

I am a Geographer ...



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As a volcanologist I get to travel the world, climbing volcanoes and collecting rock samples which can help determine how big and how often eruptions have occurred in the past. I then use the data collected in the field to run computer models and try to work out where volcanic hazards might occur in the future and what impact they will have on communities living at risk.

I use my understanding of Geography every day whether it be mapping sample locations on active volcanoes using GPS, reconstructing past volcanic landscapes from eruption deposits or modelling future impacts on communities through the development of volcanic hazard maps.

I work in a multidisciplinary team of seismologists, tsunami scientists, meteorologists, demographers and built-environment spatial scientists, all of whom have a background in Geography which is an important part of any earth scientist's training.

I loved all the science subjects in high school including Physics, Chemistry and Biology but Geography seemed to me an excellent way to apply science to real world problems, not just theorise, and this led to my career in earth science.

Geographers working in volcanology can find themselves working outdoors monitoring active volcanoes in observatories worldwide — or in university and government institutions where science is applied to solving real world problems such as helping communities in developing countries prepare for, or recover from, volcanic eruptions. Or like me, they can do both!