Environmental Studies

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 multi-disciplinary nature of environmental problems. They need to have expertise in planning, policy, and many other fields in addition to scientific principles to deal with the social, economic, and cultural complexities that surround environmental issues.

ALUMNI JOBS

Gradsates of this program can pursue jobs in the private sector, government, and non-government organizations, as well as post-graduate studies.

Interdisciplinary training leads to opportunities in research, consulting, policy development, and projects working on specific problems.

Many will continue to professional degrees in law, planning, business, and public administration.

TOP 5 Reasons to study Environmental Studies

1. Dive in to messy, real-world problems. See academic knowledge in action, whether on campus or globally.
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.

Add a Certificate
- Data Analytics
- Disability and Physical Activity
- Employment Relations
- Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity
- French for Professionals
- Geographic Information Science
- Global Action and Engagement
- Indigenous Languages and Cultures
- International Studies
- Media Studies
- Sexual and Gender Diversity
- Urban Planning Studies

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 Studies

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS): MAJOR, JOINT HONOURS, MINOR

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, 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.

Volunteer on- or off-campus with different community organizations including SWITCH Ontario and the City of Kingston.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer on- or off-campus with different community organizations including SWITCH Ontario and the City of Kingston.

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 THINKING GLOBALLY

Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

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.

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.

Start focusing on areas of interest. Research the discipline of Environmental Studies, 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).

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

Take more responsibility within different clubs or extracurriculars.

2ND YEAR

In second year you will take ENSC 230, Principles of Sustainability, and start going deeper into the discipline of Environmental Studies, 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).

In third year you will take ENSC 230, Principles of Sustainability, and start going deeper into the discipline of Environmental Studies, 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).

If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Internship Opportunities.

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.

Do related

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.
To work as a team on a long-term project.

• 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 Studies can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master's or professional degree. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

• Communications & Public Awareness.
• Environmental assessment.
• Environmental conflict resolution.
• Parks and natural reserves.
• Policy and planning.
• Resource management.
• Transportation.
• Waste management.
• Water policy and governance.

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

What will I learn?

A degree in Environmental Studies can equip you with:

• 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.

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 workshops for help.

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.

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

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.

Apply for the Queen's Career Apprenticeship: Kingston (QCA:K).
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.