

# Description of Possible Research Topics in the Field of Geography

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Geography offers a wide variety of research topics as it is both a natural and social science. As this is the international conference of young scientists in the field of social sciences, students are expected to focus on the sphere of social geography. Some topics from the sphere of physical geography may be approved, but they must be related to certain aspects of social geography. The priority areas are as follows:

1. **Social Geography** – Research topics may include social influence on geographical characteristic, environmental factors' impact on the society, as well as population, anthropogeography, the geography of settlements, economic and political geography. Students can also explore the factors deciding the location of industrial zones, factories, companies as well as particular social phenomena, such as why particular social structures are characteristic of certain regions or the emergence of different religions in different environments etc.
2. **Tourism** – Research topics may include the influence of touristic activities on social characteristics. Students can also explore physical characteristics of particular regions, which influenced the development of specific kinds of tourism and touristic activities (festivals, manifestations etc.). Research on globalization affected the loss of authenticity and its impact on tourism is also possible.
3. **Environmental Protection** – This interdisciplinary field allows students to explore a wide variety of topics. However, topics must be related to social phenomena. Students can explore overpopulation, social ecology, demographic ecology, human ecology, the influence of political parties on environmental protection, the influence of religion on people's attitudes towards nature etc. Topics may also be related to various ecologic determinisms (ecologism, technophobia, ecologic finalism – eco-catastrophism, eco-humanism, eco-exclusion and naturism, environmentalism, eco-feminism, eco-fascism etc). Research can also be focused on how nations join forces to combat various global issues and the overall success in passing international conventions and agreements and their influence on the advancement and protection of the environment. Topics on sustainable development, climate change, international efforts to preserve biodiversity, the ozone layer etc. are also possible.
4. **Spatial Planning** – Research topics may be on rural and urban planning, the development of green and smart cities, the influence of physical characteristics on the location of settlements, and the activities of their inhabitants, as well as the historical development of spatial planning as a scientific discipline. Students can also explore the rudiments of spatial planning and the application of geographic information technologies as well as the factors, which affected the reduction and disappearance of population in particular areas and the overpopulation in others.
5. **Demography** – Research topics may include overpopulation, migrations, natural increase, the standard of living, life expectancy, the decrease in population in the developed countries and the increase in the developing countries, social structures and characteristics etc. Students can also explore natural factors affecting the population as

well as climate migrations, which are foreseen to become increasingly more common by the end of the century.

6. **The Influence of Economic Activities on the Scenery** – Research topics may include the change in physical characteristics of certain areas caused by resource exploitation, settlement expansion, turning different ecosystems into agricultural areas, the influence of energy-producing constructions and facilities on the area (thermal power plants, hydroelectric power plants) etc. Students are expected to provide a detailed and complex overview of benefits and drawbacks of particular economic activities.
7. **Physical Geography in the Context of Human Use** – Students can explore the influence of various natural characteristics and phenomena on the development of civilisations and societies, the placement of settlements and their inhabitants, lifestyles, development of culture and its influence on economic activities etc.