Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- 4 year Honours undergraduate degree (or the equivalent). The program is suited to students with a wide range of educational backgrounds, including Environmental Studies, History, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Life Sciences, Engineering, Law, Philosophy and Art.
- Grade requirements: minimum cumulative GPA of 8.0.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.
- The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550 (or TOEFL IBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: February 1st.
- Notification of acceptance: As soon as possible after receiving the full application.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

MES students receive minimum funding of $14,000 per year for the two years of the program. This basic level of funding is pro-rated based on the duration of study. Your overall financial support will consist of graduate awards, external scholarships, internal fellowships and bursaries, teaching and research assistantships, research grants and/or support from the School of Environmental Studies.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES?

The Earth's environment is under stress, and the search for solutions is anything but simple. It requires an interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving and education. Our program emphasizes the diverse contributions of the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences to understanding and solving environmental problems.

Why QUEEN'S?

The MES program at Queen's University provides graduate level training in the field of Environmental Sustainability by practicing an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the long-term dynamics, impacts and management of environmental change, the connections between human decisions and tomorrow’s wellbeing, and the strong dependence of human progress on environmental quality. This program provides opportunities for joint projects with many disciplines at Queen's and RMC, government agencies and partnerships with community organizations.

Program STRUCTURE

The MES is offered with two methods of completion:
- Method I (Research – 2 years): Four half-credit courses, original research, thesis, seminars, formal defense
- Method II (Course based – 16 to 20 months): Development of conceptual thinking, analytical and interpretive skills. Six half-credit courses, seminars, library-based interdisciplinary paper.
Environmental Studies

**MES MAP**

**GETTING STARTED**

- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
  - Consider how your course papers can contribute to your essay or thesis.
  - Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Start to think about the audiences for your research.
  - If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, FRQ, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
  - Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the school Graduate Chair for tips on getting involved.
  - Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the School of Environmental Studies.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
  - Consider volunteering with different student groups and initiatives for sustainability.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options.
  - Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
  - Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- **COMPLETE YOUR COURSEWORK**
  - Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your essay or thesis.
  - Take additional training through the Analytical Research Unit (ASU) on chemical analysis techniques or contamination remediation.

- **ATTEND GRADUATE SEMINARS**
  - Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Water Initiative for the Future (WIF).
  - Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as ENSC 897: Seminars in Environmental Studies.
  - Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
  - Take part in the Environmental Studies Research Day.

- **EXPLORE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in multiple settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
  - Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
  - Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

- **PREPARE FOR WORK OR STUDIES**
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Research organizations of interest focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest.
  - Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start forming and connecting with people in your field of interest.
  - Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your essay or thesis.

**WRAPPING UP**

- **COMPLETE YOUR ESSAY OR THESIS**
  - Complete your essay or thesis.
  - Consider graduation; be sure to meet any final exams or other obligations.

- **START KEEPING AN EPORTFOLIO**
  - Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.

- **PUBLISH ON RESEARCH**
  - Consider publication options for your research.

- **PREPARE FOR WORK OR STUDIES IN A MULTI-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT**
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking Intercultural Competency Certificate.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Environmental Studies can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- **Knowledge and technical skills**
  - Communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences.
  - Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information.
  - Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands.

- **Professional skills**
  - Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions.
  - Creativity and innovation.
  - Persuasion.
  - Independence and experience as a collaborative worker.

- **Awareness**
  - Awareness of an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity.

- **Professionalism**
  - Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions.

- **Leadership**
  - Initiative and vision leading people and discussion.

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

A Master’s degree in Environmental Studies can take your career in many directions. Many of our MES students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Environmental protection – water quality, natural heritage planning, parks management, biodiversity conservation, wildlife management.
- Conservation and management of natural resources – forestry, energy, aggregates, minerals and metals, natural resources management.
- Environmental sustainability – education, monitoring, restoration, communication and public awareness, sustainable development management, policy and legislation.

Taking time to explore career options, build experiences, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.