelmed with finding out what career path you would like to choose? Or you've decided on a career or the type of job you want, but what are the next steps? Our Career Counsellors are here to help. Book an appointment with one of our professionals who can help you determine what paths you can take after graduation or how your area of study can relate to a career post-grad.

[Job Postings](#)

Are you graduating soon or a recent graduate? Sign up for the Graduating Students Employment Service (GES) or the Recent Graduate Employment (RGES). These services allow you to gain access to full-time job postings while your final year of study or access full-time job postings for up to two years after you graduate. To learn more, check out our Career Centre website.

Please feel free to come and visit us in Room 3094, south building. You can also reach us by phone, 905-828-5451 or email at career@utm.toronto.ca.

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ALUMNI PROFILE

Name: Faisal Haq Shaheen
Grad Year: 1995
Degree: BSc
Program: Biology & Geography
Title: Management Analyst
Industry: Business, Finance & Administration
Organization: City of Toronto

Faisal currently serves as a Business Management Analyst with the City of Toronto. His 12 years of experience includes marketing management and business development within the manufacturing and environmental technology sectors. His current portfolio of responsibilities includes corporate strategic development, management operations improvement, performance measurement and project management.

Faisal also serves as a Visiting Research Associate with Islamabad's Sustainable Development Policy Institute where he focuses on political economy and development issues including regional trade, sustainable development and resource management. He also serves as an advisor to the Punjab Government's Urban Unit on municipal management issues. His research continues as a doctoral student in the Policy Studies PhD program at Ryerson University, where his research interests include informal sector governance, regional trade flows in the global south, sustainable development and public policy and administration within developing countries.

Faisal is an alumnus of Ryerson University where he recently completed a Master's in Public Policy and Administration. Faisal is also an alumnus of York University where he completed an MBA in Business and Environment from the Schulich School of Business. Prior to that, Faisal completed an Honors Baccalaureate in Biology and Environmental Science from the University of Toronto. In his spare time, Faisal balances training in the martial arts with the study of classical Indian music.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Prospects - Career Options in Geography and more](#)
- [Jobpostings.ca - Career Guides in Agriculture, Forestry, Green Initiatives, and more](#)
- [TalentEgg - Career Guides Natural Resources Canada](#)
- [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)
- [Canada's Top 100 Employers for Young People](#)