Succeed in the workplace

What employers want

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES?

- Interdisciplinary perspective to understand environmental topics from a scientific, philosophical and ethical point of view
- Understand natural and human factors related to environmental problems
- Knowledge of local, national, and global environmental problems and issues
- Analytical skills to analyze data for trends and apply statistical tests
- Ability to interpret data from scientific experimentation and make conclusions based on research
- Experience with laboratory equipment
- Critical thinking to form, defend, and evaluate arguments and propose solutions
- Oral and written communication to create reports and give presentations
- Teamwork to work as a team on a long-term project
- Resource and time management

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Environmental Studies

Get to know ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Society has become more aware of the seriousness of environmental problems the world faces today and at the same time we have realized that solutions are not simple. No environmental issue can be treated in isolation from the society in which it exists. Therefore, to work in the environmental field, students need knowledge on the cause and magnitude of environmental problems, as well as expertise in planning, policy and other solutions within our complex socio-economic-cultural world.

The Environmental Studies programs require a concentration in the Sciences or the Social Sciences and the Humanities.

Environmental courses include core introductory science courses in areas such as Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Geological Sciences and Mathematics, plus integrative courses in subjects including Environmental History, Sociology, Economics, and Policy.

Degree OPTIONS

- Bachelor of Science (Honours)
- Major in Environmental Studies/ Specializations in Earth System Science, Environmental Biology, Environmental Chemistry, Environmental Geology, Environmental Life Sciences, Environmental Toxicology
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
- Minor in Environmental Studies
- Bachelor of Arts (General)
- Internship option available

A Common START

Students in our Faculty are admitted into Arts, Science or Computing but the focus is on a common first year. Through self-exploration, and while you settle into university life, you have the opportunity to work with our advisors and faculty to discover your real interests and identify opportunities for success.

Sometimes that discovery happens fairly quickly, and for other students it takes some work and time before the “ah-ha!” happens – either way your first year at Queen’s will be a great experience.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Many of our courses focus on the environment such as Environmental Toxicology and Chemical Risks, and Environment and Sustainability. To get to solutions we first discuss current issues in courses like Marine Environmental Issues, Wildlife Issues in a Changing World, and Global Water Issues. And once we have discussed issues and solutions we move to inform policy with courses such as Environmental Assessment or Environmental Policy.


That is a degree from Queen’s.

queens.ca/ensc
Environmental Studies MAJOR MAP

1ST YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
In first year take BIOL 111 or 103, GEOL 104, GPHY 101, 102, CHEM 112, and 6.0 units from MATH.
Each Plan will have at least one required first-year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Earth Centre or Queen’s Backing Action on Climate Change. See Queen’s Sustainability webpage, the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen’s Get Involved page for more ideas.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations.
See community organizations listed by the department, including SWITCH Ontario and the City of Kingston.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
The Queen's University International Centre is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience. Speak to a QUIP advisor or get involved in their programs, events and training opportunities.
Want to enhance your degree? Consider a certificate in International Studies or explore other certificates available.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

2ND YEAR

In second year take ENSC 203, ENSC 201 and ENSC 290 (if offered). Take 3.0 units of CLST 214, PHIL 203, PHIL 295, or RELS 235.
For course information on specializations, see the online Environmental Studies degree plan list.
Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

3RD YEAR

In third year take ENSC 301 and ENSC 390.
Take 9.0 units from the integrative science list.
Take 6.0 units from interdisciplinary social science and humanities list. See the department website for more details.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

Where could I go after graduation?
- Agriculture
- Air quality
- Architecture
- Bioethics
- Biotechnology
- Cartography
- Chemistry
- Climate change
- Conservation
- Energy
- Environmental management
- Fisheries and wildlife
- Forestry
- Geographic information systems
- Health administration
- Horticulture
- Human and environmental health and safety
- International development
- Land quality
- Landscape architecture
- Law
- Meteorology
- Mining
- Oceanography
- Parks and natural reserves
- Public administration
- Research and development
- Restoration and reclamation
- Sustainable development
- Toxicology
- Transportation
- Urban and regional planning
- Waste management
- Water quality

Consider joining professional associations like the Ontario Environment Industry Association and the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. Consider joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QIC3).

Investigate full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest. If interested, look for environmental opportunities through Planet Friendly.
Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps through volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

Consider joining a 12-16 month QUIP internship.
Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Connects. Check out Career Services networking workshops.
Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC.

Consider a 12-16 month QUIP internship
- Environmental opportunities through Planet Friendly

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIP’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

Some careers may require additional training.