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.
- **Method II** (Course based – 16 to 20 months): development of conceptual thinking, analytical & interpretive skills. Six half-credit courses, seminars, library-based interdisciplinary paper.

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.

“*The academic environment is excellent. The faculty is supportive, and the students are really friendly.*”

– Atanu Sarkar, MES

Visit the [School of Environmental Studies website](http://www.queensu.ca/sgs) 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 him/her 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.
Environmental Studies

GETTING STARTED

- Start with key 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 Graduate Chair, and the SGS Directory.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Consider volunteering with different student groups and initiatives for sustainability.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the School of Environmental Studies about how you can contribute.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Take part in the Environmental Studies Research Day.

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 of Environmental Studies about how you can contribute.
- 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.
- Consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

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 labour 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.
- Take additional training through the Analytical Research Unit (ARU) on chemical analysis techniques or contamination remediation.

WRAPPING UP

- Complete your essay or thesis.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Water Initiative for the Future (WattF).
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as ENSC 897: Expanding Horizons.
- 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 for careers 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

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links! * This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
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 native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: (1) TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

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?

MES students receive minimum funding of $14,000 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.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships.