The graduate degree programs in the Department of Geography are strongly research oriented, and the completion of a thesis is the main focus at both the Master’s and PhD levels. The Department offers several different programs leading to MA, MSc, and PhD degrees.

**Environment, Development and Health**

EDH studies the ways that human societies are transforming the natural world, and the ways that biophysical changes, political environments, and social inequality together impact human health and well-being.

Topics include the following: environmental hazards, risk perceptions, air pollution, children’s health, and environmental dispossession of Indigenous communities.

**Urban Studies**

Focuses on phenomenon and societal issues in the context of cities.

Topics include the following: urban development, urban health, urban history, urban morphology, urban land and real estate economics, planning, transportation, housing, culture, and applications of Geographic Information Science. Specific research projects currently include the following: housing and homelessness, built environment and health, children’s environments, local food environments, politics of identities and place-making, and critical issues in African cities.

**Geographic Information Science (GIS)**

Studies the nature of geographic information to provide theoretical foundations for geographic information technologies and to explore their scientific and policy-related applications within the core areas of: Geographic Information Science and remote sensing.

Topics include the following: environmental issues, natural resource management, earth surface processes, political economies of location data and technologies, and the platform economy in cities.

**Physical Geography**

Studies earth surface environments, processes and history-based in natural sciences with applications in environmental management, restoration, sustainability, and policy, with broader social science connections.

Topics include the following: urban environments and sustainability, geo-spatial methods within physical geography, and near-surface studies of hydro-climate, hydro-geomorphology, hydro-ecology, and land-use and climate change.

**Research: ‘Human Geography of Political Ecology’**

Current research topics include: energy and environmental justice; understanding pipeline controversies; pipeline resistance and Indigenous rights; Canadian environmental governance; the political ecology of biofuels.

**Research: ‘Urban and Economic Geography’**

Current research projects include the following: economic and social changes in small communities in Ontario and policy responses; plant closures and impacts on cities in Ontario; immigrant integration in Canadian cities; liberalization policies, housing markets, policy changes in developing countries; economic reforms and urban changes in developing countries.

**Research: ‘Aquatic Science, Ecosystem Ecology & Biogeography’**

Current research strives to enhance our understanding of stream ecosystems, how human activities are affecting streams, and to develop tools of assessment and management. Works with students on the inputs and effects of groundwater on stream ecosystems in the Great Lakes Basin, Canadian Prairies, and Upper Thames River.

**Research: ‘Digital Geographies & Geographic Information Science’**

Current projects examine the political economies of digital location data and technologies ('geolocation') and the platform economy in cities. Recruits students with interests in GIScience & society, big data, algorithms & AI, smart cities & homes or ‘social media’.

Come Learn, Grow and Succeed With Us
Employment Possibilities

Urban Planner  
GIS Analyst  
Research Scientist  
Aquatic Ecologist  
Housing Based Care Manager  
Pesticides Campaign Manager  
Groundwater Environmental Manager  
eLearning & Curriculum Specialist  
Water Surveyor of Canada  
Environmental Planner  

Environmental Counsellor  
Program Officer, Environment Canada  
Environment Health Officer  
Geomorphology Consultant  
Data Analyst  
Post-secondary Educator  
Environment NGO Consultant  
Remote Sensing Analyst  
Conservation Manager  

Income Payoff*

Master’s Degree: both women and men with a master’s degree in the social sciences earned more than those who had a bachelor’s degree, by an increase of 14% and 17% respectively.

Doctoral Degree: both women and men with a doctoral degree in the social sciences earned more than those who had a master’s degree, by an increase of 13% and 1% respectively.