

Geologist

Read rocks to find metals, water and oil, and to work out what the ground will do next.

TYPICAL PAY

\$104,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$64k to \$208k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Mine sites, exploration camps,
consulting offices, government su...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Chemistry, physics, math and earth science if your school has it. Get comfortable being outdoors in bad weather.
- 2 Bachelor of Science (BSc) in geology or geoscience** 4 years
Four years, including a field school. Make sure the program is accredited for registration in your province.
- 3 Summer field work** Each summer
Exploration crews, government surveys or mine sites. This is how you get hired after graduation.
- 4 Geoscientist in training** About 4 years
Register with your provincial body and work under a registered geoscientist while you log experience.
- 5 Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo)** After the experience
Pass a professional practice and ethics exam, have your experience reviewed, and get your registration.

Pros and cons

- + Paid to work outdoors in parts of Canada most people never see
- + Strong pay once you are registered
- + Clear licensed career ladder
- Long stretches away from home in camps
- Hiring swings hard with metal and oil prices
- Bugs, weather, bears and physically demanding traverses

Good to know

Canada holds the oldest rock on Earth

Rocks on the eastern shore of Hudson Bay in northern Quebec have been dated at roughly 4 billion years old, among the oldest known anywhere. The Canadian Shield covers about half the country and is t...

Only a registered geoscientist can sign a resource estimate

Canadian securities rules require that a public mining company's technical reports be prepared by a qualified person, usually a registered geoscientist or engineer. Those signatures move share pri...

Optional boosts

Mineral exploration. Mine geology. Petroleum geology. Engineering and environmental geology.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Geologist in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta
Professional Geoscientists Ontario
University of British Columbia: Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/geologist>



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