

Have you thought about studying Geographic Information Science (GIS)? Add the location factor to your qualification!

Geospatial information, also known as location information, tells us where features and places are, how they relate to one another, and how they can change over time. It ranges from the physical features on, above or below the earth's surface to information about property boundaries, traffic and people, weather, health issues and hazards.

Location information is being used increasingly by businesses and government to improve their analysis and decision making.

By adding GIS papers to your tertiary qualification, you can open up a whole world of career opportunities.

What is GIS?

GIS stands for Geographic Information Systems - information systems that work with spatial data, ranging from nationwide databases of property boundaries to the location based services on your mobile phone. These information systems capture, store, manage, analyse and visualise spatial data in a software environment.

GIS also means Geographic Information Science, the science that underlies Geographic Information Systems and their use.

Are there job opportunities?

Globally, there is a shortage of skilled GIS professionals. According to a report commissioned by Google, geospatial services are growing by 30% per annum globally. There are good job opportunities for GIS graduates in New Zealand, with positions across the business sector, central and local government and iwi.

www.careers.govt.nz (search 'geospatial') has more information on the sorts of jobs available, and how to ensure you have the right qualifications.

Where can I study GIS?

GIS papers are taught across New Zealand - from Whangarei to Invercargill.



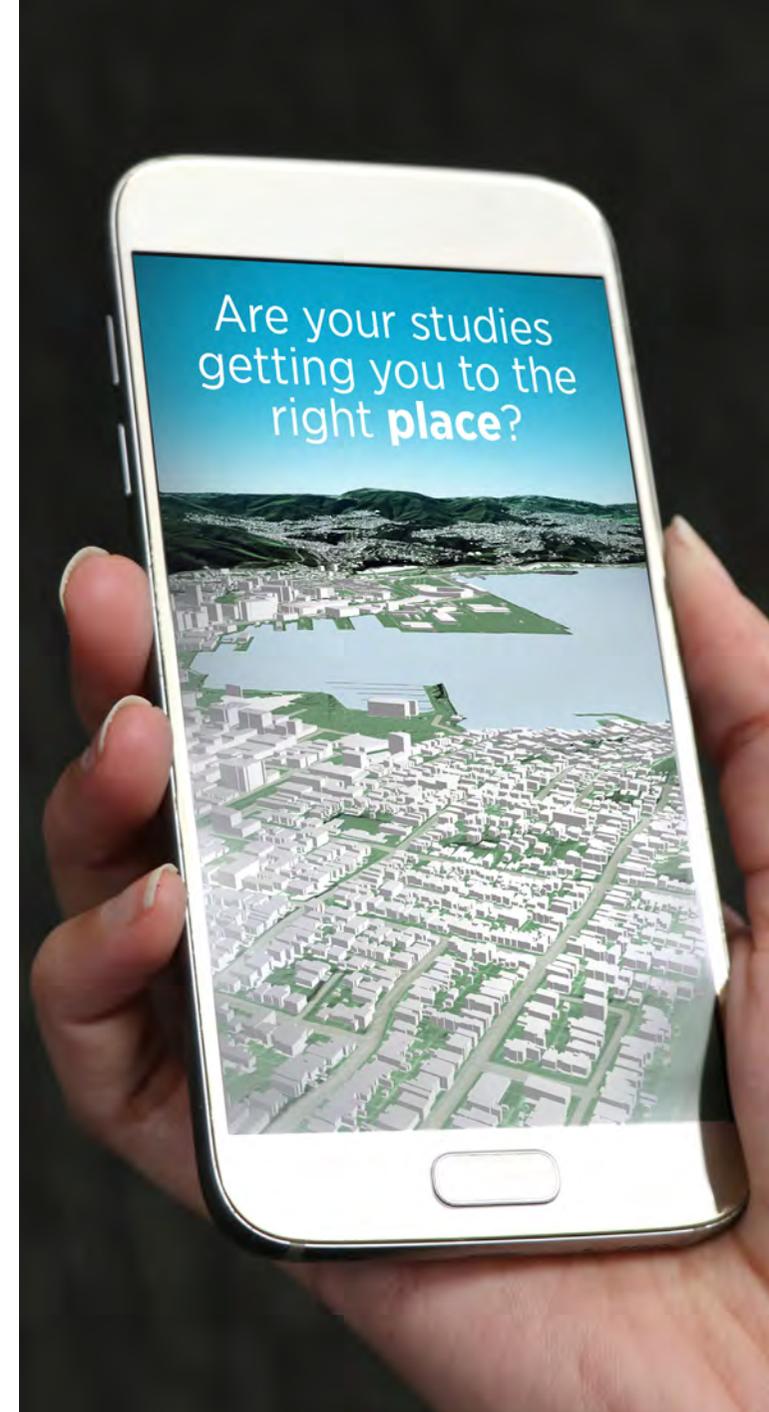
A full list of GIS courses and qualifications is available at www.linz.govt.nz/studying-gis

Check out scholarship options for New Zealand tertiary GIS studies at www.linz.govt.nz/gis-scholarship-options

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Cover 3D image was made using LINZ building outlines, Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and Digital Surface Model (DSM) data. Check out all the digital geospatial data that is accessible for free from the LINZ Data Service - www.data.linz.govt.nz.

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Add **location** to your degree...



There's always something to learn in GIS... I'm always seeing innovative ways GIS is being applied, it's exciting.

Sam Williamson

- GIS Technical Solutions Consultant at Eagle Technology
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Applied Geology, GIS minor) at University of Otago

"GIS gives you a different perspective to the domain you're currently studying. Everything is located somewhere and can be studied with a geographic perspective, whether it's physical or cultural."



Tristan McHardie

- GIS Administrator at Waikato Regional Council
- Previously Waters Asset Information Analyst at Waikato District Council
- Bachelor of Computer Science and Master of Social Science (GIS specialisation) at University of Waikato

"You'll be surprised at just how often you can make use of GIS, and an introductory paper will give you a taste. Even if you don't plan on becoming a GIS practitioner, knowing that GIS exists and what its capabilities are could be incredibly useful further down the track."



Rebecca McMorran

- Senior Transport Analyst, Transport Strategy Team at the Wellington City Council
- Previously Senior Analyst, Analysis and Research Group at the Ministry of Education
- Postgraduate Diploma in Geographic Information Science at Victoria University of Wellington and Bachelor of Applied Economics at Massey University, Palmerston North

"GIS skills can be applied over a wide range of vocations and will be undeniably useful in today's society where online maps and data visualization are part of people's everyday activities."

Knowledge of GIS systems and the ability to analyse data in a spatial context is a very sought after skill, in a fast-growing field.



Kelly Hayhurst

- Graduate Ecologist at Auckland Council
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Biodiversity) at Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland

"Definitely add a GIS component to your studies – it is extremely versatile and rewarding when you create a professional map to suit whatever work you are doing. Persevere through it and have patience."

Tania Te Hira-Mathie

- Geospatial Information Analyst at Department of Conservation
- Bachelor of Science (Anthropology) at University of Auckland, Postgraduate Diploma in Geographic Information Science at Auckland University of Technology

"For me, GIS allows me to follow my original passion and interest in anthropology and archaeology, just through a different path. It really opens doors for me to work all over New Zealand – as well as internationally."

I wanted to learn the skills I need to help my iwi, and make a contribution to resolving surrounding environmental issues.



Nikora Warren Heitia

- Research Assistant, Maori Policy Team at Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- Bachelor of Environment Studies at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiarangi, Whakatāne

"GIS is a prominent component today across so many sectors, and especially with managing environmental issues. It's a huge advantage to hold skills in GIS and I'd encourage anyone to add some GIS papers to their studies."

It will change the way you view data and information, and how you approach challenges ... take some risks – you'll be surprised at what you learn.

