

Does The World Need Geographers?

Our planet is always changing. It takes adaptability and vision to meet the challenges brought by the significant social, economic, and environmental changes we face.

Regions of the world face complex issues relating to climate change, food and energy security, degradation of land and soils, the spread of diseases, flooding and droughts, mass migration and overpopulation.

Employees are needed that offer both specialized knowledge and the broad-based perspective to understand our dynamic world. The SMU Geographer's diverse experience is valued across the public and private sectors.

Geographers specialize in understanding the spatial characteristics of both environmental and social systems at multiple scales and in a broadly integrative way, allowing them to help stakeholders mitigate problems, adapt to changes,

and find solutions to the myriad challenges currently confronting our society and our planet.

*A subject
for our times*

Geography is a "subject for our times", one that is "inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences."¹

**In a demanding world,
geographers are in demand.**

¹ Quotes from The Guardian, Aug. 13, 2015

What Do Our Students Say?

“ The Saint Mary's Department of Geography provided me with an exciting learning environment through a network of established and devoted researchers. I enjoyed access to seminars and conferences, as well as opportunities to work in the field. Through my geography studies, I was able to distill my strong but general interest in the natural world to a more focused passion for coastal geomorphology and applied natural science. SMU Geography helped me realize my full potential and fostered real-world connections, and as a result I have been working full-time with Fisheries and Oceans Canada since graduating in 2012.

Casey O'Laughlin (M.Sc. 2012)

“ I came into the Geography Department at Saint Mary's with a different perspective. I was already career ready after pursuing the Geographic Sciences Diploma at the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS). I felt the need to further my education, to gain more knowledge and to be a better citizen of the world. The Geography Department has allowed me to gain this knowledge with their experienced and passionate faculty. The small class sizes definitely helped as the professors get to know you as a student and encourage active participation in their classes.

Two great opportunities while studying were traveling to the Îles-de-la-Madeleine for the Geography Field School and being a Teaching Assistant for the mapping technique classes. The field trip was great as it allowed me to gain new knowledge by being out in the field in a beautiful part of Canada and to freely apply my mapping knowledge for the class projects.

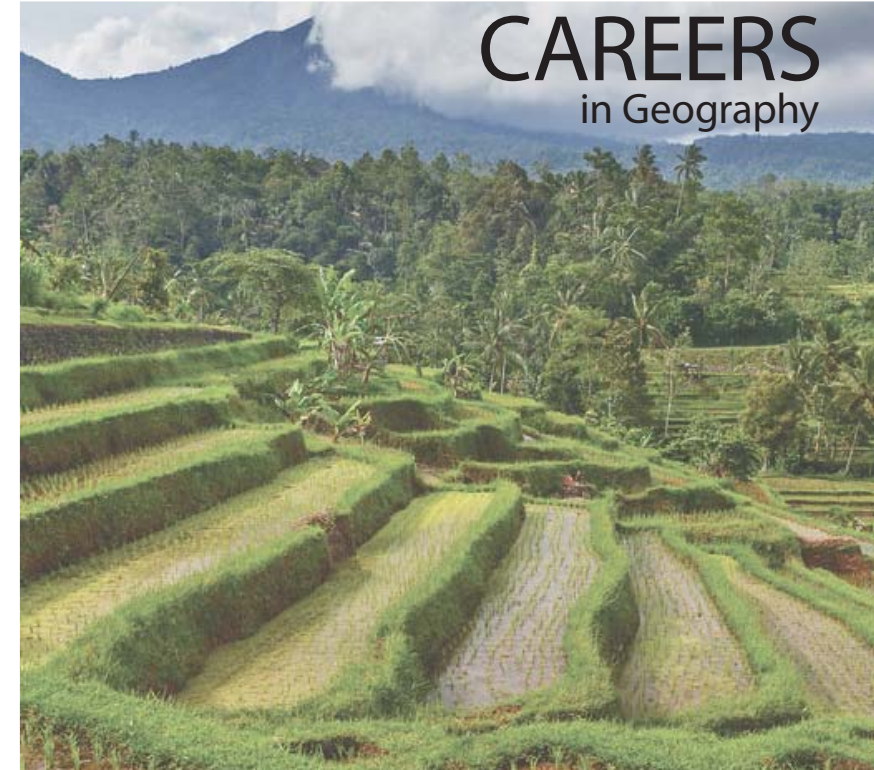
Being a Teaching Assistant was a great and unique opportunity, as I could keep current with the technical software while assisting the students with their assignments. Within a few short months of graduating from Saint Mary's University, I became (and still am) a Geographic Sourcing Analyst with TomTom. Overall, I am responsible for maintaining the map data for Atlantic Canada and providing support to the rest of Canada for making accurate maps that help our customers get where they need to be.

Sylvain Gagnon (B.A. 2015)

“ The Geography Department at Saint Mary's introduced me to a world I did not know existed. The professors have such a passion for what they teach so you learn what drives someone to study in this field as well as what it takes to succeed. My professors allowed me to study specific areas I was interested in through directed studies, which enabled me to really explore what excited me most about the world of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Through this guidance and training, I was led down the right path and everyone in the Geography Department helped me make the best decisions for the career I wanted. This is one of the most incredible programs at the university; it is more than just a department, it is a tight-knit community!

Nicole Murphy (B.A. 2013)

CAREERS in Geography

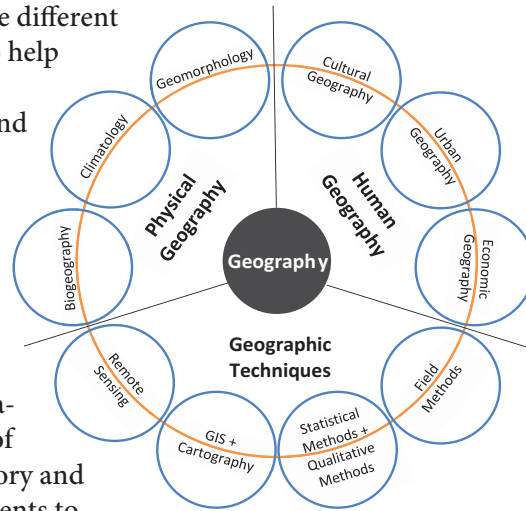


**Saint Mary's
University**

Why Study Geography at Saint Mary's?

Geography is relevant and in demand in today's society, as an integrative and interdisciplinary field that spans the physical sciences, social sciences, humanities, and geographic techniques.

At Saint Mary's University, students are encouraged to explore different fields of geography to help understand spatial patterns, processes, and relations at multiple scales. Students will gain skills and knowledge on how the environment and society interact to create the world we inhabit today. Geography is a unique area of study that blends theory and practice to allow students to address real world issues in lectures, seminars, labs and even through fieldwork.



Our dedicated faculty has expertise across the entire spectrum of the discipline and will help prepare students for a wide range of geography-related careers.

Who Do Employers Need?

Geographers possess many essential skills that are valuable to employers, allowing students with a geography degree to pursue a wide range of careers. Some of these essential skills include:

- Demonstrated capacity for **spatial thinking and analysis** at multiple scales.
- Practical skills and knowledge in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), **geomatics and cartography**.
- Tangible **field and lab experience**, as well as a good academic record.
- Critical **understanding of the complex interactions** between humans and the environment.
- **Problem-solving strategies** approached from an integrative, interdisciplinary perspective.

Geographers are uniquely prepared to meet the rapidly evolving demands of today's workforce given their eye for detail, capacity to synthesize different perspectives, and ability to blend theory and practice at a variety of scales. Geographers also specialize in analyzing spatial interactions in a variety of economic, political, social, and environmental contexts.

Geography Career Options: Where Next?

