

DOCTORATE IN PHILOSOPHY IN GEOGRAPHY

The Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics conducts research and teaching on the interrelationships between human society and the physical world. Students are introduced to the full spectrum of subfields, including human and physical geography, environmental studies, and geomatics. Specific departmental strengths include polar environments, urban geography, climate change, and GIS and remote sensing.

In addition to its undergraduate programs, the department offers thesis-based two-year Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Science (MSc) programs, as well as a course-based interdisciplinary one-year Master concentration in The Anthropocene (MSc), and a PhD in Geography. Through the MA and MSc programs, students can also participate in the collaborative program in Science, Society and Policy. The programs are governed by the general regulations in effect for graduate studies.

Admission Requirements

For the most accurate and up to date information on application deadlines, language tests and other admission requirements, please visit the specific requirements (<https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/programs-admission/apply/specific-requirements/>) webpage.

Students must meet the admission requirements outlined in the general regulations in effect for graduate studies, as well as the specific requirements of the department.

Students may be admitted to the PhD program on the basis of a master's degree or its equivalent in geography or a related discipline, with an academic record indicating at least a (B+) average or the equivalent.

Students are required to spend at least six terms of full-time enrollment at the University. For a definition of full-time enrollment, please see Section C "Enrollment" of the general regulations in effect for graduate studies.

Additional Coursework

The Admissions Committee may, depending on the candidates' background, require them to successfully complete additional courses, including language courses, beyond the basic MA degree requirements.

Application Deadline

To find the application deadline, please check the program-specific requirements under Application Procedures and Information (<http://www.grad.uottawa.ca/apply/>).

Transfer from Master's to PhD

Students enrolled in the MA or MSc program in geography at the University of Ottawa who have obtained excellent results may be admitted into the PhD program without completing a master's thesis. To take advantage of this option, they must meet, in sequence, the following conditions:

1. obtain a minimum average of A- in three master's courses;
2. have the department's approval;

3. successfully complete GEG 7906; and
4. demonstrate satisfactory progress in the research program.

The course GEG 7906 will provide six units that may be used toward the fulfillment of the PhD course requirements, thus leaving one three-unit course to be completed. Please note that the minimal admission average requirements for the doctoral program must also be met.

Additional Information

For additional information, refer to the Department of Geography (http://www.geography.uottawa.ca/PDF/Form_geography.pdf)'s website.

Program Requirements

Requirements for this program have been modified. Please consult the 2025-2026 calendars (<http://catalogue.uottawa.ca/en/archives/>) for the previous requirements.

Compulsory Courses

GEG 5000	Foundations of Graduate Study in Geography	3 Units
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Optional Courses

6 optional course units in geography (GEG) or environmental studies (ENV) at the graduate level ¹	6 Units
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Comprehensive Examination

GEG 9998	Comprehensive Examination
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Thesis Project

GEG 9001	Preparation of Ph.D. Thesis Project	6 Units
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Thesis

THD 9999	Doctoral Thesis
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Note(s)

¹ A maximum of three course units can be replaced by three other units approved by the Department of Geography.

Minimum Standards

The passing grade in all courses is C+. Students who fail two courses (equivalent to 6 units) must withdraw from the program.

Duration of Program

The requirements of the program are usually fulfilled within four years. The maximum time permitted is six years from the date of initial enrollment in the program.

Thesis Advisory Committee

During the first term of the program, a thesis advisory committee (TAC) is formed for the candidate. The Committee's membership will be determined by the specific interests of the candidate. It will be composed of the supervisor and 2-3 additional professors. At least one member of the thesis committee, in addition to the supervisor, must be from the Faculty of Arts. The TAC is responsible for guiding the student throughout the program, including course selection, the comprehensive examination, thesis proposal, and thesis defense.

A meeting between the student and the Thesis Advisory Committee will take place at least once per term. The thesis examining board may include members who are not part of the TAC.

Research Research at the University of Ottawa

Located in the heart of Canada's capital, a few steps away from Parliament Hill, the University of Ottawa ranks among Canada's top 10 research universities. Our research is founded on excellence, relevance and impact and is conducted in a spirit of equity, diversity and inclusion.

Our research community thrives in four strategic areas:

- Creating a sustainable environment
- Advancing just societies
- Shaping the digital world
- Enabling lifelong health and wellness

From advancing healthcare solutions to tackling global challenges like climate change, the University of Ottawa's researchers are at the forefront of innovation, making significant contributions to society and beyond.

Research at the Faculty of Arts

The Faculty of Arts is proud of the state of the art research conducted by its professors. In the spirit of showcasing its research to the university community as well as to the general public, the Faculty has created three activities: Dean's Lecture Series, Treasures of the Library, and Excellence Lectures.

Facilities, Research Centres and Institutes at the Faculty of Arts

- Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française (<http://arts.uottawa.ca/crcsf/>),
- Institute of Indigenous Research and Studies (<http://arts.uottawa.ca/canada/en/>),
- Institute for Science, Society and Policy (<http://issp.uottawa.ca/en/>),
- Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) (<http://olbi.uottawa.ca/>)
- Morisset Library (<http://biblio.uottawa.ca/en/morisset-library/>).

For more information, refer to the list of faculty members and their research fields on Uniweb (<https://uniweb.uottawa.ca/#!arts/themes>).

Courses

Courses with 51XX and 55XX codes are reserved for students enrolled in the MA or PhD programs.

Courses with 53XX and 57XX codes are reserved for students enrolled in the MSc or PhD programs.

Courses at the 6000-level are available for all graduate students in geography.

Courses at the 7000-level are reserved for students enrolled in the MA and MSc programs.

Courses at the 8000- or 9000-levels are reserved for students enrolled in the PhD program.

GEG 5105 Selected Topics in Human Geography (3 units)

In-depth examination of a question or topic linked to new trends or research areas in human geography.

Course Component: Seminar

GEG 5109 Place and Social Transformations (3 units)

Interplay between social and spatial transformations and its implications for meanings and representations from global to local scales.

Course Component: Seminar

GEG 5310 Selected Topics in Physical Geography (3 units)

Course Component: Seminar

GEG 5311 Environmental Change in Cold Regions (3 units)

Dynamics of cold environments with particular emphasis on their sensitivity to climate variability and climate change, natural and anthropogenically induced.

Course Component: Seminar

GEG 5505 Thèmes choisis en géographie humaine (3 crédits)

Volet : Séminaire

GEG 5510 Espaces et lieux entre société et culture (3 crédits)

Espaces de référence, lieux d'appartenance et territoire dans le contexte des mutations sociales contemporaines et de la fragmentation des identités culturelles.

Volet : Séminaire

GEG 5707 Milieux nordiques (3 crédits)

Les milieux glaciaires ou périglaciaires, anciens ou actuels. Approches géomorphologique, hydrologique et paléobotanique.

Volet : Séminaire

GEG 5710 Thèmes choisis en géographie physique (3 crédits)

Volet : Séminaire

GEG 5970 Lectures dirigées / Directed Readings I (3 crédits / 3 units)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

GEG 5973 Élaboration du projet de thèse (3 crédits / 3 units)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

GEG 6000 Phipps-Langlois Seminars (3 crédits / 3 units)

Phipps-Langlois seminars of 45- to 60-minute by graduate students, professors, or other invited speakers

Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture

GEG 60001 Séminaires Phipps-Langlois (1/2) / Phipps-Langlois Seminars (1/2)

Séminaires Phipps-Langlois de 45 à 60 minutes par des étudiants diplômés, des professeurs ou d'autres conférenciers invités. / Phipps-Langlois seminars of 45- to 60-minute by graduate students, professors, or other invited speakers

Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture

GEG 6002 Séminaires Phipps-Langlois (2/2) / Phipps-Langlois Seminars (2/2) (3 crédits / 3 units)

Séminaires Phipps-Langlois de 45 à 60 minutes par des étudiants diplômés, des professeurs ou d'autres conférenciers invités. / Phipps-Langlois seminars of 45- to 60-minute by graduate students, professors, or other invited speakers

Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture

GEG 6001 Stage I / Internship I (3 crédits / 3 units)

Stage supervisé dans un organisme externe ou avec un professeur au sein du département de géographie, environnement et géomatique ou d'autres unités sur le campus. Les étudiants sont responsables de trouver leur propre stage. Durée de 100 heures de travail non-rénuméré avec une organisation, approuvé par le directeur du programme d'études supérieures et certifié par l'organisation qui accueille le stage. Noté S (Satisfaisant) ou NS (Non-satisfaisant). / Supervised Internship at an external agency or with a professor within the Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics or other units on campus. Students are responsible for finding their own internship. 100 hours of volunteer work, approved by the graduate program director and certified by the organization hosting the internship. Grade: S (Satisfactory) / NS (Not Satisfactory).

Volet / Course Component: Stage / Work Term

GEG 6002 Stage II / Internship II (3 crédits / 3 units)

Stage supervisé dans un organisme externe ou avec un professeur au sein du département de géographie, environnement et géomatique ou d'autres unités sur le campus. Les étudiants sont responsables de trouver leur propre stage. Durée de 100 heures de travail non-rénuméré avec une organisation, approuvé par le directeur du programme d'études supérieures et certifié par l'organisation qui accueille le stage. Noté S (Satisfaisant) ou NS (Non-satisfaisant). / Supervised Internship at an external agency or with a professor within the Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics or other units on campus. Students are responsible for finding their own internship. 100 hours of volunteer work, approved by the graduate program director and certified by the organization hosting the internship. Grade: S (Satisfactory) / NS (Not Satisfactory).

Volet / Course Component: Stage / Work Term

GEG 6101 Data Analysis and Modelling (3 units)

Techniques of analysis of empirical data: quantitative, semi-quantitative and qualitative. Multivariate and time-series data analysis.

Course Component: Seminar

GEG 6102 Practical GIS for Graduate Studies (3 units)

Think you might want to use geographic information systems (GIS) in your thesis research? Are you fascinated by the potential of spatial data science to enhance your research? If you answered yes to either of those questions then this introductory level course is for you. The course is specifically focused on the practical and pragmatic aspects of working with digital earth data including vector, raster and satellite imagery. A strong emphasis is given to horizontal coordinate systems, transformations, georeferencing, spatial data manipulation, geoprocessing, geocoding, and scripting for workflow automation and modeling. By the end of the course, you will be confident in using the concepts and capabilities of geographic information systems science, to work with real-world spatial data.

Course Component: Seminar

GEG 6103 Spatial Data Science (3 units)

Spatial data science is useful in many fields, including big data, population health sciences, biological sciences, earth sciences, medicine, engineering and social sciences. In this course, you will learn how to manipulate, analyze and model spatial data. Sections of the course focus on stochastic simulation and Monte Carlo methods in point-pattern analysis, spatial autocorrelation and geostatistics. Practical applications utilize the open-source software and data science computing languages (e.g. R, Python), no previous experience required. At the end of this course, you will have a toolbox of spatial analytical skills and a solid understanding of their appropriate applications to real-world questions.

Course Component: Seminar

Also offered as GEG 4120.

GEG 6501 Analyse de données et modélisation (3 crédits)

Modes de traitement appropriés à différents types de données empiriques : quantitatives, semi-quantitatives et qualitatives. Examen des méthodes d'analyse multivariées et temporelles.

Volet : Séminaire

GEG 6502 SIG pratique pour les études supérieures (3 crédits)

Pensez-vous que vous voudrez peut-être utiliser des systèmes d'information géographique (SIG) dans votre recherche de thèse? Êtes-vous fasciné par le potentiel de la science des données spatiales pour améliorer votre recherche? Si vous avez répondu oui à l'une de ces questions, ce cours d'introduction est pour vous. Le cours est spécifiquement axé sur les aspects pratiques et pragmatiques du travail avec des données terrestres numériques, y compris des images vectorielles, matricielles et satellitaires. Un accent particulier est mis sur les systèmes de coordonnées horizontales, les transformations, le géoréférencement, la manipulation des données spatiales, le géotraitement, le géocodage et la création de scripts pour l'automatisation et la modélisation des flux de travail. À la fin du cours, vous serez confiant dans l'utilisation des concepts et des capacités de la science des systèmes d'information géographique pour travailler avec des données spatiales du monde réel.

Volet : Séminaire

GEG 6503 Science des données spatiales (3 crédits)

La science des données spatiales est utile dans de nombreux domaines, notamment 'big data', les sciences de la santé de la population, les sciences biologiques, les sciences de la terre, la médecine, l'ingénierie et les sciences sociales. Dans ce cours, vous apprendrez à manipuler, analyser et modéliser des données spatiales. Les sections du cours se concentrent sur la simulation stochastique et les méthodes de Monte Carlo dans l'analyse des motifs de points, l'autocorrélation spatiale et la géostatistique. Les applications pratiques utilisent les logiciels et les langages informatique de la science des données à source ouverte (p.ex. R, Python), aucune expérience préalable requise. À la fin de ce cours, vous aurez une boîte à outils de compétences analytiques spatiales et une solide compréhension de leurs applications appropriées aux questions du monde réel sur les données spatiales.

Volet : Séminaire

Aussi offert sous la cote GEG 4520.

GEG 7906 Recherche dirigée / Directed Research (6 crédits / 6 units)

Recherche dirigée pendant une session, évaluée par trois membres de la Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales. L'inscription à temps plein est obligatoire. La note donnée sera S (satisfaisant) ou NS (non satisfaisant). N.B. Inscription limitée aux étudiants désirant transférer de la maîtrise au doctorat. / One session of directed research, evaluated by three members of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The student must be enrolled full-time for this session. The course will be graded S (satisfactory) / NS (Not satisfactory). NOTE: Restricted to students intending to transfer from master's to PhD.

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

GEG 7910 Lectures dirigées / Directed Readings (3 crédits / 3 units)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

Permission du Département est requise. / Permission of the Department is required.

GEG 7996 Élaboration et présentation du projet de thèse de maîtrise ès sciences / Preparation and Presentation of the MSc Thesis Project (3 crédits / 3 units)

Le projet de recherche doit normalement s'inscrire dans un champ d'études reconnu par le CRSNG. / The research project must normally be in a research field recognized by NSERC.

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

GEG 7998 Élaboration et présentation du projet de thèse de maîtrise ès arts / Preparation and Presentation of the M.A. Thesis Project (3 crédits / 3 units)

Le projet de recherche doit normalement s'inscrire dans un champ d'études reconnu par le CRSHC. / The research project must normally be in a research field recognized by SSRHC.

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

GEG 8900 Lectures dirigées / Directed Readings (3 crédits / 3 units)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

Permission du Département est requise. / Permission of the Department is required.

GEG 9001 Élaboration du projet de thèse de doctorat / Preparation of Ph.D. Thesis Project (6 crédits / 6 units)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

GEG 9998 Examen de synthèse / Comprehensive Examination

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research