

Cartographer

As a cartographer, you'll be involved with the scientific, technological and artistic aspects of developing and producing maps.

Cartography, also known as geodata visualisation, essentially means taking geographical and geospatial data and transforming it into a map. You'll also present information in diagrams, charts and spreadsheets. Maps and detailed geographical information are needed for a range of purposes, from everyday use by individuals to large-scale industrial development. Use of geographical information systems (GIS) and digital mapping techniques now dominates the role.



Skills:

You'll need to show:

- an interest in geography and the environment
- a keen eye for detail as much of the work involves careful research and the collection and manipulation of data
- an eye for layout and design, good spatial awareness and colour vision
- IT literacy
- analytical ability and problem-solving skills
- teamworking skills in order to produce maps quickly and effectively
- a methodical and systematic approach to work
- high standards of accuracy and attention to set procedures
- the ability to interpret data, graphical representations and symbols
- the ability to work independently.

Qualifications:

As there aren't any undergraduate degrees specifically in cartography, you'll typically need a spatial science degree. Relevant subjects include: earth sciences/geographic information science/geographic information technologies/geographical information systems (GIS)/geography and geology/geomatics and geoinformatics/land surveying/mapping and geospatial data science/oceanography. Other useful subjects include design, computer science and software engineering. Look for courses that include modules or courses in cartography. It's also possible to get into cartography at trainee technician level straight from school or college or by completing an apprenticeship. If you want to work in the public sector, you'll need GCSEs (or equivalent) in English language and maths, although sometimes geography is preferred. For entry at higher level, you'll need a minimum of five GCSEs, including maths and English, and two A-levels.

Working hours:

You'll usually work typical office hours (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday). However, you may need to work longer hours when meeting publication or project completion deadlines.

Salary:

- Starting salaries typically range from £18,000 to £22,000.
- With experience, you can earn between £20,000 and £30,000.
- At senior level, you'll typically earn around £30,000 to £47,000.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/cartographer>

