

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Departmental Facilities

The School of Environmental Studies occupies a suite of office and laboratory space in Queen's Biosciences Complex. All regular faculty members have office space in the School Biosciences Complex, and graduate students are provided carrel space in one of three common offices that can accommodate 30+ students each. Proximity to faculty members permits a high degree of interaction. The space held by the School also includes two administrative offices, offices for post-doctoral fellows and Adjunct Faculty, eight laboratories and a school lounge. Ancillary space includes a cold room, two equipment bays, and storage facilities at the Queen's University Biological Station. Some faculty members also hold specialized laboratory space in their home departments.

Financial Assistance

Stipends will be provided for PhD students at a minimum of \$20,000 per year for 48 months. Stipends will be provided for MES students enrolled in either the research stream or the course stream at a minimum of \$14,000 per year, pro-rated to the number of semesters spent in full time study each year. Financial support is guaranteed for only 6 semesters for research students and 5 semesters for course-based students. Resources for stipends are derived from School funds, Queen's Graduate Awards, research assistantships, teaching assistantships in the School's undergraduate courses, contributions from research grants and contracts, internal scholarships and awards, and/or external scholarships and awards. Where research grants permit, or when students earn a Scholarship or Fellowship from outside the School, some students may receive a higher stipend. The funding policy for each academic year is posted on the School's website.

Students are automatically considered for School funding, QGA Awards, and Research/Teaching Assistantships when accepted each year. Students are only accepted when a potential supervisor or advisor (MES only) has agreed to work with them. Students must take the initiative for Scholarships awarded by either Queen's University or some outside agency (e.g. NSERC, SSHRC), and the School will endeavour to keep all students informed of opportunities.

Fields in the Program

The School of Environmental Studies provides opportunities for advanced interdisciplinary graduate level studies and research in the field of environmental sustainability. The program will provide an appreciation of the breadth of

environmental issues, and the ability to interact with professionals outside a single discipline. In this context, sustainability is the study of the natural world and human activities within it, seeking ways that the desirable features of these can be maintained or even enhanced locally, throughout the world, and over time. We think of sustainability in terms of a tripod of issues, environmental, economic, and social, all of which will be examined in detail individually and in their interconnectedness. Sustainability studies, therefore, are interdisciplinary and focused on many situations including resource and land management, industrial and agricultural sustainability, and development of nations.

Within the School, the different perspectives and foci are reflected in the experience of the various faculty members. Current research is related to the three elements of sustainability indicated above, including the natural sciences, health sciences, and social sciences and humanities. A variety of projects are relevant to water quality and quantity, as it relates to human and ecological health, provision of municipal and agricultural water supplies, social justice, and the detection and mitigation of water-related problems. Other projects focus on broad issues of human and ecosystem health within urban and agricultural settings in various locations around the world.

Thesis and project research will fall in these areas, but always within the wider context of sustainability, which will be upheld through interdisciplinary supervision (among departments, between Queen's and the Royal Military College, and in collaboration with outside agencies), course work and a broad-based seminar series.