Environmental Studies/Science

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 have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

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

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

Why study in Kingston?

For over 175 years, the Kingston community has been a collection of bright minds. We are proud that our city was named one of the 100 Intelligent Communities across the globe, an accolade largely due to the thousands of students who study here every single year. In fact, the BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world, which might be why Instagram named the city ‘the happiest place on the planet’. Just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York, Kingston is a safe and liveable city. Not only are we known as the freshwater sailing capital of the world, Kingston is arguably the birthplace of hockey. Wandering what to do while you’re attending school? Queen’s has more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and Kingston has more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America; your time here is guaranteed to be ‘fresh made daily’.

Environmental Studies/Science

Get to know ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES/SCIENCE

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, Geographical Sciences and Mathematics, plus integrative courses in subjects including Environmental History, Sociology, Economics, and Policy.

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.

A Year to CHOOSE
We often say that our students are like explorers. In Arts and Science, your first year is all about making choices and exploring new paths. Whether you are in Arts, Science or Computing, you will choose your courses from a wide variety of subjects as you settle into university life and become familiar with new styles of learning. By the end of your first year, you will have discovered your areas of interest, passion and success, and will then declare your major. Your first year, whether you consider it to be undeclared, undecided or simply a time for exploration, is bound to be a year full of adventure.

Degree PLANS

Bachelor of Science (Honours)
Major in Environmental Science / Specialization in Earth System Science, Environmental Biology, Environmental Chemistry, Environmental Geology, Environmental Life Sciences, Environmental Toxicology
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major in Environmental Studies
Internship option available
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) - MAJOR

1ST YEAR
- In first year BSCH take BIOL 111 or 103, ENSC 103, GPHY 104, 101, 102, CHEM 112 or CHEM 113/114, and 6.0 units from MATH.
- In first year BAH take Biod 103 or 111, ENSC 103, GPHY 101, GPHY 102, GEOL 104, 106, or 107. For a Medial in BAH choose 3.0 units from Math, Statistics or Chemistry.
- Build your transferable skills in time management, problem-solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

2ND YEAR
- In second year take ENSC 201 and ENSC 290 (if offered). Take 3.0 units of CLST 214, DEV 220, DEV 221, PHIL 203, PHL 293, or RELS 235, along with electives outlined in the Academic Calendar.
- For course information on specializations, see the online Environmental Studies degree Plan list.

3RD YEAR
- In third year take ENSC 301 and ENSC 390, 9.0 units from the integrative science list, and 6.0 units from interdisciplinary social science and humanities lists, along with other course requirements outlined in the Academic Calendar.
- 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.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
- Take remaining units of integrative science and interdisciplinary social science and humanities lists, along with ENSC 430 or ENSC 507.

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
- 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 RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
- 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 CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
- Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).
- Watch for events in the School of Environmental Studies through the department website. Start or continue volunteering with organizations.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking Queen’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
- Speak to a Queen’s advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

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.

Where could I go after graduation?
- Agriculture
- Air quality
- Architecture
- Bioethics
- Biototechnology
- Cartography
- Chemistry
- Energy
- Environmental management
- Fisheries and wildlife
- Forestry
- Geographic information systems
- Health administration
- Human and environmental health
- 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.

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!