

# M.E.S. Map 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 **TOEFL requirements** in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

### KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** February 1.
- **Notification of acceptance:** as soon as possible after receiving the full application.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

## How do I find a supervisor?

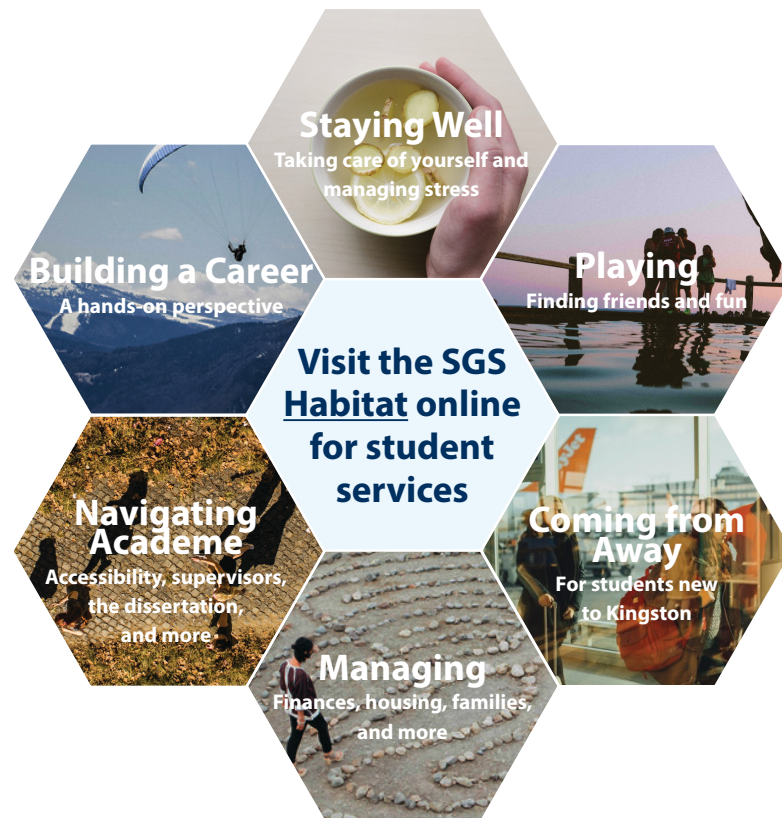
We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the School of Environmental Studies website 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.

## 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](#).

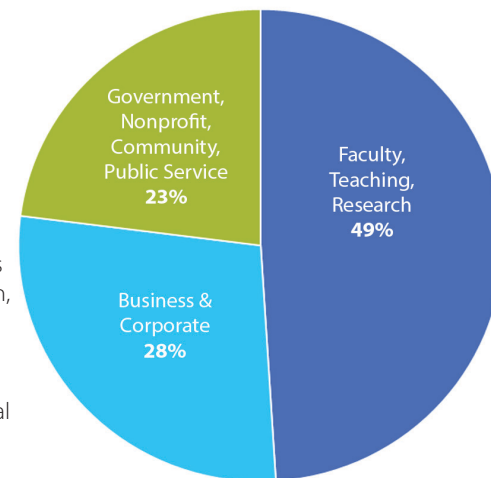


# Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?

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

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



## Career Outcomes in Environmental Science

Council of Graduate Schools and Educational Testing Service. (2012). Pathways Through Graduate School and Into Careers. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.



SCHOOL OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
STUDIES

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# Environmental Studies M.E.S. Map

*Navigating Graduate Studies and Beyond*



GRAD MAP FOR M.E.S. STUDENTS →

## How do I USE THIS MAP?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen's, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone's journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen's and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online [My Grad Map](#) tool.

## 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 academic environment is excellent. The faculty is supportive, and the students are really friendly."*  
– Atanu Sarkar, MES

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.



At Queen's, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen's more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world's best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen's offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies.

## Why KINGSTON?

Described by students as both "quaint" and "eclectic," Kingston is big enough to provide all the conveniences of modern life, and small enough for students, staff, and faculty to feel instantly comfortable and at home.

Queen's is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston's history and culture, see Queen's University's [Discover Kingston](#) page.

## Program STRUCTURE

The MES is offered with two methods of completion:

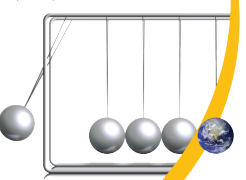
- **Method I (Research – 2 years):** four half-credit courses, original research, thesis, seminars, formal defense.

- **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.

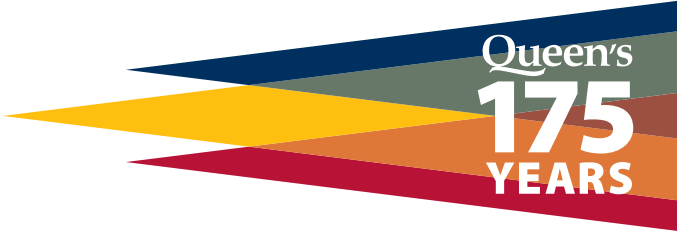
School of  
Graduate  
Studies  
Create an impact  
[www.queensu.ca/sgs](http://www.queensu.ca/sgs)





# Environmental Studies M.E.S. MAP

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (M.E.S.)



## GETTING STARTED

## INTERMEDIATE STAGE

## WRAPPING UP

### ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- 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 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 [SGPS](#), or media outlets like the [Queen's Journal](#), [CFRC](#), [QTV](#) 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 community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Commission of Environment and Sustainability.

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking the [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 Week](#) to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your essay or thesis.
- Take additional training through the Analytical Research Unit (ASU) on chemical analysis techniques or contamination remediation.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as [Water Initiative for the Future \(WatIF\)](#).
- 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.

- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). Enroll in [SGS901](#) or the [PUTL certificate](#) for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like [Material Matters](#).
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC's [Intercultural Competency Certificate](#).
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- Explore different careers of interest by reading [alumni profiles](#) on the SGS website, and using [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "[Ask an Alum](#)".
- Check out the free online modules at [MyGradSkills](#) to help you plan your career.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Complete your essay or thesis.

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the [International IUPAC Conference on Green Chemistry](#).

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help with the [Skills and Experience workshop](#).
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from [Mitacs](#) and [other sources](#).

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services' [networking workshops](#).
- Consider joining professional associations like the [Ontario Environment Industry Association](#) and the [Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy](#).

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with [job searching](#), [resumes](#), or [interviews](#).

### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

**Knowledge and technical skills** in area of specialization

**Communication:** effective and clear in written, oral and multimedia forms, for diverse audiences

**Information management:** prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information

**Time management:** meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands

**Project management:** develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions

**Creativity and innovation** to address complex, multifaceted challenges

**Perseverance** to work through challenges to achieve desired outcome

**Independence** and experience as a **collaborative** worker

**Awareness** and 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 discussions