

Environmental Studies MES Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

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. The MES program meets a growing student demand for post-graduate training relevant to environmental careers in industry, government, and non-governmental organizations. It responds to a strong market in Canada for professionals with environmentally related skills.

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 today's 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.



"The academic environment is excellent. The faculty is supportive, and the students are really friendly." – Atanu Sarkar, MES

- **Method II (Course based – 12 to 16 months):** development of conceptual thinking, analytical & interpretive skills. Six half-credit courses, seminars, library-based interdisciplinary paper.

land-use planning, governance, social justice, Indigenous studies, activism, and environmental philosophy.

Research Areas

- **Environmental Chemistry & Toxicology:** Analysis of chemicals, their pathways and fates in the environment, their effects on plants, animals, and humans, and remediation options.
- **Ecosystem & Human Health:** Application of a systems approach to understanding the impact of human activities on climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem functions, and human health.
- **Society, Culture & Economic Sustainability:** Finding solutions to environmental problems and sustainable living involving the investigation of cultural, social and economic systems.
- **Past projects have involved:**

Visit the [School of Environmental Studies website](#) to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members' research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact them and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.

Consider meeting with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students. We encourage you to identify a research area of interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

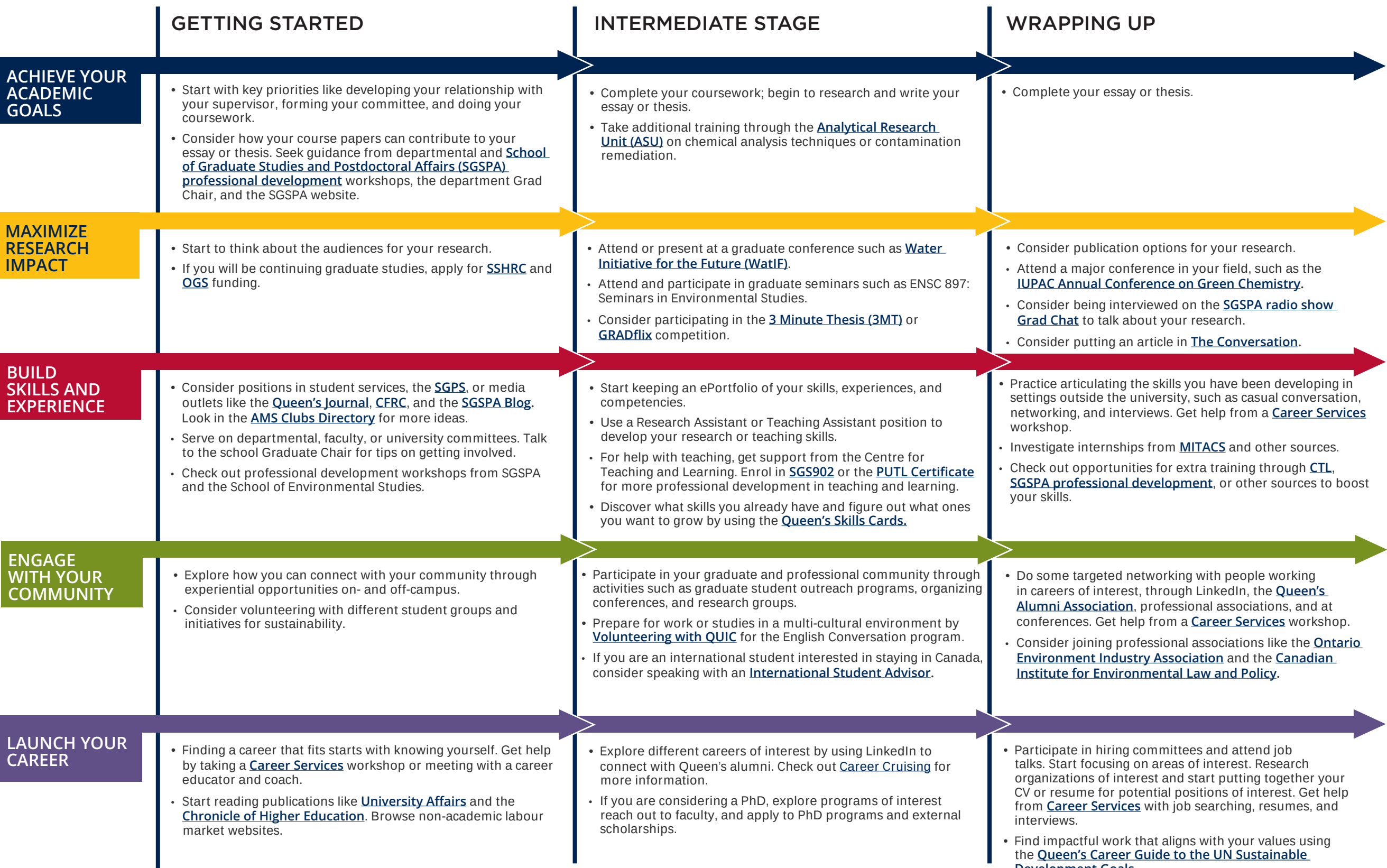


2026-2027

Environmental Studies

MES Map

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (MES)



Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Environmental Studies can equip you with:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective 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
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research, and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

Career Possibilities

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:

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

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

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. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: [careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps](#).

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the [SGSPA website](#) for available resources.

What is the community like?

Queen's offers graduate students from every discipline a close-knit intellectual community where they can learn, discover, and build lasting connections. With more than 130 graduate programs across 50+ departments and research centres, students benefit from world-class scholars, prize-winning professional development, generous funding packages, and life in the historic waterfront city of Kingston. The campus sits at the heart of Kingston, just a 10-minute walk from downtown's shops, restaurants, and waterfront, and is deeply integrated with the local community. For more on Kingston's history and culture, see Queen's University's Discover Kingston page.

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 B+.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- If English is not a first language, nor was the language of instruction in undergraduate studies, prospective students must meet English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening as part of the application process, and before final acceptance is granted, as per School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' regulations.

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?

Research-based MES students currently receive minimum funding of \$16,000 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. Students are encouraged to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, and other sources. For more information on awards and scholarships, consult the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' website.

