

Geography

Geography is an exciting course that relates to many of the new careers that are opening up across the world, and some of the most popular courses students choose to do post High School. Geography takes you to the world and discovers how you can play a part in its future on a local, and global, scale.

The course is split into natural and human geography, with the natural aspect looking at ecosystems, the threats posed to them, and how they are under threat. The human elements look at global challenges that face the world's population as well as focusing on an industry and how it relates to the environment. The Year 12 course also covers urban dynamics from local developments through to the networking of global cities. Students look at the reliance of small towns on larger ones as well as discovering how urban areas change over time and the subsequent need for planning future developments with regards to these changes.

Key industries that utilise Geography skills include town planning, landscape and horticulture, construction development, the defence forces, transport, marketing, environmental science, mining, food production, biosecurity, alternate energy, and environmental sustainability roles. (see table further below for more information.)

Geography has the advantage of already knowing 1/3 of the HSC work before you start as the skills have been developed in Years 7 – 10 for the course. There is also the fieldwork element of the course which means that you are not limited to the four walls of the classroom but get to go out on field trips, including overnight ones, to investigate natural environments (such as rainforests) as well as industries (such as banana plantations) and urban developments. Note that the nature of the area of study for the **compulsory** fieldwork trips are beyond the Sydney basin and as such whilst some of the cost is borne by the school, parents make a **significant contribution** to the cost of this trip beyond school fees. Previous excursions have included multiple night trips to Cairns and Coffs Harbour.

In Year 11 students complete a Senior Geography Project in an area of local interest to them, where they learn about the research process, skills that can be used throughout their courses for the HSC and beyond High School.

The Preliminary Course

Biophysical Interactions

An investigation of biophysical processes and how these processes contribute to sustainable management.

Global Challenges

An investigation of the social, cultural, political, economic and environmental challenges which are occurring at the global scale.

Senior Geography Project

The nature of geographical inquiry and its application to a practical research project.

The HSC Course

Ecosystems at Risk

A geographical investigation of the functioning of ecosystems at risk, their management and protection.

Urban Places

A geographical investigation of world cities, mega cities and the urban dynamics of large cities and urban localities

People and Economic Activity

A geographical investigation of economic activity integrating the local and global context.

Studying Geography in Years 11 and 12 helps students develop the ability to recognise and understand environmental change and the interactions which take place in our world. This helps them to become engaged and aware global citizens, attributes that can increase their employability and the kind of attributes Universities look for in applications for early entry. Some examples of possible areas of study, post-secondary school, are found in the table below:

Science/ Engineering	Remote sensing Surveying Meteorology Engineering Agricultural science Forest science	Geology Hydrology Vulcanology Seismology Oceanography
Humanities	Law Administration Government services Teaching Politics Diplomatic service Journalism Tourism Education Hospitality	Population planning Social work Social planning Emergency services Physical geography Meteorology Travel Defence Forces
Commerce	Advertising Business administration Ecotourism Market research Public relations Retailing	Transport Manufacturing Planning Office management Real estate Mining
Environment	Forestry Conservationist Agriculture Policy analyst	Recreation management Wildlife management Environment monitoring Environment assessment
Planning/ Design	Urban planner Town planner Social planner Architecture Landscape architecture Land development	Cartography Surveying Transport planning Electoral planning Land-use planning Construction Management
Mathematics/ Computing	Surveying Geographical Information Systems Remote sensing Cartography	

Geography works well with a range of subjects to make your collection of subjects more collaborative. For example, it works well with Science subjects such as Biology, and Earth and Environment, other HSIE subjects such as Business Studies and Economics and TAS and TVET subjects, such as Computer and D&T / Timber courses to list a few examples.

See the NESA Geography syllabus on the website below for more information.

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/hsie/geography>