

Geography

The skills you learn while studying Geography at *GCSE, A level*, or higher, are useful in a wide range of jobs. In this subject, you can:

- Develop an appreciation of the environment.
- Become aware of how humans and the environment interact.
- Develop IT skills.

Although passing an exam in geography may not be essential in many jobs, it is very useful in a wide variety of work situations. In this article, though, we give a brief summary of a number of jobs where the knowledge gained when studying geography can be useful.

Travel	<p>These are jobs where knowledge of different places or routes to those places is required.</p> <p>Courier/Resort Representative - Resort reps work on behalf of a travel company, looking after its tourists and dealing with their problems, which could range from lost passports to serious illness. They are usually based in one resort for a holiday season.</p> <p>Couriers work for a tour operator, accompanying a coach tour - perhaps covering several countries during the course of a one- or two-week holiday. They usually give information about places of interest, and so must learn about the history and geography of various towns and countries. There are no strict minimum requirements for entry to these jobs. Some employers prefer applicants with <u>GCSEs</u>; English, Geography and foreign languages are particularly useful.</p> <p>Freight Forwarder - Freight forwarders work for freight forwarding firms. They arrange the movement of cargo in or out of the country - making sure that this is done as quickly, efficiently and economically as possible. Freight forwarders do things such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• select routes and carriers (possibly to the other side of the world)• book cargo space• deal with rates and schedules• prepare invoices, quotations and tariffs. <p>Freight forwarders handle a lot of paperwork and spend a great deal of time on the telephone, often speaking to people in other parts of the world. It is possible to enter this career straight from school, or college and train on-the-job. You'll usually need to be educated to at least GCSE level and have passes (grade C or above) in English and Maths. Some entrants have A levels or equivalent qualifications. You can also get into this career via a Logistics Operations Management Advanced Level Apprenticeship. Some larger employers may ask that you have a foundation degree or a degree. Courses linked to logistics and supply chain management will be useful. However, you should be able to enter this career via most subjects.</p>
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Environmental

Understanding of, and concern for, the surroundings in which people, animals and plants live, is the main feature of this type of work.

Town Planner - Town planners advise on how land can be developed or conserved for the benefit of society. They take into account demands such as whether to build new houses, or conserve open land. An important part of the job is setting out long-term plans for the future development of an area. These plans take into account factors such as housing, transport, jobs and industrial development. Town planners are employed by local authorities, water companies, tourist boards, health authorities, construction companies and other environmental organisations, or private planning consultancies. To become a town planner, you can either complete a degree course in a relevant subject, like town planning, or do a postgraduate course after completing a degree in any subject. This must be followed by two years' relevant work experience to become a chartered town planner. Alternatively, you could study by distance learning whilst in employment.

Ecologist - Ecologists study how organisms relate to one another and to their environment. Human activity can damage the complex and delicate relationships between organisms. Some ecologists provide advice to the government, landowners and the general public, on issues such as:

- conservation
- protecting species
- pest control
- urban and rural development.
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For example, an ecologist working for a local authority might be involved in the planning of a new road, finding the route that will cause the least environmental damage. Ecologists might have long-term responsibility for a conservation area, protecting against pollution and vandalism, and perhaps providing information to visitors. In the laboratory, they identify and analyse samples collected in fieldwork, for example, finding the type, concentration and source of pollution in a river. To become an ecologist, you usually need to complete a relevant degree or postgraduate qualification.

Environmental Conservation Officer - Environmental conservation officers (ECOs) manage and protect areas of land, and the wildlife within them. Together with other environmental specialists, they organise surveys of important wildlife areas, including 'sites of special scientific interest' and nature reserves. They identify plant and animal species, map their habitats and set up conservation plans to keep those habitats safe. They encourage people to learn about and enjoy the natural environment without causing damage to it, and they try to ensure that everyone has access to these areas. For example, they write leaflets, give talks and set up displays and exhibitions. ECOs plan and supervise long-term environmental projects, for example, establishing and managing heath or woodland. As managers, they recruit, train and supervise staff, including volunteers. They manage budgets and enforce regulations to protect the environment. To enter this career, it's usual to have a degree in a relevant subject. For entry, it's very useful to have developed knowledge and skills through relevant work experience, including voluntary work.

Traffic Engineer - Traffic engineers (often known as highway engineers or transportation engineers) aim to maximise road safety and minimise traffic congestion. They do this by planning and designing roads, junctions, roundabouts, traffic signals, traffic control systems, parking policies, pedestrianisation and public transport schemes. When problems occur, such as an increase in the number of accidents at a particular spot, traffic engineers look at the cause of the problem and work out possible solutions. A common way to become a traffic engineer is to do an accredited Master of Engineering (MEng) degree or Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) honours degree in civil engineering, or a related subject. Courses in transport planning will also be useful. Other accredited engineering degrees, HNDs or HNCs lead to incorporated engineer status.

Landscape Architect - Landscape architects plan and design all types of outdoor spaces such as recreational areas, roads and reservoirs. They also look at the settings for buildings in town and country. In towns, they may be looking at the siting of a hospital, housing estate, park or play area. In rural areas, landscape architects work on agriculture, forest and tourist landscapes, and the siting of power stations and industrial buildings. The most straightforward route into this career is by doing a degree in landscape architecture, or other relevant subject that has been accredited by the Landscape Institute (LI).

Agricultural Adviser/Consultant - Agricultural advisers/consultants give advice and support to farmers and others, such as landowners and conservation bodies, who are involved in agricultural issues. They provide advice and information on areas such as:

- animal health and hygiene regulations
- the control of pests and diseases
- grants for land drainage
- preservation of agricultural land
- business planning and budgeting.

They might also write advice leaflets and technical manuals, go to agricultural shows, give presentations and organise conferences. To enter this career, you will usually need a degree in agriculture or a related subject.

Scientific and technical

These are jobs for which you need a knowledge of the science of land and water.

Geologist (Minerals/Mining) - Minerals/mining geologists are experts on the geological aspects of finding and removing minerals and other raw materials from beneath the Earth's surface. They locate resources and advise on the safety and suitability of mine sites. Once mining has begun, they monitor the work and continue to advise on safety, for example, avoiding floods and rockfalls. To become a minerals/mining geologist, you'll need a relevant first degree. Many entrants also have a postgraduate qualification.

Cartographer - Cartographers design and prepare maps, plans, charts, models and globes that represent the surface of the Earth and other planets. They collect and use data from a range of sources such as aerial photographs; images produced by electrostatic mapping and seismic sensing; existing maps and statistical data. The cartographer evaluates all the data collected and then specifies symbols, lines and tones for a cartographic draughtsperson to use to produce maps and charts. As well as preparing new maps, cartographers change existing maps. To become a cartographer, you usually need to complete a relevant degree course.

Land Surveyor - Land surveyors measure and plot the exact shape of land and the position of natural and human made features. They collect, manage and analyse survey information using a wide range of surveying techniques, equipment and computers. The data surveyors collect may be used to produce plans for construction projects. Other survey data is passed on to cartographers and to cartographic draughts people for producing maps. The most straightforward route into this career is to study an accredited degree. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) produces a list of accredited courses. Degrees in subjects such as surveying, land surveying and topography will be useful for people wanting to go into this career.

Oceanographer - Oceanographers study seas and oceans, and the way they interact with the Earth and the atmosphere. They collect data at sea and carry out laboratory research, developing their knowledge of the oceans' physical, chemical, geological and biological processes. Oceanographers apply their knowledge to help us make responsible use of the sea's resources, and to monitor and reduce the risk of environmental damage. For example, they forecast storm surges and tidal waves, tackle coastal erosion and the silting up of estuaries, detect underwater oil and gas reserves, and monitor the effect of chemicals on marine food chains. To become an oceanographer, you will need a relevant degree. Many people also have a postgraduate qualification in oceanography.

Teaching

Geography teachers teach the subject in schools and colleges. There are also lecturers in higher education.

Geography teacher - Geography teachers develop students' ability to understand our planet's landscapes, people and environments. They plan and lead varied, interesting lessons. Teaching methods include group and project work, discussions and debates, and interactive whiteboard work. They introduce students to resources such as maps, satellite images and Geographical Information Systems. Geography teachers mark work, write student reports, and go to meetings and parents' meetings. They also lead students on field trips. Most people take a degree in geography or a related subject and then do a postgraduate PGCE.