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 cooperation 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.

RESEARCH Areas
- Environmental Chemistry & Toxicology: Application of chemical, 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.

Program STRUCTURE
The MES is offered with two methods of completion:
- Method I (Research – 2 years): four half-credit courses, original research, thesis, seminars, final defense.
- Method II (Course based – 16 to 20 months): development of conceptual thinking, analytical & interpretive skills. Six half-credit courses, seminars, library-based interdisciplinary paper.
Environmental Studies

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (MES)

GETTING STARTED

- Start with high priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your essay or thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the school Graduate Chair for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the School of Environmental Studies.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different student groups and initiatives for sustainability.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career counsellor. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your essay or thesis.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Water Initiative for the Future (WIF).
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as ENSC 897: Seminars in Environmental Studies.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Take part in the Environmental Studies Research Day.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

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

WHERE CAN I GO?

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

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