What is Geography?
Geography is the study of the Earth's peoples, environments, and landscapes. Geography is unique in that it bridges the social sciences and natural sciences. The central theme is one of *space* and *place*. Modern Geographers ask where things are located on the surface of the Earth, why they are located where they are, how places differ from one another, and how people interact with the environment. This includes differing environments, landscapes, cultures, political systems and economies.

Geographers also study the linkages between human activity and natural systems, and challenges related to sustainability. Geographers were among the first scientists to sound the alarm that human-induced changes to the environment were beginning to threaten life at a global scale. They are active in the study of global climate change, desertification, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, pollution, urban waste management, planning, health, ocean conservation and flooding, amongst other areas.

The Nature of Geography at UVic
Geography at UVic is taught in four areas: biophysical systems, human geography, geomatics, and environment and sustainability. We are one of the three largest Geography Departments in Canada in terms of the numbers of Majors and offer both BA and BSc degrees. Students can pursue concentrations in geomatics, coastal studies, resource management, urban and development studies, and earth systems to give additional focus. Our graduate programme offers both Masters and PhD degrees and is again one of the largest in Canada. We have a strong orientation to applied and field studies, and conduct our research throughout the world.

What will you learn?
The Department of Geography is committed to providing high-quality undergraduate education in a stimulating and supportive environment. The Geography programs offer comprehensive training in critical thinking skills, data collection and analysis, research methodologies, and oral and written communication. A Geography degree will allow you to acquire skills that are extremely valuable in today's job market or prepare you for graduate studies.

Real Life Learning
The Cooperative Education option (COOP) within the BA and BSc programmes provide for some Geography students to obtain relevant work experience while completing their degree requirements. Students who successfully complete the COOP and academic requirements for the BA or BSc programmes offered by the Department of Geography will receive a notation to this effect on their transcripts at graduation.

Job Opportunities for Graduates
Human geographers work in areas such as urban and regional planning, transportation, marketing, real estate, tourism, health management, and international business. Physical geographers study patterns of climates, landforms, vegetation, soils, and water. Geographers forecast the weather, manage land, water and wildlife resources, and analyze and plan for parks and protected areas, forests, rangelands, and wetlands. Many human and physical geographers have skills in cartography, remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and we are strong supporters of community mapping initiatives.