



Guide to Geography

Are you ready to be a geographer?



香港浸會大學
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



社會科學院
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



地理系
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

HKBU GEOG at a glance



40⁺ years of history

18 Full-time academic & teaching staff from renowned universities

10⁺ Overseas & local **Field Trips** every year

5 **Programmes**
1 UG programme & 4 PG programmes

7 **Laboratories**
& learning facilities

4 **Research Clusters** in Urban Studies,
Physical Landscape, Energy & Geoanalytics

3 **Research Centres** housed within the
Department

Major in Geography



Undergraduate

- BSc (Hons) in Geography (JS2610)

Postgraduate

- Ph.D in Geography
- M.Phil in Geography
- MA in Global Society (TPG)
- MSc in Contemporary China Studies (TPG)



BSc (Hons) in Geography (JS2610)

Provides students with:

- Broad-based training to develop a balanced view of the contemporary world
- A firm foundation in geographical methodologies
- Knowledge of the spatial order & interdependence of the world's peoples and regions
- Transferable skills to pursue diverse careers & further studies



Curriculum Structure



Geography Major

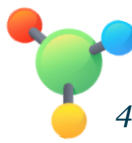
Social Sciences Common Core	4 units
Major Required Courses	30 units
Major Elective Courses	33 units
General Education Courses	31 units
<u>Free Elective Courses</u>	<u>30 units</u>
	128 units



Major Required Courses

Fundamental training

GEOG1005	Geography & the Contemporary World
GEOG2005	Cultures, Peoples & Landscapes
GEOG2006	Earth Systems: Shaping Landscapes
GEOG2007	Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Geography
GEOG2015	Maps & Map Making
GEOG2016	Earth Systems: Atmosphere & Biosphere
GEOG2017	Globalization of Economic Activities
GEOG3005	Field Camp (0 unit)
GEOG3006	Regional Geography of China
GEOG4898-9	Honours Project (6 units)



Major Elective Courses

4 Possible tracks of a Geography Major



- Urban planning/Transport planning/Estate Management



Urban Studies, Cities & Everyday Life

- Geoscientist
- Environmentalist Officer



Physical Systems & Environmental Dynamics

- Environmental conservation
- Resource Management



Regions, Development & Resource Management

- Data Analyst
- GIS expert

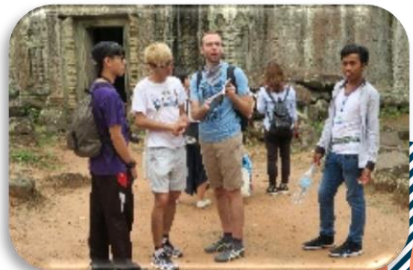


Geoanalytics & Research Practice



Tips!

- You need to take at least 1 course in each of the 4 areas
- You may specialize in certain sub-fields in the discipline at a later stage of your studies



Major Elective Courses

Full list of elective courses

A) Geoanalytics & Research Practice



- GEOG3036 Writing Spatial Stories through Qualitative Research
- GEOG4006 Advanced Quantitative Methods in Geography
- GEOG4017 Geographical Information Systems
- GEOG4025 Geographical Imaginations
- GEOG4046 Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation

B) Physical Systems & Environmental Dynamics



- GEOG3015 Geography of Health and the Environment
- GEOG3017 Global Environmental Issues and Sustainability
- GEOG4005 Advanced Climatology
- GEOG4007 Applied Geomorphology
- GEOG4015 Coastal Environments and Processes
- GEOG4027 Geography of Environmental Hazards
- GEOG4057 Selected Topics in the Geography of China
(Physical and Environmental Geography)
- GEOG4066 Seminar in Environmental Planning and Management





Major Elective Courses

Full list of elective courses

C) Urban Studies, Cities & Everyday Life



- GEOG3025 Population Geography
- GEOG3027 Urban Geography
- GEOG4035 Geography of Transportation
- GEOG4056 Selected Topics in the Geography of China (Human Geography)
- GEOG4067 Seminar in Social Justice and the City
- GEOG4075 Seminar in Urban Geography
- GEOG4076 Urban Cultural Landscape
- GEOG4077 Urban Development and Planning in Hong Kong
- GEOG4085 Urban Development in China
- GEOG4086 Urban Planning

D) Regions, Development and Resource Management



- GEOG2025 Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta: A Survey
- GEOG3007 Energy Problems and the Environment
- GEOG3016 Geography of Pacific Asia
- GEOG4016 Sustainable Energy and Technological Innovation in China
- GEOG4026 Geography of Economic Development
- GEOG4036 Political Geography
- GEOG4047 Resource and Environmental Management in China
- GEOG4055 Rural and Agricultural Development in China
- GEOG4065 Energy Policy and Analysis
- GEOG4087 Natural Resource Evaluation and Policy Approaches



General Education Courses

GCAP3027

GE Capstone Interdisciplinary Independent Study of Environmental or Social Issues (Semester 1)

This is an independent study course. We would like to act on our pressing environmental or social issues. Field studies provide empirical information for us to explore environmental or social mechanisms. They also give us clues for our actions.

In this capstone course, from our field experiences, we will tell our stories and search our options for the pressing environmental or social issues. We will learn how to record and reflect our self-directed field experiences. At the end of this course, we will develop interdisciplinary solutions for current issues based on various physical, social, historical and cultural contexts.

Highlights

- Tell our stories in our voices for the world's pressing issues
- Acquire problem-solving and organizing skills
- Experience complex situations in the real world
- Learn how to nudge our systems by considering different trade-offs identified from field experiences



Student sharing

Overall the course enabled me to develop a deeper understanding of fieldwork and analytical techniques. The course instructor guided me throughout the investigation and analysis process. It was **FUN and NEW** for me to relate the course knowledge with reality. It is necessary for my study and the course is quite different from other courses. More samples and topics may be included in the future.



Jasmine Li (year 3 student, BSSc China Studies-Geography Concentration)

This independent study is **an unforgettable part in my U-life**. During the process, I not only learnt many hard knowledge but also acquire soft skills including communication, teamwork and leadership.



Ophelia Liu (year 3 student, BSc Applied Biology-Biotechnology Concentration)

General Education Courses

GCAP3026

Developing Interdisciplinary Field Studies for Environmental or Social Issues (Semester 2)



This is an Experiential-learning course. In this capstone course, we will identify pressing global issues which can be explored through field activities outside Hong Kong. We will look into different research methods to develop our approaches to collect data for proposed academic questions from the field. We will propose actions with our local and international partners by utilizing our field experiences.

Highlights

- Be a leader who plans field activities to address international challenges
- Immerse in complex situations
- Use interdisciplinary approaches to design a contingency plan for unexpected conditions
- Propose unique actions to social or environmental issues based on overseas field experiences



Study Schedule

Geography Major



(Information as of April 2021.

Please refer to the University Information System for the latest schedule.)

Study Year: 1, Semester 1

University English I	3.00
University Chinese	3.00
University Life	0.00
Invitation to Social Sciences	1.00
Writing Enhancement Course	0.00
Free Elective Courses	6.00
History and Civilization	3.00

Term Total : 16.00

Study Year: 1, Semester 2

University English II	3.00
Free Elective Courses	9.00
Values and the Meaning of Life	3.00

Term Total : 15.00

Study Year: 2, Semester 1

GEOG 2005 Cultures, Peoples and Landscapes	3.00
GEOG 2006 Earth Systems: Shaping Landscapes	3.00
GEOG 2007 Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Geography	3.00
GEOG 1005 Geography and the Contemporary World	3.00
Quantitative Reasoning	3.00
Healthy Lifestyle	2.00

Term Total : 17.00

Study Year: 2, Semester 2

GEOG 2015 Maps and Map Making	3.00
GEOG 2016 Earth Systems: Atmosphere and Biosphere	3.00
GEOG 2017 Globalization of Economic Activities	3.00
Major Elective Courses	6.00
The Art of Persuasion	2.00

Term Total : 17.00



- GEOG1005 is a required course for GEOG major.
- Students who wish to major in GEOG are advised to take this course in Semester 1 of Year 1.

Study Schedule

Geography Major



Study Year: 3, Semester 1	
Free Electives Courses	12.00
Term Total :	12.00

Study Year: 4, Semester 1	
<i>GEOG 4898 Honours Project</i>	3.00
Free Elective Courses	3.00
Major Elective Courses	12.00
Term Total :	18.00

Study Year: 3, Semester 2	
<i>GEOG 3005 Field Camp</i>	0.00
<i>GEOG 3006 Regional Geography of China</i>	3.00
Major Elective Courses	3.00
GE Capstone	6.00
Interdisciplinary Thematic Courses	3.00
Social Sciences Experiential Learning in Action	
Term Total :	18.00

Study Year: 4, Semester 2	
<i>GEOG 4899 Honours Project</i>	3.00
Major Elective Courses	12.00
Term Total :	15.00



- One semester off-campus period in Semester 1 of Year 3 if students so choose.
- Students are required to take 6 units of GE interdisciplinary thematic courses before taking GE Capstone at Level 3.
- Students are required to take SOSC3005/SOSC3006 to fulfil the requirements of Experiential Learning in Action.

Field Trips & Field Camp

In addition to local and regional field trips, a mandatory Field Camp of around 6 to 9 days is organized for Year 3 students in the semester 2 of every year. There are a wide variety of possible locations and past Field Camps have been held in the U.S., Australia, Mainland China, Taiwan and South East Asia. Field Camp aims to strengthen students' observational and hands-on skills, offer an invaluable learning experience, and foster student-staff interactions.



Laboratories & Facilities



Human Geography
Research Laboratory



Physical Geography
Laboratory



Geographic Resource
Centre



Environmental Laboratory



Geoinformatics Laboratory



Sediment Laboratory

Your Future Advisors

The research interests of academic members cover 4 research clusters:

- 1) Urban & Regional Studies;
- 2) Physical Landscape & Environmental Change;
- 3) Energy, Sustainability & Resource Management;
- 4) Geoanalytics, GIS & Remote Sensing.

Urban & Regional Studies

A variety of social, transportation, housing and other urban and regional themes, mainly dealing with contemporary China and Hong Kong



Prof. Wang Donggen

*Transport Geography,
Time Geography,
Geography of
Well-being*



Prof. Yang Chun

*Economic Geography, Urban
& Regional Development,
China & Southeast Asia*



Dr. Zhai Wei

*Social Vulnerability, Urban
Resilience, Spatial Data Science,
GeoAI, Transport Geography*



Dr. Lachlan B. Barber

*Cultural Geography, Mobility,
Heritage Studies*



Dr. Hao Pu

*Urban Geography,
Urban China Studies, Urban
Housing, Migration, Mobility*

Physical Landscape & Environmental Change

Research into past and contemporary climate and environmental change, mainly in Hong Kong, China and Quaternary studies in East Africa



Dr. Gao Meng

*Air Quality, Atmospheric
Chemistry Modeling,
Climate Change Mitigation*



Dr. Li Jianfeng

*Hydroclimatology,
Climate Extremes,
Water Hazards,
Regional Water Cycle*



Dr. Muhammad Sajjad

*Climate Change Impacts,
Natural Hazards, Risk-
Resilience-Sustainability
Nexus*

Your Future Advisors

Energy, Sustainability & Resource Management

Research into sustainable development, environmental impacts of energy, natural and social science aspect of environmental and resource management issues



Dr. Mah Ngar Yin, Daphne

*Sustainable Energy, Governance for Energy Transitions,
Comparative Energy Studies in Asia*

Geoanalytics, GIS & Remote Sensing

Research regarding the development and application of analytical tools involving big data, GIS, GPS and Remote Sensing



Dr. Li Jianfeng

*Hydrological Modeling,
Downscaling of Global
Climate Models,
Regional Climate Models*



Dr. Muhammad Sajjad

*GIS & Remote Sensing,
Spatial Data Analysis,
Geospatial Applications
For Smart Decisions and
Resource Allocation*



Prof. Wang Donggen

*Data Analytics in Urban
Studies, Transport Studies,
Activity-travel Behavior*



Prof. Zhou Qiming

*GIS & Remote Sensing
Applications, Digital
Terrain Analysis,
Hydrological Modeling*

Academic Advising in the Department

Each student will be assigned an academic staff as an **Advisor**. You can check your assigned Advisor on the Buniport (Study Record & Personal Particulars) and seek academic advice from your advisor from time to time!

You are suggested to contact your advisor at least once per semester to discuss any of the following:

- Major Selection/ Course choice
- Study plan
- Learning environment and resources
- Exchange and Internship
- Career development/ Further Studies



Student Advising Team (SAT)

Our Missions

- 1) To assist students with adapting to U-life smoothly
- 2) To give students advice on choosing their suitable Majors
- 3) To guide students to set up attainable academic & personal goals

Our Activities

Information events, hiking, excursions, and other advising activities to provide academic advising and support for year 1 students





SAT Members & specific Coordinators

SAT members



Dr. Mah Daphne
Ngar-yin

***Coordinator for
senior-year entrants***



Dr. Hao Pu



Dr. Barber Lachlan B.

***Coordinator for
Exchange Study***

Specific Coordinators



Dr. Gao Meng
***Coordinator for
Internship***



Dr. Li Jianfeng
***Coordinator for
BA/BSSc***



Dr. Zhai Wei
***Coordinator for
BA/BSSc & BEd LST,
BA/BSSc & BEd PSHE***

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Dr. ZHAI Wei

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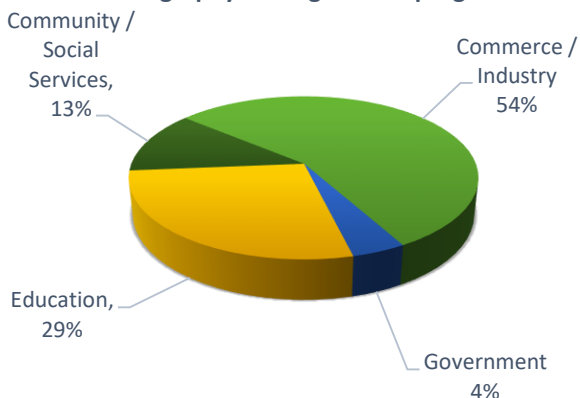


Potential Career Prospects in Geography

The geography curriculum equips students with a wide range of transferable skills and a capacity to keep on learning, especially through fieldwork and the honours project.

Such skills are keenly sought by prospective employers and make our graduates highly employable.

Employment statistics of graduates (2015-2020)
of Geography undergraduate programmes



Data: Graduate Employment Survey 2015-2020, SA, HKBU



Private & Public Sector

*Business services,
government
departments*



Education

*GEOG & PSHE
Teaching in schools*



Professionals

*Environmental &
urban planning,
transport
planning*



Academics

*Postgraduate
studies in pursuit
of a career as
academics*

Alumni Sharing

Geography major provided me with not only academic knowledge but also logical thinking, analytic power & strong leadership.



Ms. Helen Chan,
Director
(Operations), Hong
Kong Post
Graduated in 1992

Geography training enabled me to deal with nature conservation. I would like to inspire more people to care about nature through conservation education.



Ms. Kami Hui
Conservation Manager,
Arborist
Graduated in 2003

Geography trained my critical thinking and inspired me to address issues from a global and innovative perspective. Always be kind, curious and well-prepared for new challenges!



Mr. Kevin Lee
Wedding & Event Specialist
Graduated in 2014



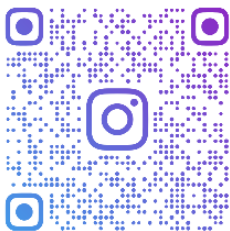
Mr. Eddie Chan
Senior Director (E-
Commerce),
Walmart China
Graduated in 1997

Geography looks into spatial variation between various spaces & the environment. This offered me a unique opportunity to learn things by adopting a holistic approach.

Explore your U-life in HKBU GEOG



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geog.hkbu.edu.hk



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