

Environmental Studies



The environment consists of a highly complex set of interactive systems. Humans are a critical element of this network—it is increasingly obvious that the decisions made by individuals, institutions, governments and industries have a direct impact on the environment, communities and other individuals.

Therefore, it is critical, to both the present and future state of the environment, that dialogue and policy are well informed, thoughtful and inclusive.

The Environmental Studies program at Carleton is designed to educate and prepare informed, skilled individuals to participate in the design of sustainable solutions to environmental conflicts and to shape the larger environmental debates critical to our future.

Participation in environmental decision-making and intervention may focus on conservation, management of natural systems, development of institutional frameworks, public participation, communication, environmental education or research.

The Carleton advantage Applied work experience

The Carleton Environmental Studies program offers you the chance to gain practical experience while you study.

- **Intensive Field Course (ENST 2900)**—beginning as early as your second year, you may choose to enrol in the spring/summer term, where you will receive specialized hands-on training in a variety of applications.
- As a senior student, you will also have the opportunity to gain valuable environmental work experience through placements in a **practicum** offered in the fourth year of the Honours program.
- In addition, we encourage all our students to seek out **volunteer opportunities** with government and non-governmental agencies relevant to an area of interest.

The capital advantage

When you study environmental issues at Carleton, you will benefit from:

- the university's strategic location beside the Rideau River and the historic Rideau Canal;
- the many opportunities to gain first-hand experience with Canadian traditions of biodiversity conservation and environmental governance (including shared jurisdiction over the environment and resources); and

- the access to specialized national collections of environmental information and of federal government departments, as well as numerous head offices of environmental non-governmental organizations and businesses.

Choosing the right program

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Bachelor of Arts (General)

The Environmental Studies program at Carleton is a multidisciplinary program based on the social sciences, humanities and sciences. You will develop innovative interdisciplinary approaches to understanding the environment and human roles and responsibilities. You will also be encouraged to develop your own perspectives and approaches to environmental questions.

You will be able to select courses in a wide range of disciplines, including environmental science, law, political science, economics, geography, philosophy and psychology, as well as enrol in the integrative core courses in Environmental Studies at each level. Individual programs may be enriched by selecting from a wide range of courses offered by other departments.

At Carleton, we offer a Bachelor of Arts (General) degree and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Environmental Studies. Both programs consist of a core of required courses, as well as a number of program electives.

Stephanie Kittmer,
fourth-year Environmental Studies student, with a minor in Technology, Society, Environment Studies

As a transfer student from another university, enrolling in the Environmental Studies program at Carleton has been the best decision I've ever made. This program exposes you to real world social and environmental issues, while allowing you the opportunity to explore other programs and departments. During my time here, the faculty have been accessible, supportive, and engaged in helping me reach my full potential. Green jobs are in demand, and an Environmental Studies degree prepares you for them.

Do you want more information?
Please contact us at:

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Core courses

You will be required to take the following core courses in Interdisciplinary Science:

- *Introduction to the Environment* (ISCI 1001);
- *Natural Laws* (ISCI 2000);
- *Human Impacts on the Environment* (ISCI 2002).

If you are entering with 4 U/M science credits, you may request permission to substitute other first-year courses, including science courses, for the ISCI 1001 and ISCI 2000 courses. Other core courses include:

- *Envisioning Earth's Environments* (ENST 1001) or *People, Places and Environments* (ENST 1020/GEOG 1020) and *Global Environmental Systems* (GEOG 1010);
- Research Methods (a 2000-level credit from economics, geography, political science, psychology or sociology);
- *Nature and Environment* (ENST 2000);
- *Introduction to Environmental Ethics* (PHIL 2380);
- *Environmental Studies Colloquium* (ENST 3000);
- and either *Intensive Field Course* (ENST 2900); *Environments, Technology and Values* (PHIL 3380); *Law of Environmental Quality* (LAWS 3800); or *Religions and the Environment* (RELI 3710).

Honours program

If you are in the Honours program, your core courses should also include 0.5 credit in either *Human Genetics and Evolution* (BIOL 2106), *Earth Resources and Natural Hazards: Environmental Impacts* (ENSC 2001), *Intensive Field Course* (ENST 2900), or a science continuation course. As well, you will need to complete a seminar in *Environmental Studies* (ENST 4000), a practicum course (ENST 4001 or ENST 4002) and an Honours research project or essay in Environmental Studies (ENST 4906 or 4907). The fourth-year seminar (ENST 4000) uses case studies, action learning and research projects to give students competencies in analysis, synthesis and innovation for sustainable futures. We examine how social institutions respond to environmental concerns and how environmental priorities may be reflected in social, political and economic decision-making. The practicum (ENST 4001 or ENST 4002) offers valuable work experience in an external agency or organization involved with environmental issues.

Electives

In addition to the core courses identified above, you can select a series of courses from a list of Approved Environmental Studies electives (see the Environmental Studies program description in the

Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar at carleton.ca/cuuc). These courses can be arranged into theme groupings, including (but not restricted to) areas such as:

- environment, economy and development;
- environment, policy and law;
- environmental attitudes and ethics; and
- human population and the built environment.

You also have the flexibility to create your own theme from the approved program elective courses list and from selected other courses that are uniquely appropriate to your goals.

We also encourage field studies and field courses—previous offerings have included those in ecological planning, sustainable watersheds and mountain ecology in the Himalayas.

In planning your first-year program, you will need to consider the prerequisite first-year courses that are necessary for the advanced courses you wish to take later. (Please note that you can receive departmental permission to enter a course in another department if you do not have all of the prerequisites.)

First-year Seminars

First-year BA students are strongly encouraged to include a First-year Seminar (FYSM) in their first-year course load. Our First-year Seminars will get you away from the lecture hall and give you the chance, in a small class of no more than 30, to discuss and debate topics with your classmates and your professors. Although some FYSMs count as courses leading to a major, you do not have to choose a FYSM in your major discipline.

A sample first year

- 1.0 credit in *Envisioning Earth's Environments* (ENST 1001) or 0.5 credit in *People, Places and Environments* (ENST 1020/GEOG 1020) and 0.5 credit in *Global Environmental Systems* (GEOG 1010)
- 0.5 credit in *Introduction to the Environment* (ISCI 1001)
- 1.0 credit in an introductory social science course from anthropology, economics, law, psychology or sociology
- 1.5 credits in approved electives
- 1.0 credit in a First-year Seminar in any subject of interest

Future opportunities

By studying Environmental Studies, you will learn to use information from many sources as a basis for environmental decision-making. During this process, you will acquire a solid foundation in substantive environmental knowledge, as well as develop the specialized communication skills needed to actively promote yourself and your expertise.

The workplace

New areas of growth in today's job market include those in environmental sectors, where there is a need for individuals who are able to develop new knowledge and innovative applications to meet identified environmental needs. Growth areas in environmental fields include:

- sustainability policy and practice;
- environmental regulation;
- green enterprises;
- environmental assessment;
- environmental planning;
- recreation and ecotourism;
- environmental law and policy;
- environmental mediation;
- environmental information and communications;
- environmental education; and
- international environment and development.

Employment opportunities exist in government, teaching, private sector business, communications and consulting.

Today our graduates are working to replace toxic substances, create new environmental laws, educate the next generation, assist in international development, grow organic food crops, conduct environmental assessments and create sustainable futures for us all.

Graduate studies

Graduates of the Honours program may also be eligible to go on to graduate studies in a variety of fields, including environmental studies, geography, legal studies, planning, resource management, environmental assessment, sociology, political science, public administration, philosophy or related disciplines.

If you think you may wish to pursue advanced studies, you are encouraged to investigate graduate programs early in order to ensure that your Environmental Studies program is tailored to meet requirements at the graduate level.

Professional programs

You may also consider professional training in law or medicine—your environmental studies background will be a valuable asset in areas of specialization such as environmental law or environmental medicine.

FAQs

- 1. Why would I choose an Honours program?**
Honours or four-year programs have many advantages including offering more courses in your chosen field and access to co-op, internship and practicum opportunities, where available, as well as preparing you for graduate studies, professional programs and employment.
- 2. When do I have to declare a major?**
You will need to choose a major by the end of your first year. Course registration is generally easier for students who have declared a major, so even if you are not 100 per cent certain, it is best to choose a major upfront and change it later if you need to.
- 3. Where can I go for academic advice?**
Once you are studying at Carleton, our Student Academic Success Centre offers a range of services including academic advising and free study-skill development workshops. carleton.ca/sasc

Admission requirements

For admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies program, you must have the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent, including a minimum of six 4 U/M courses. Your six 4 U/M courses must include 4U English (or *Anglais*).

It is Carleton University policy to consider your best performance in any eligible course in the admissions assessment.

Since the number of qualified applicants may be greater than the number of available spaces, cut-off averages and required marks may vary. Please refer to our website at admissions.carleton.ca/requirements for the current admission requirements.

For more information

...about the Environmental Studies program, please visit our website at carleton.ca/geography or consult the *Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar* at carleton.ca/cuuc.