

GEOGRAPHY



CAREERS USING GEOGRAPHY

ecology	teaching	geology
meteorology	surveying	demography
cartography	archaeology	geophysics
energy engineering	rural development	travel & tourism
town planning	nature conservation	GIS
landscape architecture	environmental education	transport & distribution
town planning	environmental management	hydromorphology

Careers information: Where can geography take you?



Geographers develop relevant knowledge and skills. As a result, they are valued highly by employers and go into a range of sectors and careers.

Geography is an intellectually challenging subject. Through their Geography lessons, pupils will gain-

- A knowledge of a breadth of subject matter and the complex connections of society and the environment.
- The ability to make sense of the world using a diverse range of methods, including both qualitative and quantitative research techniques.
- Experience of using these techniques to study real-world problems through projects, fieldwork and experiential learning.
- The capability to synthesise ideas and information and to communicate these clearly.
- The ability to use other techniques, such as laboratory study, spatial data analysis, modelling, geographic information science (GIS) and remote sensing.
- A knowledge of, and skills in, the ethical, methodological and theoretical frameworks that inform their conduct.

Knowledge, understanding and skills wanted by employers...

1. A knowledge of global challenges

Geographers are well placed to help identify and address economic, environmental and social challenges at a range of scales. This includes issues such as climate change, migration, inequality, geopolitics, and natural disasters.

The [*World Economic Forum global risks report 2023*](#) outlines all these as major risks that could cause significant negative impact to the global economy, populations and natural resources. Geographers are uniquely well-placed to address these issues in professional roles.

2. Green skills

Geography provide pupils with an acute awareness of the current drivers of economic change, such as climate change, net zero, the green economy and environmental management. The subject also prepares graduates for changing economic, technological, and cultural conditions of a green economy.

The growth of the 'green economy' is opening up new sectors and roles that demand [green skills](#):

- A [2022 report](#) by Deloitte documented growing demand for these skills - green jobs increased by 8% between 2021-2022 whilst total UK employment increased by 0.5%.
- The UK Government [Green Jobs Taskforce report](#) outlines the skills required to deliver UK net zero targets, including digital and data skills.

3. Geospatial skills

Geographers understand the importance of location data and how to unlock its value. They have skills in the collection, analysis and interpretation of geospatial data, with expertise in GIS and Earth Observation.

The Geospatial Commission estimated that location data has a potential economic benefit to the UK of up to £11 billion per year. The geospatial industry is growing rapidly and geography graduates who are able to illustrate understanding and practise of these technologies are increasingly sought after.

The [Demand for Geospatial Skills](#) report for the Geospatial Commission highlights a diverse range of geospatial skills wanted by employers including processing, management, analysis, and visualisation of geospatial data.



"Geography is the spatial Geography; helping us all to better understand the world's people, places and environments and the interactions between them – whether at the local, national or global scales."

Dr Rita Gardner CBE
Director of the Royal Geographical Society

"Geographic information is critical to promote economic development, improve our stewardship of natural resources and protect the environment."

Bill Clinton
Former President of the USA. Executive Order 12906



4. Transferable skills

Geographers are numerate, literate, good team workers, able to think analytically and critically, and are highly data literate: [Prospects - Geography](#).

These transferable skills can be applied across sectors and are valued by employers: [Forbes](#) identify digital literacy, data literacy and critical thinking as the top three most in-demand skills for the next 10 years.

In 2020, as part of the Job Reset Summit, the [World Economic Forum](#) (WEF) highlighted that 50% of all employees will need reskilling by 2025 due to the adoption of technology. The WEF identify analytical thinking and innovation, complex problem solving, critical thinking and analysis, and leadership and social influence in the top 10 skills for 2025.

Good communication, effective leadership and management, planning and research skills and teamwork and interpersonal skills were all identified by Prospects as skills wanted by employers in a ['What skills do employers want?' 2021 report](#).

5. Employability of geography graduates

Recent reports have demonstrated the strong employability of geography graduates: The 2023 Prospects report, [What do graduates do?](#), provides insights and analysis from the UK's largest Higher Education Survey. The report shows that in 2019/20 geographers had the joint highest full-time employment rate for social sciences at 54.9% compared to an average rate of 50.1%.

<https://www.rgs.org/choose-geography/choose-a-career-with-geography/why-geographers-are-employable#:~:text=Good%20communication%2C%20effective%20leadership%20and,%202021%20report>.



"The study of geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exist across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together."

President Barack Obama

"Geography illuminates the past, explains the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?"

Sir Michael Palin

