

College of Arts and Science

DEPARTMENT of Geography and Planning

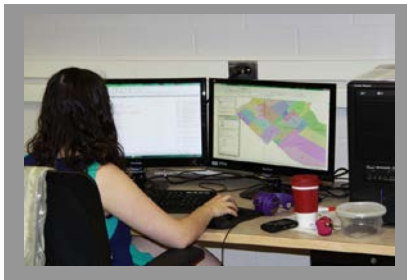
PhD IN GEOGRAPHY

THE SCIENCE OF PLACE AND SPACE

“Geography is the science of place and space. Geographers ask where things are located on the surface of the earth, why they are located where they are, how places differ from one another, and how people interact with the environment.”

www.aag.org/cs/jobs_and_careers/what_geographers_do/overview

Our PhD program prepares students for a career in industry, government, academe, education or perhaps a non-profit organization. Having the ability to answer these key questions makes the geography graduate a flexible and valuable employee who comes to the workforce with an already abundant skill set.



Typical GIS workstation



Workstation in Kirk Hall

Our PhD program supports training in **physical** and **human** geography, as well as geographical tools and **techniques**. The range of themes explored by our faculty is wide, however among our strengths are hydrology, urban planning, remote sensing, and natural resource management. Opportunities for conducting research are found across the globe, from Canada and the Czech Republic, to China and New Zealand. More information can be found at our website artsandscience.usask.ca/geography/.

Students are encouraged to complete the PhD program in three years (College of Graduate Studies and Research policy sets a six year maximum for a PhD program).

Students are required to take a minimum of 6 credit units of graduate coursework, must attend a graduate seminar throughout the program, fulfill a residency requirement of two years, complete a comprehensive exam and write and defend a thesis based on an original piece of research. They may also be required to write a qualifying exam, although this may be waived if the committee feels that the student's background warrants it.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All Geography graduate students are required to take the following:

- GEOG 803.3 - Research Methods in Geography
The purpose of this course is to introduce graduate students to theoretical and practical issues in geographical research.
- GEOG 990 - Departmental Seminar (no credit)
Students will attend weekly seminars and will present one colloquium based on their own research.
- GEOG 996 - Research (no credit)
- GSR 960 - Introduction to Ethics and Integrity (no credit)
- GSR 961 - Ethics and Integrity in Human Research (for students using human subjects; no credit)
- 3 additional credits

OUR ENVIRONMENT

The diverse research interests of our faculty contribute to a rich learning environment for graduate students. Unique within the College, we have had success in securing grants from all three of Canada's Tri-Council funding agencies, SSHRC, NSERC and CIHR. We have labs that allow graduate students to study water chemistry, the physical properties of sediments, to expand their GIS skills, and even to explore the history of Aboriginal health. We also offer students the chance to do field work in places as diverse as the Canadian North, the Rocky Mountains and Prague, Czechoslovakia.



Geography and Planning is a discipline that crosses many boundaries between the human and physical environment, linking an eclectic group of students and professors. The unique setting that is provided in this department allows students to develop excellent analytical skills, expanding their intellectual potential as diverse minds network. In particular, this department has provided me the opportunity to expand my toolkit as I explore new techniques of analysis and ways of knowing through the connections created by such diversity.

NATALIE LUDLOW, PHD CANDIDATE

FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Several types of financial support are available through the Department of Geography and Planning and the University of Saskatchewan. To be eligible for scholarship funding, students must obtain at least 80% in the last two years of undergraduate study.

University of Saskatchewan Graduate Scholarships, Department of Geography and Planning Scholarships with Service, or Graduate Teaching Fellowships are granted annually to candidates who have a strong academic record. The present value of these awards is approximately \$18,500 per year for Ph.D. students.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research offers a Dean's Scholarship valued \$20,000 for PhD students. Students must have a minimum of an 85% average in each of the last 2 years of study.

Graduate students are also encouraged to apply for external scholarships and awards, including those provided by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

NORTHERN RESEARCH

Students interested in pursuing research topics with a northern or circumpolar focus are encouraged to apply for external scholarships provided by the Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST) through the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS). Several Geography graduate students have been awarded CNST scholarships over the past decade. Most recently, a M.Sc. student in hydrology, was awarded a \$15,000 Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research in 2010.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

PhD

To be admitted as a fully qualified doctoral student, you must have a Master's degree, with a grade point average of at least 70% over the last two years of your undergraduate program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline for September admission is **February 15th** each year, but it is a good idea to apply as early as possible, to ensure that your letters of recommendation and official transcripts arrive on time.

Applications submitted after this date may still be approved, however opportunities for funding will likely be far fewer.

Applications for graduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan are now submitted online. You can find the link on the College of Graduate Studies and Research website at www.usask.ca/cgsr/.

CONTACT

Graduate Chair

DR. XULIN GUO
xulin.guo@usask.ca

Graduate Secretary

MS. PHYLLIS BAYNES
phyllis.baynes@usask.ca
(306) 966-5654

artsandscience.usask.ca/geography