100 years of the Geography degree

You can find out more about our celebrations, including films of events, on our public website under alumni events [https://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/alumni/events/centenary2019.html](https://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/alumni/events/centenary2019.html). An entertaining history of teaching and the degree is published in *Landmark*, available online on the alumni webpage.
WHY GEOGRAPHY?

- You enjoy learning about environments, landscapes and peoples: their societies, economies and cultures
- You are keen to learn and develop a wide range of skills
- You are seeking a broad-based academic degree, offering above average graduate employability
- And: you have a sense of wonder, curiosity and concern.
WHY GEOGRAPHY AT CAMBRIDGE?

• Study in one of the World’s leading departments:
  • Consistently ranked amongst the best geography degrees in the UK: retained our ranking of 1st in the Complete University Guide (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)
  • Ranked second in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework
• Study in both departmental and college environments
• Wealth of relevant resources and support through the Collegiate system
In the past year CUGS has invited speakers from other geography departments as well as civil servants and policy makers.

It organises lectures and social events throughout the year.

www.cugs.co.uk
THE TRIPOS (the word for a degree at Cambridge)

All first degrees awarded by Cambridge are Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees.

We do not make you choose between human and physical geography.

The course is broad enough to include those whose primary interests are in natural sciences, social sciences, humanities; or all three.
• Teaching divided into ‘papers’, there are no restrictions on paper choice from year to year and you can only take papers within the Geography Tripos.

Unique teaching environment:

• Lectures
• Supervisions
• Practical classes / fieldwork
• Dissertation

Written exams + coursework
Examined coursework
FIRST YEAR (PART IA)

• 2 compulsory papers and in 2019-20 these are:
  • People, Place and the Politics of Difference
  • Environmental Processes and Change
  • Practical classes for Geographical Skills and Methods
• ASSESSMENT: 5 practical assessments (skills and methods) and two exams, one for each paper
SECOND YEAR (PART IB)

Papers in 2019-20:

A) **Compulsory paper: Living with Global Change**
   i. Cultures of Risk (how people live in an uncertain world);
   ii. Making Geographical Knowledges (how different societies make sense of environmental change);
   iii. Geographies of Environmental Hazard (e.g. Climate Change, Volcanic Hazards, Sea Level Rise)

B) **Choose 3 other papers from a choice of 6 (all of which include a coursework exercise):**
   1. Economic Geography
   2. Development Theories, Policies and Practice
   3. Citizenship, Cities and Civil Society
   4. Quaternary Climates & Environments
   5. Glacial Processes
   6. Biogeography

C) **Classes/practicals in skills and research design in geography**

- **ASSESSMENT:** four written exams and coursework
SECOND YEAR FIELDTRIP (in vacations)

- Switzerland
- Berlin
- Dublin
- Tenerife
- Morocco
- Mallorca
- Copenhagen
THIRD YEAR (PART II)

• Free choice of 4 papers from a list of 12; some include coursework
• Paper choices vary from year to year
• 10,000 word dissertation

PAPERS IN 2019-20:
1. The Geographies of Global Urbanism
2. Geographies of the Arctic
3. Political Ecology in the Global South
4. Demographic Continuity and Change
5. Environmental Knowledges and the Politics of Expertise
6. Geographies of Postcolonialism and Decoloniality
7. Legal Geographies
8. From Earth Observation to the Climate System
9. Glaciology
10. Volcanology
11. Seascapes
12. Biogeography
THIRD YEAR: DISSERTATION

• 10,000 word dissertation:
APPLICATIONS

• You apply to a college (unless making an open application)

• It doesn’t matter which school subjects you are studying (and you don’t even need Geography). Good examples:
  
  • Economics, English literature, History, Sociology
  
  • Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics

• Every applicant sits the Cambridge Admissions Assessment, see:
  
  https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/geography#entry-requirements
In terms of academic life it doesn’t matter which college you choose - Directors of Studies are appointed to look after your academic welfare.

All colleges, except Peterhouse, admit geographers.

Size of college and Geography cohort.

Location/Setting.

Women only / mature students.
GEOGRAPHY INTERVIEWS

• 20-25 minutes (usually 2 interviews, each with two interviewers)

• Like a mini-supervision where we discuss a series of key themes in geography

• May involve a piece of reading, either sent in advance or set on the day

• Exploring how you think through and construct an argument

• Assessing your interest in the subject

• Videos of the interview process are on our website
There is no set reading list for a subject as broad as Geography. You should maintain a broad interest in those areas that interest you.

You might try reading newspapers, current affairs journals and magazines like *New Scientist*, *The Economist*, *Geographical Magazine* and *Geography Review*.

Get involved with the RGS, even just by looking at the lectures available online. Or become involved in local geographical issues or campaigns.
Further information about Geography at Cambridge: http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk

If you have any questions or require more information, please email undergraduate.enquiries@geog.cam.ac.uk

The University of Cambridge Admissions Prospectus available online at: http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/

Admissions information available at: http://www.study.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/


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