



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh



# Careers with Geography

*Your Career with  
an Arts Degree*

## Geography graduates and the employment market

Geography students acquire a wide range of skills and qualities that are valuable in many professions. The combination of numerical and analytical skills are highly sought after by many sectors of employment. Some of the specific skills gained while doing a degree in Geography include:

- Laboratory and Field Techniques
- Analysing quantitative and qualitative datasets with appropriate methods
- Spatial mapping and analysis
- GIS and remote sensing skills and qualifications
- Analytical skills, including interpreting and presenting numerical and spatial information
- Time management, planning and interpersonal skills
- Information, communications and technology (ICT) skills



## Typical jobs for Geography graduates...

Geography graduates find employment in diverse areas. Here are some of the most popular career destinations for our Geography graduates:

Land Surveyor | Academic Researcher | GIS Specialist  
Teacher (Primary/Post-Primary) | Cartographer | Geospatial Analyst  
Meteorologist | Climatologist | Risk Manager | Hydrologist | Geomorphologist  
Community Development Officer | Land Use Planner | Urban Planning Expert  
Environmental Consultant | Water Conservation Officer | Renewable Energy Consultant  
Natural Resources Officer | Fisheries Scientist | Marine Spatial Planner | Policy Analyst  
Armed Forces | International Relations Consultant | International Aid Officer  
Civil Service Officer | Communications Officer | Marketer | Entrepreneur  
Park Ranger | Tour Planner | Writer | Publisher | TV and Radio Journalist

### KEY FACTS:

Students in our Geography Programme are engaging with some of the key challenges facing our globe and future generations. Geographers are urgently needed to help understand dynamic and relevant issues such as global warming, energy and food security, the causes and consequences of migration, spread of disease, management of flooding, and the impacts of economic change on people in places.

## Toward A Better Future In Ireland

The multidisciplinary skills and training developed through our Geography Programme are greatly needed across a range of sectors in Ireland. In the marine sector alone, the 2013 Ireland's Ocean Economy report, produced by the Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit at NUI Galway, calculated Ireland's ocean economy to have a €4.2 billion turnover while employing the full-time equivalent of 17,425 people. Planning and development efforts are underway to increase that turnover to €6.4 billion by 2020. This will require an influx of highly trained, skilled individuals able to work in a variety of environments, who understand a broad range of issues and can link complementary goals in a seamless and professional manner. Or, in other words, a Geography Graduate.

“Increasingly more complex technical projects and opportunities offered by the convergence in the marine sector mean that far greater interdisciplinary knowledge and experience of working in multi-disciplinary environments is and will continue to be required.”

citation: Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (2015)

## What Postgraduate Courses do Geography Graduates pursue?

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training. Our Geography graduates frequently choose one of the following postgraduate programmes at NUI Galway:

Structured PhD in Geography

MLitt in Geography

MA in Environment, Society and Development

MA in Rural Sustainability

MSc in Coastal and Marine Environments

LLM in International Human Rights

MA in Culture and Colonialism

MA in Gender, Globalisation and Rights

MA in Landscape Archaeology

MA in Public Policy

MA in Social Work

MSc in Sustainable Resource Management

Professional MEd (Post-Primary)



### Other postgraduate programmes undertaken by previous Geography graduates include:

MSc (Climate Change), Herriott-Watt University

MA (Sustainable Energy), Aberdeen

MA (Climate Change), NUIM

MA (Disaster Management Environmental), Kingston University-London

MA (Coastal Geography), UCC

MA (Environmental & Resource Management), UCD

MA (Environmental and Earth Management), Kingston Uni

MA (Regional and Urban Planning), UCD

MA (Town Planning), Manchester

MSc (Environmental Planning), QUB

MA (Development), DCU

MA (International Tourism), UL

Visit NUI Galway Career Development Centre for more information on preparing for a fulfilling and rewarding career: [nuigalway.ie/careers](http://nuigalway.ie/careers)

[gradireland.com](http://gradireland.com) also has useful information on postgraduate courses and career advice

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and [ec.europa.eu/ploteus](http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus) shares information on courses, work-based learning and qualifications for careers across Europe

# What our students say...



**Brian Leonard**  
*BA Geography and Sociological and Political Studies*

## **MA Rural Sustainability**

I chose to do Arts with Geography as it allowed me to keep my career options open until I knew what I wanted to do. During my undergraduate degree I had the opportunity to develop core skills in academic writing, presenting and research; these skills then enabled me to pursue an MA in Rural Sustainability.

I was able to choose from a wide range of modules in Geography, this meant I got to hand pick subjects that interested me. Modules in coastal environments, tourism and rural development were just some of the modules available. The MA in Rural Sustainability furthered the skills I developed during the Arts degree through presenting at conferences and taking part in practical research.

I'm now working as an intern with Teagasc, a post in which the skills I gained during my time at NUI Galway are of great relevance. I plan to apply for PhD funding and continue my studies in the area of rural development in conjunction with the NUI Galway Geography Department.

## Where can I find out more?

The following websites contain relevant, interesting information on career opportunities with a degree in Geography

Ordnance Survey of Ireland [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)

Irish Institution of Surveyors [www.irish-surveyors.ie](http://www.irish-surveyors.ie)

Geographical Society of Ireland [www.geographicalsocietyireland.ie](http://www.geographicalsocietyireland.ie)

### EUROPE

Geographical Association [www.geography.org.uk/resources/careers/](http://www.geography.org.uk/resources/careers/)

Royal Geography Society (Our Work) [www.rgs.org/](http://www.rgs.org/)

European Geography Association for students and young geographers [www.egea.eu/](http://www.egea.eu/)

Land & Property Services NI [www.dfpni.gov.uk/lps](http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/lps)

British Cartographic Society [www.cartography.org.uk/](http://www.cartography.org.uk/)

Ordnance Survey UK [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/careers](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/careers)

### ABROAD

Association of American Geographers [www.aag.org/](http://www.aag.org/)

Eathworks [www.earthworks-jobs.com/geog.htm](http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/geog.htm) [www.acsm.net](http://www.acsm.net)

### GENERAL STUDENT / GRADUATE WEBSITES

Career Development Centre, degree opportunities:

[www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html)

Gradireland [www.gradireland.com](http://www.gradireland.com)

Prospects UK Geography profile [www.prospects.ac.uk/options\\_geography\\_your\\_skills.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_geography_your_skills.htm)

[www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk) [academic jobs, fellowships etc UK, Europe and worldwide]



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