

Geography

100-level courses

Entry to Geography

Geography is open to all students who are eligible to enter a New Zealand university. The essential background is a lively and enquiring interest in change in today's world. Some experience of geography in years 12 and 13 will help, but is not strictly necessary. Depending on how you wish to develop your geographical interests, a background in science or experience of humanities and social science subjects, is very useful.

Careers for Geographers

Career opportunities for our graduates are very wide-ranging and exciting, our recent graduates have had postings all over New Zealand and the world, from Auckland to Greymouth, California to Antarctica. Recent Geography graduates are found in careers at the Treasury, Tourism New Zealand, private companies dealing with Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS), the police, local authorities, education, and in their own consultancies and businesses, to name a few.

The environmental field is wide open: the Resource Management Act has created a vast market for geographers in consultancy, and in regional and local government. Those who gain technical expertise in areas such as GIS and remote sensing can be in heavy demand from both the public and private sectors. In addition, research and policy positions in central, regional and local government are popular.

Some graduates find work overseas, for Foreign Affairs, development agencies and the United Nations. Then there are jobs that are particularly people-focused, where communication skills are critical, as in the union movement, teaching and personnel. A number of geographers become self-employed in their own companies - in the environmental field and publishing for example - while others enter big companies, in fields such as electronics and tourism.

For more information on what careers will be open to you on completion of your geography degree see:
<http://www.geog.canterbury.ac.nz/jobs.shtml>

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100-Level Courses

100-Level Coordinator: Heather Purdie
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Global Environmental Change

GEOG106-17S2 (15 pts) – 0.125 EFTS

The objective of this course is to develop an understanding of the nature of major environmental changes at the global scale and to discuss a range of management strategies to improve societal resilience. Among the types of issues considered are population growth, food security, land degradation and global climate change. Focus is placed on understanding the role that natural systems, such as the atmosphere and hydrosphere, have in global environmental change, and assessing the factors that drive human behaviour and how people's activities affect

Geography is an exciting and distinctive discipline, and one with a special place in the University, at the interface between science and arts, with links also to law, engineering and information technology. Its focus is on putting knowledge together, rather than picking it apart. Learning in geography will enable you to take an informed and holistic view of our changing world, and of your place in it. A key theme of geography is the relationships between people, their places and their environments, and the ways in which these can be made more sustainable for the future.

We offer a wide range of undergraduate courses and we currently have about six hundred students enrolled in these. The undergraduate curriculum is structured around four 'pathways'. The pathways are physical geography, human geography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and resource and environmental management. Information on how to build your degree using this pathway structure is available in our Departmental handbook.

If you would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Department.

Come on in.
Nau mai.

Head of Department
Department of Geography

natural systems. Key management strategies will be covered that can enable society to become more resilient to future changes, and methods for modelling, analysing and visualising global environmental change, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing Technology will be introduced.

Course Coordinators: Heather Purdie and Peyman Zawar-Reza

Physical Geography: Earth, Ocean, Atmosphere

GEOG109-17S1 (15 pts) – 0.125 EFTS

The course covers environmental process theory as well as the technical skills needed to monitor and model environmental change. We examine the forces that control Earth systems, with case studies of three main sub-systems: the atmosphere and climate, the oceans and their coastal fringes, and high-energy terrestrial landscapes such as mountains. The course will deepen understanding of these subsystems as a framework for building science-informed environmental approaches.

Course Coordinator: Deidre Hart

Human Geography: People, Process, Place

GEOG110-17S1 (15 pts) – 0.125 EFTS

Places are always restless and changing. The dynamism of place is obvious in cities such as Auckland, Sydney and Los Angeles, but it is also important in smaller communities. This course draws on the insights of human geography to deepen our understanding of how places are made and inhabited. We examine the economic, social and cultural processes that create contemporary places and also consider their possible futures. Through practical work, we introduce some of the key methods and techniques available to document and examine how places change.

Course Coordinators: David Conradson and Kelly Dombroski

An Introduction to Geography

The Department is located in extensive purpose-built accommodation that houses graduate students, a full time academic staff of fourteen, short and long term visitors, as well as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and computing labs on the top floor. The Geography Learning Space is located on level 3 and contains study space for undergraduate and postgraduate students. It is designed for group work, has computer access, a reference and map collection. The Department also hosts the GeoHealth Laboratory Te Tai Whenua o te Hau Ora and the University Centre for Atmospheric Research. There is also an adjacent lab block, which has teaching rooms, physical laboratories, and other services such as cartography, graphics and workshops. We have very close linkages with two of the University's key research centres, Gateway Antarctica (located in our building) and the Geospatial Research Centre.

Field Stations

The Department operates three small climate stations in the Southern Alps, and has the use of other university field stations in the Alps (at Cass) and on the east coast (at Kaikoura) and west coast (at Westport and Harihari) of the South Island. Some members of staff, and some graduate students, make summer visits to Scott Base, the New Zealand base in Antarctica.

