

# Department of Geography

## Contact Information

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## Introduction

The Department of Geography focuses its teaching on both the local and the global level for an integrated geographical education. We center on both theory and practice, using practical and realistic cases and field studies to make learning pragmatic. With our excellent combination of lectures, we train our students to be on-site smart and theoretically robust. This is only possible with a faculty of diverse expertise and backgrounds.

Continually upgraded facility is one of the strengths of the department, including geomorphological lab, hydrological lab, climatology lab, regional and human geography lab, computer lab, and planning workshop. The department conducts overseas field study teaching twice a year in various Asian countries. Students are guided in a caring learning environment. Through progressive planning and superb facility, we teach students to learn both locally and globally; theoretically and pragmatically.

Every year the department admits more than 110 students into bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs. Our students are motivated

to learn under the carefully crafted curriculums. Following graduation, most students go on to participate in the labor force of urban and regional planning, environmental monitoring, geo-spatial analysis, and high school teaching.



## Instructional Objectives

Our instructional goals focus on training geographic specialists with strength in both theoretical and pragmatic aspects. Students are trained to master geographical knowledge and skills and to apply them to issues of geography and sustainable environment.

This department offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs. The bachelor's degree program aims to educate students in becoming geographers for the fields of urban and regional planning, environmental monitoring, geo-spatial analysis, or high school teachers.

Master's program students are trained to become advanced analysts and planners in the areas of geography and environment. Students could apply geographical knowledge and skills to various professional pursuits. Our doctoral program trains students to become either college lecturers or advanced analysts in the related fields of geography.

## Degree Requirements

The courses offered by the department are given in both Chinese and English. Courses cover fundamental human geography, physical geography, and geographic technique and skills. With further specialized courses, we have developed programs in (1) environmental monitoring and hazard mitigation, (2) urban and regional tourism planning, (3) geo-spatial science, and (4) geography teacher training education. For either track of specialization, undergraduate students are required to take at least 128 credit hours to graduate, while students wish to become geography teachers will take at least 154 credit hours. Master's students have to take 8 credit hours of compulsory courses and 20 elective credit hours to graduate. Doctoral students will take 8 credit hours of compulsory courses with additional 16 elective credit hours to graduate. Such design covers fundamental training and specialization.

## Feature of the Curriculum

The Geography Department brings together several distinctive components to provide a full spectrum of geography. Our curriculum features the followings:

1. Four components of geography for a full spectrum of geographical education and training.
2. Emphasizing both geographical theory and practice.
3. Opportunity for project-oriented learning and teaching.
4. Practicum in both private and public sectors.
5. Overseas and domestic field studies.



## Career Prospects

The education and training of the core curriculum is to prepare students for professions that require geographical knowledge and associated skills. The following professions are plausible pursuits for our graduates:

- Researchers of regional development, tourism planning, geographical education, physical geography, GIS application, etc.
- Public sector workers, such as civil servants, geography teachers, urban planning technicians, environmental conservation experts, geodetic technicians, environmental monitoring technicians, environmental disaster prevention experts, etc.
- Private sector workers, such as regional planners, tour guides, environmental consultants, editors for geography- and environment-related work, environmental monitoring specialists, geotechnical consultants, cartographers, spatial analysts, project managers, etc.
- Geography teachers, teaching geography in both senior and junior high schools.