



The Learning Program



CAREER CURIOSITY & INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

**Careers in geography  
Jobs that protect and  
save the planet!**

# Discover and nurture our planet Earth

**Do you want to be part of protecting the future of the world?**

Geography helps us to discover and understand different places across our planet, uncovering the many variances in our landscapes, weather, living environments and cultures. Studying geography highlights the growing importance of current global issues such as climate change, migration, environmental impact, and degradation, meaning there has never been a better or more important time to study geography.

**If you are passionate about the future sustainability of our planet, or simply fascinated by different landscapes and architectures, exploring geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and create an everlasting advantage in the professional world.**

Do you want to become a leading environmental consultant to help reduce our nation's carbon footprint? Or perhaps become a principal landscape architect creating stunning new modern homes and communities for the future? If you are obsessed with all things Attenborough, then a career in geography is likely to be made for you.

This short but informative guide will give you an overview of some of the key reasons why pursuing a career in geography can be a rewarding yet creative experience.



*"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**



# ACE YOUR EXAMS AND BUILD THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A CAREER IN GEOGRAPHY WITH TASSOMAI

Tassomai is an award-winning platform that works on the principle of little and often revision to embed learning and understanding. Feel motivated and confident about your studies with the adaptive learning app, the smarter way for you to learn and revise.

## Why choose to learn and succeed with Tassomai?

- Bite-sized multiple choice quizzes to reinforce learning
- Short explanation videos to deepen your understanding
- Daily goals and weekly challenges
- Track your knowledge progress journey using the Tassomai tree



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# Would a career in geography suit you?

**DO YOU LOVE TO INVESTIGATE AND SOLVE PROBLEMS, OFTEN ANALYSING SITUATIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING A DECISION? ARE YOU A CURIOUS THINKER WHO WANTS TO ACT SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND IN THE INTEREST OF OTHERS?**

You like to be involved with forms, patterns, and designs in life.

You care about our planet Earth and have strong opinions on climate change and sustainability.

You want to know how the world works. And wonder why sometimes it doesn't!

A people person who can work well in a group setting but also enjoys working alone.

You're an independent thinker that is both curious and insightful.

You're happy to get a helping hand but don't need someone to hold you by the hand.

You're interested in pressing global issues and enjoy learning about people and their societies, economies, cultures, and the environment.

**IF YOU SEE YOURSELF IN SOME OF THESE ATTRIBUTES, THEN PERHAPS A CAREER IN GEOGRAPHY IS PERFECT FOR YOU!**

The world of geography calls for those who are not just socially responsible and fascinated by how the world works but also highly organised and analytical. Someone with a natural curiosity for our planet, who loves to research new topics and find out answers.

Most importantly, you have a strong sense of duty when it comes to researching and protecting our planet, caring about the welfare of others, not just in your region or country, but throughout the world!

# A degree in geography opens doors to many new worlds!

## WHY CHOOSE GEOGRAPHY FOR GCSE, A-LEVEL, A DEGREE, OR A CAREER IN GEOGRAPHY?

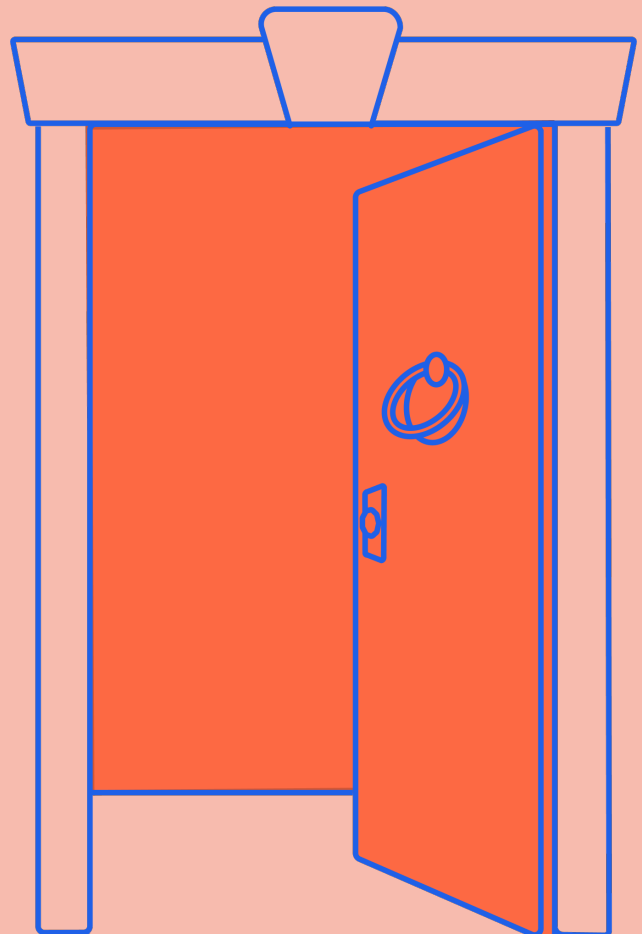
If you are looking for not only an interesting subject to study, but job security after education, then obtaining a qualification in geography will stand you ahead of the crowd. It's also worth noting, a geography education doesn't limit you to a career in geography or only becoming a weather reporter (even though that sounds like a very fun job to us!).

**Geography education is so highly respected that sectors such as finance and business are keen to snap up graduates for their analytical and critical thinking skills.**

Geography graduates rank among the top subjects for starting salaries after graduation, earning well above average vs graduates from other relevant subjects such as history, technology, and bioGeographys.

**A geography degree will set you up with transferable skills for the workplace, such as analysing data, independent working, and detailed research.**

So, think of it like this, an education in geography will open many new doors, all while learning about the natural world, how it works (or doesn't!) and why we have the many rich and diverse landscapes that make planet Earth so beautiful.





## **DID YOU KNOW...**

Geography lessons and lectures are incredibly hands-on, with a good mix of theory and practical application. Plus, many degree courses feature unique opportunities to study or travel abroad on exciting field trips. Many successful and famous faces have come from geography degree backgrounds, including the Prince of Wales.

A 2020/21 report on graduate employment showed that of social Geography disciplines, geographers have the highest percentages in full-time employment fifteen months after graduation with about 75% in professional-level jobs.

Completing a geography degree allows students to explore the many generous graduate schemes on offer, both in the UK and abroad. Others will be in a prime position to seek out on-the-job training, apprenticeships, internships, and sponsorships.

### **TOP TIP**

Visit [talent.com](https://www.talent.com) to easily find details on average salaries and opportunities in your area.

# What types of topics will you learn about in a geography degree?

Studying a degree across geography-related subjects means you will learn and research topical issues such as the use of sustainable energy, coastal and river management, and the regeneration of inner-city areas. Many of the modules and topics covered within degree programmes are highly interesting and current (e.g., global warming and current sea levels).

Geography degrees allow you to specialise in physical or environmental topics to suit your dedicated skills and interests. Many of the topics you study could involve collecting and analysing data from field trips, which will either be UK-based or even overseas, for anyone who likes to travel.

**Below are just some of the diverse and topical modules you can expect to study within a geography-related degree.**

- Global worlds, global challenges, and the future of our society.
- Skills and techniques in bioGeographys.
- Physical environments – exploring planet Earth through field trips.
- Environment and society – impact our use of gas and oil has on certain regions and areas.
- Analysing geographical and environmental data.
- Earth and global climate systems – how to interpret geographical data.
- Historical cultural geographies – how have landscapes and cultures changed over time?
- Theory, space, and society.
- Urbanism, culture, and modernity – regeneration initiatives and programmes.



# Geography can take you anywhere in the world!

IT'S A COMMON MYTH THAT GEOGRAPHY IS ALL ABOUT WEATHER FORECASTING OR KNOWING ALL THE CAPITAL CITIES ACROSS THE WORLD. HOWEVER, A CAREER WITHIN GEOGRAPHY CAN TRULY TAKE YOU ANYWHERE DUE TO ITS SCOPE AND VARIETY.

Geographers can often be found working on environmental issues such as climate change, animal welfare or even helping build new landscapes and communities in poorer regions of the world. The Earth we live on will become your new textbook, meaning the opportunities are infinite.

Geographers' understanding of complex global relationships makes them perfectly suited for working in all areas of government, both within the UK and overseas.

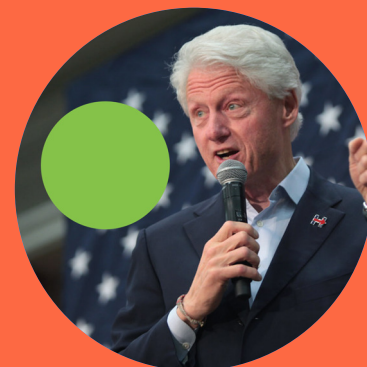


*"Geography is the spatial Geography; helping us all to better understand the world's people, places and environments and the interactions between them – whether at the local, national or global scales."*

**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





# Jobs in geography changing the world

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, AND URBAN PLANNERS BUT WHAT ABOUT INTERESTING AND VARIED JOBS SUCH AS A CARTOGRAPHER, OR ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIST?

Let's break down some of those lesser-known, equally impactful jobs in geography that help to change the world:

**Data analysts** translate numbers and data into information that can be used to solve problems or track business. They use data analysis to produce accessible graphs, charts, tables, and reports.

**Town planners** are self-explanatory as they plan and design buildings, parks, and roads to make places attractive and convenient for people to use.

**Architectural technologists** use their creativity and technical knowledge to turn innovative designs into durable and sustainable constructions.

**Cartographers** collect and analyse the changing geography of an area to design and produce maps and plans. Maps and detailed geographical information are needed for a range of purposes, from everyday use by individuals to large-scale industrial development.

**Environmental consultants** provide detailed technical assessments and advice on environmental matters for their clients, such as the government. This involves providing expert advisory and assessment services to businesses or public sectors to minimise or eliminate environmental damage.

There are hundreds of jobs that a degree in geography will open doors to, as **you will have highly desired skills of combining data handling with strong communication and people skills** that employers are looking for. This will mean you can instantly start applying for jobs in sectors such as finance, transport, retail, IT, and the public sector.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Five years after graduation, geography graduates have an above-average likelihood of gaining employment. Geographer employment rates outperform other disciplines, including politics, physics, and history.

# Physical vs Human geography

## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY PHYSICAL VS HUMAN GEOGRAPHY?

Anyone looking to pursue geography after school will be drawn to either the human or physical side of nature and how the world works. Human geography is more theoretical based whilst physical geography draws on more scientific viewpoints.

**Human geography** explores the world through a social Geography perspective examining how and why human societies change and develop. You can expect to study areas such as cultural geography, historical geography, international relations, planning, politics, society, tourism, transport, and urbanisation.

**Physical geography** explores physical processes and how they bring about change in our world. Physical geography modules and topics will include climate change, coastal management, conservation, ecology, geo-hazards, geomorphology, glaciation, physical environments, and sea-level change.

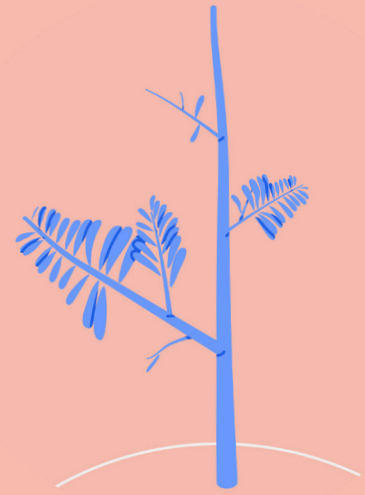
Don't worry if you are unsure about what route to pick at this stage. All geography degrees – either physical, human, or a mixture of both – will explore a variety of engaging subjects and topics, whilst using a range of quantitative and qualitative techniques, including fieldwork!

*“Geography helps us understand the world. It gives us the Geography, the data, the insights to plan for the future (and) it's an incredibly exciting subject.”*

**Nick Crane**, Presenter BBC Coasts



# Growing matters within the field of geography



GEOGRAPHY HAS NEVER BEEN MORE TOPICAL THAN RIGHT NOW, WITH ALL MAJOR INDUSTRIES BEING SEVERELY IMPACTED BY CURRENT ISSUES SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR FAST-CHANGING ENVIRONMENT.

**Global issues** Geography plays a crucial role in helping us understand and prepare for physical events that impact our daily lives. A good example could be a warning about heat waves that may cause forest fires, dangerous winter snowstorms, or flooding. The study of geography links multiple industries across the landscape, atmosphere, oceans, and biosphere, informing people how these environments shape, support, and at times threaten our welfare.

Due to its whole system approach, geography impacts every single living person daily. With our climates changing, landscapes evolving and more people than ever living on planet Earth, geography has an important role to play to help shape our future world and society.

**Building communities** With the global population rising, and people living longer, there is pressure to ensure there is enough infrastructure and support to sustain our local communities. Many areas have been transformed through regeneration projects to ensure they are modern and fit for purpose.

Those working in geography have a direct role to ensure social responsibility to local towns and cities to ensure plans for new buildings, landscapes, and projects meet the needs of the community, without damaging or impacting our rural and natural landscapes.

**Political decision-making** Politics within the UK and throughout the world have never been more divisive. Therefore, the analysis, research, and data that geography experts produce can inform and directly impact some of the political decisions made. For example, how can we produce more sustainable energy sources?

Many geographers are currently working alongside the government so that their research can help policymakers better understand issues impacting our society. These include migration and environmental change, the future of manufacturing, flooding and coastal defences, and the implications of climate change.

# Passion vs Skill

**HAVE YOU GOT AN INDUSTRY YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT BUT WORRIED YOU DON'T HAVE THE SKILL SET TO PURSUE A CAREER?**

Don't let that put you off, in actual fact, some employers value personality and passion over skill. You train skills but you can't change a person's drive and attitude.

However, of course, having both of these will really make you stand out from the crowd in today's competitive market.



Studies have shown people learn more when they work for concentrated, short bursts every day, frequently switching between topics and returning to them at strategically timed intervals.

With Tassomai you can start developing these skills now at your own pace, through a combination of bitesize interactive quizzes, and short videos available on your phone.

Learn more at [tassomai.com/students](https://tassomai.com/students)

# What does someone working in geography look like?



## Environmental Consultant George Trikbeck

IMAGINE IT'S THE YEAR 2032... GEOGRAPHY DEGREE GRADUATE 'GEORGE' HAS ENJOYED A RANGE OF DIVERSE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES SINCE LEAVING UNIVERSITY 8 YEARS AGO. HOWEVER, HIS LATEST ROLE AS A GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT HAS BEEN HIS MOST REWARDING ROLE YET.

George is currently heading up a crucial government research project to help protect parts of Great Britain that are under threat from climate change and rising sea levels. Himself and his wider team have indicated that large parts of Kent, such as Sheppey and Thanet, are expected to be below the annual flood level and become islands once again within the next ten years if the government does not take action soon.

Working with his local council, the project aimed to identify the risks and concerns to the environment and put pressure on our government and other world leaders at the global climate summits, to reduce their pollution levels to avoid flood risks and protect our landscape.

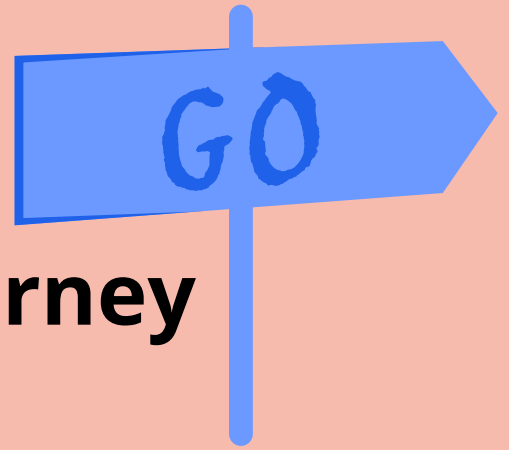
**He comments about how his role has a direct impact on the world around him:**

*"Since graduating I have been passionate about protecting our planet and the long-term sustainability of our Earth for future generations. Climate change could see parts of Britain becoming individual islands once more, as rising sea levels are set to plunge much of our landscape underwater."*

His primary role has been to research data and discover the predicted sea levels in crucial parts of the country, specifically across the county of Kent. Once this was complete, he and the team developed detailed map plans of what this will look like in terms of changing landscape across the next 10 years.

George explains that the project lead role he undertakes is challenging but extremely rewarding.

*"We hope the new data and research surrounding the sea levels across Kent will have a direct impact on world leaders to prevent climate change before it's too late!"*



# Where does your journey in geography begin?

For anyone wanting to get into geography and study further at a higher education level, we would start by taking geography as an option at both GCSE and A Levels. This will start giving you insights and learnings about key geography topics such as landscapes and the environment.

You don't need to be top of your class to get a career in the field of geography (although it does help!), the main thing you need to kickstart your career is a passion and interest in how our world works and its natural habitats.

You also don't have to just get experience in the classroom, simply explore your local parks and woods, and get out in nature! Start to question and explore things like why seasons evolve, including how and why the weather is changing versus 30 years ago. You can also visit your local tourism office for free to see what your own area has to offer the community, or doesn't!

**Famous author Liz Smith once beautifully said, "Begin somewhere; you cannot build a reputation on what you intend to do."**

Perhaps you've always been interested in how the planet works or you share a love of nature with your family. Are you fascinated by our environment and how our actions as a society directly impact the climate, we live in?

The next step is to start reading, watching, and learning about your passions and gaining more views and insights into the geography of the world.



## Identify possible pathways with the Tassomai Tree

A great place to start is identifying which areas of Geography you have a natural flair for. If you're a Tassomai user, your Tassomai tree is a great visual representation of your natural strengths in each topic.

Do you have a branch that has more green leaves than the others? This could be a possible career pathway you might want to explore further.

See [tassomai.com/tree](https://tassomai.com/tree) to find out more.

# Open your eyes and imagination to a world of discovery!

IF YOU KNOW THAT EXPLORING A CAREER IN GEOGRAPHY IS YOUR AMBITION IN LIFE, IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO TELL A TEACHER.

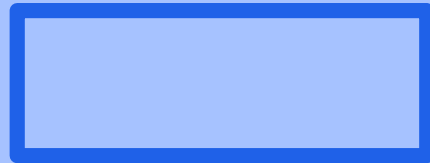
Did you know one of the best career advisors you can speak to isn't your parents or siblings. It's your favourite teacher! They'll be interested and help you to understand and achieve your career ambitions. They'll be full of good advice about your GCSEs, which A-Levels to take, and your many options, even later at university.

They may also have some brilliant podcasts or further reading recommendations.

**We love the following books but, as with all things that are enjoyable, there are too many marvellous ones to mention:**

## The Uninhabitable Earth

David Wallace-Wells



## Worth Dying For: The Power and Politics of Flags

Tim Marshall

## This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate

Naomi Klein

## A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future

David Attenborough

## The Weather Machine: A Journey Inside the Forecast

Andrew Blum

## WE'D ALSO RECOMMEND KEEPING UP WITH GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS.

The BBC and Guardian post new environmental and topical climate change stories online nearly every day. BBC Radio 4 also has a brilliant podcast titled 'Costing the Earth', which provides fresh ideas from the sharpest minds working toward a cleaner, greener planet.

Other fantastic podcasts and YouTube content can be found online, here are some of our top picks!

### You may enjoy the following on YouTube channels:

National Geographic

Matt Miltonberger

Sustainable Human

Earthjustice

Grist

### Podcasts:

Outrage + Optimism

How to Save a Planet

Sustainababble

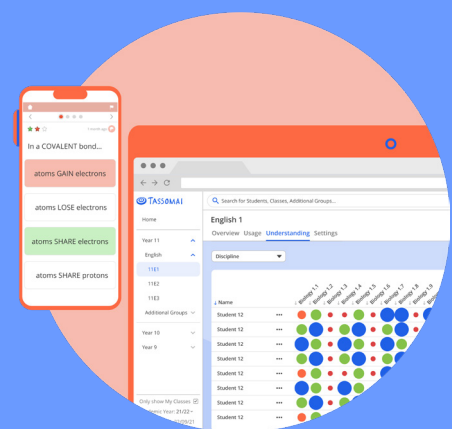
Mothers of Invention

The Energy Gang

## Track your way to your future career path with Tassomai

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