



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, GEOINFORMATICS AND METEOROLOGY

BA majoring in Geography

2023

*This information brochure is a guide only. For the latest on the chosen degree please visit the UP website at www.up.ac.za.
Note that students enrolled in this program will graduate with the general BA degree (Ge from the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Pretoria).*

1. GEOGRAPHY

Geography is a **bridging science** that links the human sciences with the natural sciences. Geography is also a **spatial science**, studying the location and distribution of cities and human activities, such as agriculture and tourism, as well as the processes, patterns, problems, and potential answers associated with these activities. In addition, geography is a **planning and management science** aimed at improving the quality of life of all people.

Geographers study the relationship and interaction between people and the environment. They specialize according to their interest and aptitude. This determines the nature of the problems on which they work and for which they seek solutions.

Geography combines very well with modules/electives from the departments of Anthropology and Archaeology; Historical and Heritage Studies; Sociology; Social Work and Criminology, Tourism Management and Political Sciences. If you are interested in Geography and Environmental Sciences but you do not meet the requirements for admission to a BSc degree this is the degree for you!

2. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There are three main **career fields** in geography, namely teaching, research, and the application of geographical knowledge and skills in practice. Geographers can focus on environmental management; urban issues such as squatting; regional and rural development; or environmental issues, including pollution and the destruction of ecosystems through activities such as mining, agriculture, and tourism. Geographers in the private sector are generally **employed** by planning, architectural and engineering firms, tourism organisations, environmental conservation bodies, and industry. Government departments involved with environmental affairs, forestry and fisheries (DFFE), water and sanitation (DWS), agriculture, land reform and rural development (DALRRD), tourism (DoT), basic education (DBE), higher education and training (DHET), and Statistics South Africa, also employ geography graduates. Many geographers are self-employed. They are mainly involved in areas such as marketing, planning, development, tourism, policy formulation, and environmental auditing.

3. APPLICATION, SELECTION AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following persons will be considered for admission: a candidate who is in possession of a certificate that is deemed by the University to be equivalent to the required Grade 12 certificate with university endorsement; a candidate who is a graduate from another tertiary institution or has been granted the status of a graduate of such an institution; and a candidate who is a graduate of another faculty at the University of Pretoria.

Admission into the BA majoring in Geography is an Admission Point Score (APS) score of **28**. Life Orientation is excluded in the calculation of the APS. Grade 11 results are used for the provisional admission of prospective

students. Final admission is based on the Grade 12 results. English is a Grade 12 level prerequisite. A minimum score of 60% for English is required for admission into the program.

Candidates who do not comply with the minimum admission requirements for BA majoring in Geography may be considered for admission to the BA – Extended program for the Humanities. The BA – Extended program takes place over a period of four years instead of the normal three years. A minimum APS score of **26** is required for entry to the **BA – Extended program for the Humanities**. Selection takes place before admission and the number of places is limited.

Online application is available on www.up.ac.za, click on 'Study > Apply' in the top menu.

**If you are a South African citizen, applications for BA majoring in Geography close on 30 September.
If you are a foreign national, applications for BA majoring in Geography close on 31 July.**

Once accepted into BA majoring in Geography, the university will inform you when your classes are scheduled to start. The orientation program for new 1st-year students usually commences towards the end of January/beginning of February.

4. FURTHER STUDY

The successful completion of the BA majoring in Geography degree can lead to further postgraduate studies in human geography (BSocSciHons Geographical and Environmental Sciences; MA Geography; DPhil Geography), or environmental science (BSocSciHons Geographical and Environmental Sciences; MA Environment & Society; PhD Environment & Society). It is important to consult the Yearbook of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences or make an appointment with Dr Nerhene Davis (nerhene.davis@up.ac.za) of the Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology regarding the credit values, presentation modes, and possible prerequisites. A general rule to be followed to continue with postgraduate studies in Geography and Environmental Sciences, a student needs to do 6 semester modules or 12 quarter modules in the discipline over the three years of study.

5. MODULES AND CREDITS

BA majoring in Geography is a three-year program. The timetable is announced at the beginning of the year. Classes and practical sessions are scheduled during the week from 07:30 to 17:20. The timetable is set out by the university. The degree includes several fundamental (compulsory) modules at 1st-year level.

1ST YEAR MODULES

Students must select modules to meet the requisite **128 credits**. Credits can be taken from any related modules in the Faculty of Humanities. Geography combines very well with modules/electives from the departments of Anthropology and Archaeology; Historical and Heritage Studies; Sociology; Social Work and Criminology, Tourism Management and Political Sciences.

To qualify for a BA majoring in Geography, the following modules are required:

- ENV 101, GGY 156, and GGY 168 (**28 credits**).
- The remaining **78 credits** must be made up of any other relevant Faculty of Humanities modules.

Code	Module name	Credits	Period
Fundamental modules (compulsory):			
AIM 111	Academic information management 111	4	S1
AIM 121	Academic information management 121	4	S2
ALL 110	Academic literacy 110	6	S1
ALL 125	Academic literacy for Humanities 125	6	S2
UPO 101	Academic orientation 101	0	Y
Elective modules:			
ENV 101	Introduction to environmental sciences 101	8	Q1

Code	Module name	Credits	Period
GGY 156	Aspects of human geography 156	8	Q2
GGY 168	Introduction to Physical Geography 168	12	S2

Minimum credits: 128

2ND YEAR MODULES

Students must select elective modules with a total number of at least **120 credits**. Credits can be taken from any related modules in the Faculty of Humanities. Geography combines very well with modules/electives from the departments of Anthropology and Archaeology; Historical and Heritage Studies; Sociology; Social Work and Criminology, Tourism Management and Political Sciences.

To qualify for a BA majoring in Geography, the following modules are required:

- ENV 201, GIS 221, GGY 201 (**40 credits**).
- The remaining **80 credits** must be made up of any other relevant Faculty of Humanities modules.

Code	Module name	Credits	Period
Elective modules:			
ENV 201	Environmental sciences 201	14	Q2
GIS 221	Geographic information systems introduction 221	12	S2
GGY 201	City, structure, environment and society 201	14	Q3

Minimum credits: 120

3RD YEAR MODULES

Students must select elective modules with a total number of at least **120 credits**. Credits can be taken from any related modules in the Faculty of Humanities. Geography combines very well with modules/electives from the departments of Anthropology and Archaeology; Historical and Heritage Studies; Sociology; Social Work and Criminology, Tourism Management and Political Sciences.

To qualify for a BA majoring in Geography, the following modules are required:

- ENV 301, GGY 301, and GGY 383 (**60 credits**).
- The remaining **60 credits** must be made up of any other relevant Faculty of Humanities modules.

Code	Module name	Credits	Period
Elective modules:			
ENV 301	Human environmental interactions 301	18	Q2
GGY 301	Theories and applications of human geography 301	18	Q3
GGY 383	Human Geography Project	24	S2

Minimum credits: 120

For detailed module descriptions, please consult the University's website *Study > Yearbooks*. Select *Faculty of Humanities* on the left, click on *Undergraduate Degree*, and then *BA* on the right.

6. FEES, FUNDING AND BURSARIES OPPORTUNITIES

For information about fees and funding (including scholarships and bursaries, visit the UP website, www.up.ac.za, click 'Study' in the top menu, then 'Fees and Funding'.

7. INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The first step for international students is to have their existing academic qualifications evaluated by the South African Qualifications Authority (www.saqa.org.za). It is essential to attach the SAQA certificate to your online application.

Additional information for international students is available on the UP website, www.up.ac.za, click on 'Study' in the top menu, then on 'International Students'.

8. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I am currently a UP student enrolled for a different degree and would like to change my program to BA Geography. What is the process?

The department does not handle applications for change of degrees. Please contact Ms Thembi Barnabas (thembi.barnabas@up.ac.za), for advice regarding career choices, or Mr Daniel Letsoalo (daniel.letsoalo@up.ac.za) for administrative queries.

9. CONTACT DETAILS

Please email any enquiries to:

Dr Nerhene Davies (coordinator), nerhene.davies@up.ac.za

Mr Daniel Letsoalo (administrative queries), daniel.letsoalo@up.ac.za

Dr Charles Puttergill (BA degree coordinator), charles.puttergill@up.ac.za

Website: <https://www.up.ac.za/ggm>, click on 'Study' > 'Our Programmes'.