Spatial science is about measuring, recording, managing and communicating information about the Earth’s surface – land, sea, rivers, lakes, roads and other built structures.

What sort of work is it?

If you enjoy variety, challenges and a mixture of outside and inside work, you might consider a job in surveying. Land surveyors gather information for land development and work out boundaries. Cadastral surveyors are specially licensed land surveyors who conduct land title surveys. Hydrographic surveyors measure and map the location of land features under water.

Geospatial analysts interpret the data that’s been gathered, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to create maps and 3D models. Geospatial software developers create software that manages geographical data and related online services. Geospatial specialists are employed by: councils; government departments and agencies; specialist consultancy companies; large companies working in industries such as forestry, transport, construction, mining and telecommunications; and universities.

“Land Surveying is a unique blend of maths, measurement, design and spatial science, combined with the opportunity to work outdoors. Surveyors work with other professionals on a variety of projects – from small subdivisions to large land development and civil engineering construction projects. New Zealand surveyors are well trained and highly regarded in the construction industry.”

Mark Allan [Director, Eliot Sinclair]
President of the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors