National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

Career Development Centre
An tIonad Forbartha Gairmeacha

Career Opportunities with a Degree in... Geography

Choosing a career involves more than just finding out what is open to you. Knowledge about yourself is vital to the process. It is valuable to start by looking at your strengths, weaknesses, interests, abilities and skills in order to relate career options to you. The NUI, Galway Career Development Centre will have resources to help you in your self-assessment and career planning including psychometric tests and reference books/files. Drop in to see one of our careers advisers, browse through the careers library or visit our website at: www.nuigalway.ie/careers

Your acquired skills

Skills gained while studying Geography include:

- ☑ Fieldwork.
- ☑ Scientific laboratory techniques.
- ☑ Producing maps and diagrams.
- ☑ Using social survey and interpretative methods; collecting and analysing information using different methods (e.g. GIS, remote sensing).
- ☑ Interpreting different types of geographical evidence (e.g. texts, imagery, maps).
- ☑ Recognising the moral and ethical issues involved in debates and enquiries.
- ☑ Presenting oral and written arguments.
- ☑ Information, communication and technology skills (ICT) - including word processing, databases, internet communications, information retrieval and online searches.
- ☑ Numerical skills - interpreting and presenting relevant numerical information.
- ☑ Working with others as a result of developing interpersonal skills, planning skills and teamwork.
- ☑ Self-management skills - reflecting on, managing and planning your own time, learning and performance.
- ☑ Analytical skills - being able to analyse, synthesise, evaluate and identify problems and solutions.

Adapted from: The Higher Education Authority's Employment Profiles

Where the Jobs are

The following is a sample of some publications that may have vacancy advertisements for Geography graduates.

National Papers (available to reference in Information Room):

Irish Times – Business Section, Friday
Irish Independent – Business Section, Thursday
Irish Examiner – Money & Jobs, Friday
Sunday Independent
Local papers – e.g. Galway Advertiser, Thursday

Career Matters – our free fortnightly bulletin

Online – www.gradireland.com and see useful websites section overleaf.

Possible Career Opportunities

Cartographer	Geological Assistant	Soil Conservationist
Development Analyst	Town / County Planner	Logistics Manager
Environmental Consultant	Recycling Manager	Weather Analyst
GIS Analyst	Park Ranger	Water / Land Manager
Land Surveyor	Teacher	Risk Analyst

Note: Further qualifications may be needed for certain positions. This list is a sample representation of positions available.

Up to 40% of graduate employment opportunities are open to graduates of all disciplines. In most cases, however you will need further postgraduate study or professional training.

Industries that may be interested in Geography graduates include:

- ☑ Advertising / Marketing
- ☑ Banking
- ☑ Business Management
- ☑ Consultancies [e.g. Environmental, GIS, Planning]
- ☑ Development / Aid Agencies
- ☑ Local Government
- ☑ The Armed Forces
- ☑ The Media
- ☑ Tourism

Call to the Career Development Centre and have a consultation with a career adviser to explore your career opportunities.

Sample Job Advertisements

Some jobs advertised recently that may suit students / graduates (these jobs are not currently available and are shown here for illustration purposes only).

Guide / Information Officer, OPW. Are you proud of your heritage? A good communicator? OPW look for people interested in presenting the unique story of one of Irelands many state managed heritage sites. Ref CM1205.

World Bank internship. Candidates must be enrolled in a full-time graduate study program with: economics, human development (public health, education, nutrition, population), social science, agriculture, environment, private sector development, as well as other related fields. Ref CM1205.

UNICEF India Internship Programme. Opportunity for analysis, research and documentation of field-level interventions for children across a variety of areas – desk and field work. Suit Masters student with demography, rural development, or other related area. Ref CM0107.

Further study opportunities

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training. Some of the range of opportunities available in NUI, Galway include:

- MA/MLitt/PhD Geography
- HDip in Education
- HDip Business Studies
- HDip Systems Analysis
- HDip Software Design & Development

The Career Development Centre holds information on Postgraduate Courses in Ireland, the UK and further afield. The Information Room has sections on Ireland and the UK (including individual prospectuses), USA (with guides to applying, funding and lists of courses), studying in EU countries as well as further afield.
The Information Officer will be happy to help you locate appropriate sources.

Some other courses nation-wide include:
- Master of Regional & Urban Planning, UCD
- MSc Town & Country Planning, QUB
- Master of Development Studies, UCD
- MA International Tourism, UL
- MSc GIS, UU
- HDip Remote Sensing & GIS, NUIM
- PGDip/MSc Environmental Engineering, QUB

www.nuigalway.ie/careers also has sections on studying in Ireland and studying abroad with useful links for many countries worldwide.

The website www.postgradireland.com also contains useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland, www.prospects.ac.uk is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and http://europa.eu.int/ploteus covers the EU.

What past graduates have done

Here is a sample of job titles and employers occupied by recent graduates who studied Geography - taken from First Destination Statistics.

- Assistant Librarian, Tullamore General Hospital
- Auctioneer, Dublin
- Graduate Trainee, Ordnance Survey Ireland Ennis
- Management Trainee, Enterprise Rent A Car, Dublin
- Sea Fisheries Protection Officer and Navigation Officer, Irish Naval Service
- Trainee Film Director, Samson Productions Dublin
- HDip Youth and Community Work, NUIM
- MA Environmental & Resource Management, UCD
- MA in Journalism, St. Patrick's Drumcondra
- Masters Environmental and Earth Mgt , Kingston Uni
- Masters of Regional and Urban Studies, UCD
- Masters Town Planning, Manchester
- MSc Environmental Planning, QUB
- PGCE Primary - ICT / Geography , Bath
- Primary School Teaching, Hibernia College

12% of the class of 2004 were doing Planning courses.

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Resources in the Careers Information Room

We have valuable information resources, experienced career development advisers and information staff on hand to help you with your queries.

Reference material in the Information Room includes:
- Careers using Geography
- Careers for Geographers
- Working with the Environment
- Section 'R' of the Occupational files
- Section 'Q' of the Occupational files
- Arts Destinations folder

Drop into our information room and we will be happy to assist you.

Useful websites

We have found that the following websites contain relevant and interesting information on opportunities with a degree in Geography.

- www.nuigalway.ie/careers
- www.gradireland.com
- www.osi.ie [Ordnance Survey of Ireland]
- www.osni.gov.uk
- www.irish-surveyors.ie/jobs.htm

Europe
- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.doctorjob.com
- www.rgs.org/ [Royal Geography Society]
- www.cartography.org.uk/
- www.ordsvy.gov.uk
- www.rspsoc.org [Remote Sensing and Photogrammery Society]
- www.geoexplorer.co.uk

Abroad
- www.aag.org/ [Association of American Geographers]
- www.geojobsource.com
- www.oil.com
- www.acsm.net