

# GIS for Mapping – Visualising Spatial Data

This document gives a range of useful information for this course including general information, a course schedule, assessment information and how to get help. Ready to enrol? Take the next step at [uonline.ac.nz/online-courses/gis-for-mapping](https://uonline.ac.nz/online-courses/gis-for-mapping).

## General Information

Item	Description
<b>Course Length</b>	<p>GIS for Mapping is designed to be completed over 8 weeks plus a 2-week period of assessment review and feedback.</p> <p>While you have the option of moving through the course at your own pace, we recommend committing around 6.5 hours a week over 8 weeks (see the suggested schedule below).</p>
<b>Course Description</b>	<p>This course will explain the basics of geographic information systems mapping (GIS), and then introduce the skills you'll need to create maps to visualise data using open-source GIS software. Throughout this, you will develop practical map-making skills that can be applied directly to your line of work.</p>
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Once you've successfully completed this course, you'll be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of spatial data.</li> <li>• Compile appropriately formatted spatial data.</li> <li>• Utilise software (QGIS) to manipulate, classify, and visualise data.</li> <li>• Generate a map using spatial data relevant to your work or area of interest.</li> <li>• Reflect on the application of GIS to relevant real-world situations.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning Impact</b>	<p>You will acquire practical map-making skills that will let you visual and interpret data relevant to your line of work.</p>
<b>Delivery</b>	<p>All UC (University of Canterbury) Online courses are fully online. You can learn anywhere, any time, and you won't need to visit a campus.</p>
<b>Estimated hours per week</b>	<p>We estimate your engagement will be 50 hours total (about 6.5 hours a week over 8 weeks).</p>
<b>Qualification</b>	<p><b>Micro-credential:</b> This is a standalone course that recognises the achievement of specific skills, experience, or knowledge.</p> <p>If you successfully complete the micro-credential your results will be recorded on an academic transcript and be recognised through a digital badge you can add to your LinkedIn profile or online CV.</p>
<b>Academic points</b>	<p>Each course has a points value that reflects the workload for the course.</p> <p>Successful completion from this course will result in you being awarded 5 points at NZQF level 5.</p>
<b>Recommended prior learning</b>	<p>There are no prerequisites for this course – it is open to anyone who has confidence listening, reading, and writing in English with an interest in learning to use GIS software.</p>

	<p>While UC Online has accessibility at the heart of its course design, GIS for Mapping uses an external software, QGIS, which has limited support for low vision and blind users – feel free to review their <a href="#">software and documentation</a>.</p> <p>However, it is recommended that learners have confidence listening, reading, and writing in English with an interest in learning to use GIS software. Learners must also have University Entrance or an equivalent.</p>
<b>Who is this course for?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data scientists and marketers</li> <li>• Business, industry, and policy analysts, and researchers</li> <li>• Property developers and distributors</li> <li>• Anyone requiring a basic understanding of GIS for their work</li> </ul>
<b>Technology Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We recommend a laptop or desktop computer and a reliable internet connection.</li> <li>• A PDF reader (like Adobe Acrobat Reader DC) to download PDFs with assessment instructions.</li> <li>• Word processing software (like Microsoft Word or Google Docs) to complete your assignments.</li> </ul>
<b>How the course works</b>	<p>You'll need to work through this course sequentially. It's divided into 4 modules that you'll work through over eight weeks. Use the navigation block on the left to move from one module to another. Each module includes the following material:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific <b>learning objectives</b> and module <b>introduction</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Topic content</b> using a range of media.</li> <li>• <b>Activities</b> to apply what you've learnt and/or discuss with your peers and facilitator.</li> <li>• A <b>quiz</b> to assess understanding of key concepts.</li> <li>• A list of <b>references</b> used in the module topic content.</li> <li>• A <b>'temperature check' survey</b> to seek your feedback about your experience as a learner.</li> </ul> <p>You will gain access to the following module only if you complete content in the previous module.</p>
<b>Assessment</b>	To receive a passing grade for this course, you need to have attempted all activities and to have received an overall grade of at least 50%. For more details see the assessment schedule below.
<b>Pricing</b>	<p>Domestic learners: <b>\$300</b> incl. GST  International learners: <b>\$1200</b> incl. GST</p> <p><b>Note:</b> GST is only applicable for learners living in New Zealand during their study.</p>

## Course structure & schedule

Week	Module	Assessment
0-1	Getting started	
	About this course	
1	1: What is spatial data?	Module 1 Quiz Module 1 Discussion Forum
2	2: Where is spatial data?	Module 2 Quiz

		Module 2 Discussion Forum
3-4	3: What do you do with spatial data?	Module 3 Quiz Module 3 Discussion Forum Reflection and planning assignment
5-7	4: How do you classify and visualise spatial data?	Module 4 Quiz
8	Conclusion	Make a Map Assignment

## Assessment

There are 4 assessments in this course:

Assessment	Name	Weight	Due date	Feedback
1	Quizzes (x4)	20% (4 x 5%)	End of Module 1, 2, 3, 4	Immediate feedback on correct and incorrect responses.
2	Discussion Forums (x3)	30% (3 x 10%)	End of Module 1, 2, 3	Feedback from facilitator within one week
3	Reflection & planning assignment	10%	After completion of Module 3	Feedback from facilitator within two weeks
4	Make a map assignment	40%	End of week 8	Feedback from facilitator within two weeks

Your course total grade is calculated based on the weighting of each assessment. To pass the course you need a course total of over 50 (out of 100).

You may attempt each assessment up to two times. You do not need a passing grade for every single assessment, but you do need to engage with/complete all assessments.

You will find more information about each assessment, including instructions and submission links in the UC Online course (use the navigation block on the left to access the Assessment section).

## How to get help

- For general help on how to use the UC online learning environment, select Help at the top of the course screen.
- If can't find the answer that you are looking for, please email UC Online Learner Support: [support@uonline.ac.nz](mailto:support@uonline.ac.nz).