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)
Medial / Minor in Environmental Studies
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Internship option available

“With both a Science option, and an Arts option, students in Environmental Studies can customize their degree and the way in which they look at the world in which we live.”

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.

Queen’s ADMISSION

BScH students apply to Queen’s Science (QS) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). Secondary School prerequisites include English 4U, Advanced Functions 4U, Calculus and Vectors 4U, plus 2 of Physics, Chemistry or Biology 4U or recognized equivalents.

BAH Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC website. Prerequisites include six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.

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.
Environmental Studies MAJOR MAP

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) (SPECIALIZATION, MAJOR, MINOR) | BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) (MEDIAL, MINOR) | BACHELOR OF ARTS (GENERAL)

1ST YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

In first year take BIOS 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 Banning Action on Climate Change. See Queen’s Sustainability webpage, the AMS Club Directory or the Queen’s Get Involved page for more ideas.

Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work through SWOP or Work Study.

Take more responsibility within different clubs or extracurriculars. Volunteer at organizations like the AMS Commission of Environment and Sustainability.

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 involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).

Watch for events in the School of Environment Studies through the department website. Start or continue volunteering with organizations.

Get 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.

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 QUIC 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.

Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3rd year exchange through your Faculty’s International Office.

Consider studying abroad in the summer: look into taking BIOS 307, a China-Canada field course, or ENSC 311 or ENSC 391 at the Castle.

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills. Check QUIC’s resources for ideas for to go abroad, and volunteer or attend one of their events.

Think about Internship Opportunities abroad related to Environmental Studies.

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.

Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Career Opportunities in Conservation and the Environment.

For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and get help thinking about grad school from Career Services. Check out what some of our grads are doing at our website.

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
Ecology
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

Some careers may require additional training.

Investigate full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest. If interested, look for environmental opportunities through Planet Friendly.

Remember to think about your future plans. If interested, look for opportunities related to careers of interest. If interested, look for environmental opportunities through Planet Friendly.

Consider joining professional associations like the Ontario Environment Industry Association and the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy.

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Environmental Studies.

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Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

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Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions.

Where could I go after graduation?

Agriculture
Air quality
Architecture
Bioethics
Biotechnology
Cartography
Ecology
Energy
Environmental management
Fisheries and wildlife
Forestry
Geographic information systems
Health administration
Horticulture
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International development
Land quality
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Visit careers queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
Environmental Studies
MAJOR MAP

How to use this map
Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

A balanced approach leads to long-term success. While you will learn a lot from your studies, taking time to get relevant experience outside of the classroom, build your network, and gain international experience, will position you to be more competitive in your job search or grad school applications.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

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.

Succeed in the workplace

What employers want
The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

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

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