

What Should I do with my Geography Degree?

A quick look at the listings under geography suggests numerous career options: Facilities Planner, Land Developer, Site Research, Land-Use Analyst, Surveyor, Cartographer, Climatologist, Geographic Information Systems, Map Curator/Librarian, Transportation Analyst, Community Developer, Hazardous Waste Planner, Market Research Analyst, Transportation Manager, Travel Agent/Specialist, Computer Programmer, Urban/Regional Planner, Demographer, Ecologist, Property Manager, International Business Rep, Real Estate Agent/Broker/Appraiser, Researcher, High School Teacher, Post-secondary academic, Demographer, Statistician, Miner, Metallurgist, Minerals Processing Engineer, Sustainable Development Researcher, GeoTech, Community Relations Officer, Writer and more....

A main site and excellent resource is

http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/student_opportunities.html

This site sponsored by the Canadian Association of Geographers describes issues that concern students, provides links to career information, links to scholarships and bursary information and job opportunities. Other associations and resources that have similar sites can be found simply by googling “Geography Career Resources”

Know Your Skills

There are many website that offer job suggestions and give summaries of the skills and knowledge employer seek. For British Columbia, one of the best is work futures.

<http://www.workfutures.bc.ca>

Geography students excel in the following areas:

Knowledge of the earth’s physical environments and their understanding and interrelationship.

Understanding of the interrelationship of social, economic, political, and cultural factors

Skills in the analysis and use of standard statistical methods

Skills in writing carefully reasoned reports and academic essays and field note taking.

Good visualization skills

Skills in operating computer equipment

Skills in the spatial analysis of socio-economic patterns, problems and forces

Ability to use land use data.

Being able to describe your strengths in these skills and how they apply to a particular position will help you in your career and will lead to discovery of various job options. The choice is up to the student on how to determine gaps in education and experience to prepare for that bridge between student and professional.