

I am a Geographer ...

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Unfortunately, Geography (or Environmental Science) wasn't offered as a VCE subject at my secondary school, but I did study Geography at university. I studied a Bachelor of Environmental Science, completing a double major in Geographical and Environmental Science *and* Ecology and Conservation Biology. The Geography component was quite varied and included GIS (Geographical Information Systems) and remote sensing, climatology, sustainable cities planning, soil and vegetation relationships and even the geopolitics of climate change.

I use GIS to create maps of catchment features to analyse spatial relationships and help my organisation to make regional natural resource management decisions. This includes interpreting flood modelling data, building maps of priority actions and collating information about on-ground works. I'm also involved with monitoring catchment conditions at a regional scale, which is reported against the Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy. My role is based in the GIS team, so I work quite closely with other geographers/spatial scientists. I also work with hydrologists and hydro-ecologists.

Studying Geography provided me with an understanding about how different natural processes, such as the water cycle, interact with one another and I can apply this to a natural resource management context. I use this knowledge to help the organisation develop integrated catchment management activities.

I like how Geography incorporates a variety of natural science disciplines and shows how they interact with each other and the human environment. As a geographer, I'm exposed to subjects like geology, hydrology, climatology, soil science, biology and climate-change science. It's a very dynamic and variable field.

There is a variety of career opportunities for geographers from local government, research, defence, natural resource management etc. Try to have a think about what sort of industry you would like to work in and research the job requirements, then tailor your studies accordingly. In this field, lots of jobs will list experience in GIS as a desirable skill. I would encourage enthusiastic geographers to volunteer or go on placement while studying.

