

Will you include **Geography** in your passport to a successful future ?

How will I benefit if I take Geography as a VCE subject?

"I enjoy Geography and would like to continue but how will it help me get into university and a job?"

VCE Geography keeps your tertiary options open!

To gain admittance to a tertiary course, you first have to gain an ENTER (Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank). This is calculated by adding together your Units 3 and 4 results: English, your best three other scores, and 10% of your next two best scores. In all, up to six subject scores can be used. Figure 1 shows some subject combinations.

There are close to 700 tertiary courses.

Figure 1

Subject combinations

These are guides only, for there are many other sensible and flexible combinations, all using Geography

Humanities/Law			Business/commerce	
English	English	English	English	English
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	LOTE	Maths	Maths
Politics	Literature	Politics	Maths	Economics
Legal Studies	Legal Studies	Maths	Accounting	Accounting

Engineering	Graphic Design	Architecture	Cartography
English	English	English	English
Physics	Graphic	Maths	Maths
Maths	Communication	Physics	Maths
Maths	Geography	Geography	Geography
Chemistry	Art	Graphic	Graphic
Geography		Communication	Communication

Human Science	General Science	Computing	Urban Planning
English	English	English	English
Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
Maths	Maths	Maths	Geography
Geography	Geography	Geography	Politics
Chemistry	Chemistry	Physics	History

Figure 2

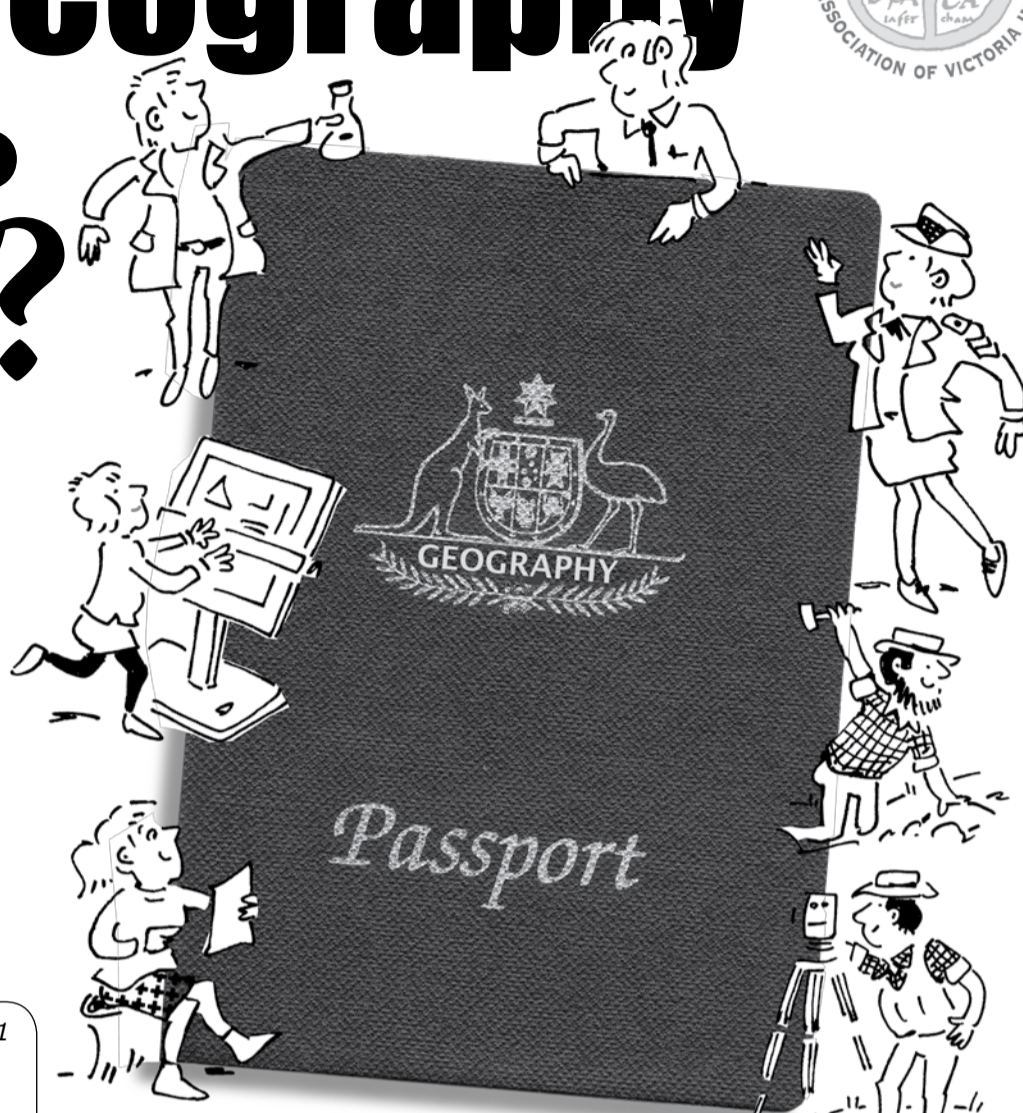
VCE Geography

The key ideas of VCE Geography

- assessment of resources
- planning and decision-making
- management of resources useful to people
- problem solving

This requires students to:

- think clearly and broadly
- make associations between ideas
- undertake individual inquiry as research and in the field
- make informed decisions and justify them
- process information concisely
- present a well supported point of view
- effectively present and integrate visual information



Geographers head in the right direction

University requirements

Courses list prerequisites. Humanities subjects are generally not specified. Geography is specifically listed at Monash University for the following courses:

Arts/Science; Biotechnology; Communication/Science; Journalism/Science; Science; Science Advanced with Honours; Science/Business and Commerce; Science/Education (Primary); Science/Education (Secondary); Science/Law.

Geography develops and enhances a range of valuable skills and ideas

It is a challenging and interesting study which develops the ideas and skills listed in Figure 2.

Geography graduates find jobs

A survey was undertaken of university graduates who had taken geography as one of their subjects. Many of these graduates indicated it was their geography skills and training that primarily helped them to find professional employment in the areas shown in Figure 3.

Include Geography in your passport to a successful future

Senior Geography students have gone on to a broad range of careers. Jobs for Geographers (Figure 4) shows a variety of pathways to which Geography has contributed.

Source: Adapted from VICTER (Victorian Tertiary Entry Ranking) 2011 handbook, July 2008, VTAC

Note: Students are advised to confirm the information listed in this table in consultation with their VCE course adviser.

Figure 3

GEOGRAPHY IN THE WORKPLACE

Science/Engineering

Remote sensing
Surveying
Meteorology
Engineering
Agricultural science
Forest science
Geology
Hydrology
Vulcanology
Seismology
Oceanography

Mathematics/Computing

Surveying
Geographical Information Systems
Remote sensing
Cartography

Commerce

Advertising
Business administration
Ecotourism
Market research
Public relations
Retailing
Transport
Manufacturing
Office management
Real estate
Mining
Land development
Industrial planning
Property management
Resource management
Energy planning

Environment

Forestry
Conservationist
Agriculture
Policy analyst
Recreation management
Wildlife management
Environment monitoring
Environment assessment
Hazard assessment
Land degradation
Waste disposal management
Energy planning

Planning/Design

Urban planner
Town planner
Social planner
Architecture
Landscape architecture
Land development
Cartography
Surveying
Transport planning
Electoral planning
Land use planning

Humanities

Law
Administration
Government services
Teaching
Politics
Diplomatic service
Journalism
Tourism
Education
Hospitality/travel
Population planning
Social work
Social planning
Emergency services

Physical geography

Hydrology
Vulcanology
Seismology
Oceanography
Meteorology

Source: The Place of Geography in Your Career Choice, AGTA, 2002

Figure 4

JOBS for Geographers

Name: Sarah Greenwood-Smith

Job description: Environmental Scientist (Geomorphologist) for a private environmental consulting firm in Melbourne.

Education background

I completed a double degree—a Bachelor of Science with a major in environmental science and botany, and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in physical geography. I studied subjects such as environmental hydrology, water resources, geomorphology, environmental studies and sustainable development, environmental politics and management and Geographical Information Systems.

Name: David Hicks

Job Description: Interior Designer

Educational background

I selected Geography due to its similarity to graphic design and architectural studies. This was a subject that I enjoyed as I was very interested in building and design. Mapping and investigating the erosion of materials by people and natural processes was very interesting and has helped me in my further studies. When I left school I studied for my Bachelor Arts Interior Design in Interior Design at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

Name: Sarah Caruana

Job description: Environment and community graduate, Xstrata Coal (NSW)

Education background

I completed a Bachelor of Environmental Science with Honours majoring in Land resources at the University of Wollongong. The Geography strand of the degree overlapped into biology, chemistry, geology and environmental engineering subjects. GIS and spatial science became increasingly important towards the end of the degree.

Name: Bernard Salt

Job description: Director KPMG Property Melbourne. My job involves preparation of economic impact assessments for the planning process.

Education background

I completed my VCE Geography in 1974 at Terang High School (Victoria). This was followed by Rusden Teachers College between 1976 and 1979 to complete a Bachelor of Education (Geography and History). I then moved to Monash University to complete a Master of Arts degree Geography in 1980–1984.

Name: Claire Bransgrove

Job description: Planner, Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE)

Education background

In Year 12 it was one of my favourite subjects so I asked my VCE geography teachers about possible careers in geography. I studied for a Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development at Melbourne University, which I completed last year. As part of my degree I went on a study tour of Europe to experience how other cities and towns function.

Name: Linda Gregoriou

Job Description: Urban geographer and Managing Director of FTB Group Pty Limited, a property development company formed by Linda in 1997.

Education background

I studied geography through to year 12 and then completed an Arts degree at Monash University. After completing a double degree in urban geography and urban sociology, I also undertook a post-graduate course in urban design and planning at the Victorian University of Technology. I have completed a Masters in Urban Economics from Sydney's UTS.

Name: Georgia van Rooijen

Job description: GIS Advisor, Australian Volunteers International

Education background

I studied all different types of mapping at university including surveying, GIS, photogrammetry and remote sensing. My role as an advisor varied from capacity building to technical support, facilitating a 3D mapping trial of a village, to building links with the government at the national level.

Name: Brooke Connor

Job description: Parks Victoria Ranger, Queenscliff

Educational background

I studied geography throughout high school and then completed a Bachelor of Social Science with majors in geography and environmental science. I am currently undertaking a Graduate Diploma of Education to allow me to deliver relevant fieldwork sessions for secondary students in their geography studies.

Name: Belinda Dooley

Job description: Geographic Information Systems Development Officer.

Education background

I graduated from Monash University Melbourne with an honours degree in environmental science in 1998, majoring in geography. The degree offered at Monash was a multi-disciplinary course that provided a wide range of theory, laboratory and field knowledge across the whole spectrum of environmental science.

Name: Rebecca Bartley

Job description: Geomorphologist with CSIRO division of Land and Water based in Atherton in North Queensland.

Education background

I completed a Bachelor of Science Degree from Sydney with Honours in Physical Geography and Marine Science. I then worked for twelve months with the Department of Land and Water Conservation in NSW before heading back to complete a PhD at Monash University in Melbourne. I submitted my thesis in December 2001.

Name: Dr Sarah Ewing

Job description: Council member, Victorian Catchment Management Council

Education background

I studied Geography all through my years at university in conjunction with related science subjects such as geology and botany. I enjoyed it so much I kept going and completed a Master of Science based in Townsville, studying floods on the Herbert River. Later, I chose to train as a teacher, work on the "Saltwatch" program, and complete a PhD on "Landcare", a community-based movement working to tackle land management issues.

Source: Various editions of Interaction