

Geography & Environmental Studies



Referred to as “*the*” spatial science, “Geography is the study of the interaction of all physical and human phenomena at individual places and of how interactions among places form patterns and organize space.”

Program Overview

Geography & Environmental Studies

Geography is the only science that has one branch in Earth Sciences (Physical Geography) and another in Social Sciences (Human Geography).

Physical Geography focuses on the characteristics of the natural, physical environment. Its concerns are with landforms and how they are created and distributed, “with atmospheric conditions and climatic patterns, with soils and vegetation associations, and the like”.

Human Geography’s emphasis is on people: “...where they are, what they are like, how they interact over space, and what kinds of landscapes of human use they erect on the natural landscape they occupy”.

TRU Geography & Environmental Studies

According to the 2004 external departmental review, the Department of Geography at TRU is recognized for “...*the quality of instruction provided; the collegiality, dedication, and scholarship of the faculty; the success of the Geography major in attracting students; and the active presence of Geography faculty and students in the local and Geography communities*”

The Geography and Environmental Studies program at TRU has key strengths in Urban and Rural Geography, Economic Geography, Environmental Studies and Environmental Geography, Hydrology, Geomorphology, and Geoinformatics. We also have strength in our Regional Geography offerings in areas ranging from British Columbia and the Yukon, Canada, the Americas, and Japan.

Geography & Environmental Studies

Bursaries and Awards

Hugh Neave Memorial Scholarships

These are available to first through fourth year students, as well as an Open Award and a Bursary.

Geography Faculty Endowment

Awarded to a third year geography major that demonstrated academic excellence in GEOG 270 the previous year.

Don Ellsaw Memorial Award

Awarded to a student in the Bachelor of Natural Resource Science Degree program or the Geography & Environmental Studies program whose career objectives favor environmental conservation and protection.

Careers in Geography & Environmental Studies

TRU geography graduates are successfully employed as planners, teachers, consultants, economic development specialists, communication officers, real estate agents, meteorologists, and GIS technicians. The TRU geography program also provides students with a solid foundation for pursuing graduate studies. We annually award up to 8 scholarships and support 2 work-study students. Our students have published in scholarly journals, have won entrance awards to graduate programs at other institutions, and have earned best undergraduate presentation awards numerous times at the Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. At the social level, the TRU Geography Society (TRUGS) is among the most active, dynamic, and involved student club on campus.

Admission to TRU

TRU is a unique, comprehensive university offering undergraduate and graduate degrees and two-year professional diplomas, along with certificates, trade-entry and apprenticeship training and university preparation courses.

Applications for Admission to most programs are accepted starting Oct. 1 each year for programs that begin in August or September of the following year. Check the website for application deadlines, program start dates, and detailed admissions processes: Open, Limited and Selective.

Applications to the TRU Bachelor of Arts program are available from:

Academic Admissions Office
Thompson Rivers University
900 McGill Road
Kamloops, British Columbia V2C 0C8
Tel: 250.828.5251
Fax: 250.371.5513
Email: kjago@tru.ca



Academic Information

Academic Requirements

Students usually declare their Major before the start of their third year of courses. All candidates are assigned a Major Program Advisor and they must meet to ensure that they qualify and so that an appropriate selection of courses can take place. Before students can declare their Major they must have met the admission requirements for the BA. As well, they must have successfully completed no fewer than 21 credits in lower-level Geography courses, either at TRU or at other accredited institutions. Admission into the Geography and Environmental Studies Major – Honours program option requires completion of the lower level requirements with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00.

Required Courses for the Geography & Environmental Studies Major

First and Second Years: 21 credits as follows

GEOG 1000
GEOG 1010 or 1110
GEOG 2020 or 2050
GEOG 2400
GEOG 2700
GEOG 2740
GEOG 1100, 2110, 2120, 2220, or 2230 or any of the following not used to meet requirements listed above:
GEOG 1010, 1110, 2020, or 2050

Upper Level Years:

There are three program options associated with the B.A. Geography and Environmental Studies

1) Geography and Environmental Studies Major

30- 3000 or 4000 level GEOG credits are required with at least 3 credits from the 4000 level. Of the 30 credits at least 3 distinct credits must be chosen from each one of the four course groups (Group A, B, C, D). The remaining 18 upper-level GEOG credits may be selected from any of the four (4) course groups (A,B,C,D) or from GEOG 3990, 4990, or 4480.

2) Geography and Environmental Studies – Physical Geography Major

30 - 3000 or 4000 level GEOG credits are required with at least 3 credits from the 4000 level. Of the 30 credits at least 15 credits must be chosen from Group C and 3 distinct credits from each of the other three course groups (Groups A,B, & D) The remaining 6 upper-level GEOG credits may be selected from any of the four (4) course groups (A,B,C,D) or from GEOG 3990, 4990, or 4480.

3) Geography and Environmental Studies Honours Major Program

42- 3000 or 4000 level GEOG courses from which at least 3 distinct credits must be chosen from each of the four course groups (Groups A, B, C, & D) At least 9 of the 42 credits must be 4000 level GEOG courses . The remaining 21 upper-level GEOG courses may be selected from any of the four course groups (A, B, C, or D) or combination thereof, or from GEOG 3990. Students must obtain a Grade Point Average of 3.00 in the 42 upper-level credits and must not obtain a grade below B- (2.67) in any 3 of the 42 credits.

Upper Level Courses for Major Programs:

Group A – Environmental Studies

ENVS 3991
GEOG 3100, 3650, 3991, 4230, 4510, 4800

Group B – Human Geography

GEOG 3200, 3210, 3230, 3270, 3280, 3500, 3510, 3550, 3570, 3610, 3900, 4240, 4500, 4800, 4810, 4840, 4850

Group C – Physical Geography

GEOG 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3129, 4050, 4060, 4820

Group D – Geographical Methods

GEOG 3700, 3750, 3770, 4740, 4750

Required Courses for the Geography & Environmental Studies Minor

The requirements for a Minor in Geography are the completion of thirty (30) credits as follows:

- 3 credits from 1000 level Human Geography from:
GEOG 1010 or 1110
- 3 credits from 1000 level Physical Geography:
GEOG 1000
- 6 additional credits from 1000 or 2000 level GEOG courses
- 18 - 3000 or 4000 level GEOG credits

Program Costs

Please see the current calendar for details

Visit: www.tru.ca/calendar

Cost Calculator:

www.tru.ca/admissions/fees/costs.html

Program Contacts

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Additional Information

Please visit our web pages for more information:

www.tru.ca/arts/geography