Environmental Science

Society has become more aware of the seriousness of the environmental problems we face. Yet, at the same time, we have realized that the solutions are not simple. To work towards environmental sustainability, people need to understand the scientific basis of environmental problems. They also need to have expertise in planning, policy, and other fields to deal with the social, economic, and cultural complexities that surround them.

TOP 5 Reasons To Study Environmental Science

1. Hands-on lab and field work. Get dirty, see results.
2. Gain transferable skills that employers want, while learning how to prepare arguments and solve problems.
3. Help create the future world in which you want to live.
4. The best way to find solutions: combining both the arts and the sciences.
5. Research-focused courses in upper years contribute to projects happening across Canada and around the world.

ALUMNI JOBS

- 5% of alumni work in UTILITIES
- 13% of alumni work in ENVIRONMENT
- 25% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT & LAW
- 33% of alumni work in EDUCATION

Alumni Story

“I think that it’s something that is really unique about our department. The fact that our program is so current with the issues our society is facing and that members of the department can unify over trying to find solutions to the problems.”

-Makenzie MacKay, BAH ’17

2023-24 Plan Thresholds

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit quartsci.com/planselection.

Interested in finding out how to augment your degree with Experiential Learning? Learn what opportunities and resources are available for you on the Experiential Learning website. You can also reach out to the team directly at asc.el@queensu.ca.


That is a degree from Queen’s.

queensu.ca/ensc
2023-2024

Environmental Science MAJOR M,
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS): MAJOR, SPECIALIZATION

1ST YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
In first year you will take ENSC 103, Environment and Sustainability, and you'll have the chance to explore the foundations of Environmental Science in biology, chemistry, geography, and geology along with some electives.
Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.
Interested in getting a head start in learning and working in a digital world? Take ASCX 150 and develop future-ready skills!

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Earth Centre or Queen’s Backing Action on the Climate Crisis. 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, including SWITCH Ontario and the City of Kingston.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by volunteering with Queen’s University International Centre.
Speak to a QUIC 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.

2ND YEAR

In second year you will take ENSC 230, Principles of Sustainability, and start going deeper into the discipline of Environmental Science, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Global Action and Engagement. Learn more about Certificates and Internship options.
Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.
Develop your entrepreneurial skills by participating in the Dean’s Changemaker Challenge (ASCX 200/300).

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work-Study.
Take more responsibility within different clubs or extracurriculars.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).
Watch for events hosted by the School of Environmental Studies such as the Colloquium Series. Start or continue volunteering with organizations.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a third year exchange through the International Programs Office.
Consider studying abroad in the summer: look into taking a Biology field course offered in an international location.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Explore different careers of interest in the Career Services Information Area.
For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

3RD YEAR

In third year you will take ENSC 330, Environment and Sustainability, and you'll have the chance to explore many areas of Environmental Science.
Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.
Interested in getting a head start in learning and working in a digital world? Take ASCX 150 and develop future-ready skills!

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
If interested in doing your work-study, you can do so through QSICSI.
Consider applying to do Queen’s Undergraduate Internship Program (QUIP) internship.

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

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a third year exchange through the International Programs Office.
Consider studying abroad in the summer: look into taking a Biology field course offered in an international location.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
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For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

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.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS): MAJOR, SPECIALIZATION
RD YEAR

Third year you will take ENSC 330, Applications of Sustainability, and have an opportunity to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of Environmental Science. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based projects that can lead to Graduate School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

Interested in working on a real-world problem with an actual client? Take ASCX 400 and develop your consulting and project-management skills.

What will I learn?

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

- 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
- To work as a team on a long-term project
- Resource and time management

Where can I go?

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

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Forestry
- Horticulture
- Land quality
- Meteorology
- Parks and natural reserves
- Transportation
- Waste management
- Water quality

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

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

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.

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 with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or proving your language skills. Ink about Internship Opportunities abroad at Environmental Studies.

Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the Queen’s Innovation Connector or the Queen's Innovation Connector (QICS). 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.

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.

Considering a 12-16 month QUIP internship for environmental opportunities through Planet Friendly.

For Environmental Opportunities through Planet Friendly.

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Environmental Science

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. Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Why study in Kingston?

For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen’s has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen’s has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.