Environmental Studies
How do people interact with nature, and how does this impact the environment? How do societies transform nature? The environment consists of a complex set of human and natural systems of which people are an important, and sometimes dominant, element. Understanding the costs and benefits of development and conservation, as well as the underlying values and ethical guidelines for good environmental practice, is essential for informed environmental decision-making. It is critical, to both the present and future state of the environment, that dialogue and policy are precautionary, evidence-based, thoughtful and inclusive.

The interdisciplinary Environmental Studies program at Carleton University prepares students to be informed, skilled individuals who can participate effectively in the resolution of environmental problems and in the larger environmental debates critical to our future.

The Carleton advantage
The Carleton Environmental Studies program offers you the chance to gain practical experience while you study. The third year of the program includes an Intensive Field Course in which you will receive specialized hands-on training in a variety of applications. As a senior student, you will have the opportunity to gain valuable environmental work experience through placements in a practicum offered in the fourth year of the Honours program. Elements of community service-learning are included in many of our courses, and we encourage all our students to seek out volunteer opportunities with government and nongovernmental 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 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 and General programs)
The Environmental Studies program is 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 enroll in the integrative core courses in Environmental Studies at each level.

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.

Core courses
The Environmental Studies programs provide students with a solid foundation of core and optional courses in the first two years, followed by an opportunity to specialize in one more areas of special interest. In your first year, you will take Introduction to Environmental Studies and in addition choose two of the following:

- People, Places and Environments;
- Introduction to the Environment; or
- Global Environmental Systems.

You will also take the following core courses in Environmental Studies and Interdisciplinary Science:

- Nature, Environment and Society: Theoretical Perspectives;
- Sustainable Futures: Environmental Challenges and Solutions;
- Natural Laws; and

Note: if you are entering with 4 U/M science credits, you may request permission to substitute other first-year courses, including science courses, for Introduction to the Environment (ISCI 1001) and Natural Laws (ISCI 2000).
Other core courses include:
- Research methods courses;
- *Introduction to Environmental Ethics*;
- *Environmental Studies Colloquium*; and
- *Environmental and Natural Resources*.

In addition to their core courses, students choose from a variety of third and fourth year courses with environmental themes (for example, in Political Science, Economics, Geography, Anthropology, Human Rights, Religion and other fields).

**Honours program**
If you are in the Honours program, your core courses will also include the Intensive Field Course, a seminar in Environmental Studies, and a practicum course. You may also choose to undertake independent research or an environmental project. The fourth-year seminar 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 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 choose from optional courses and Approved Environmental Studies electives (see the Environmental Studies program description in the *Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar* at [carleton.ca/cuuc](http://carleton.ca/cuuc)) tailored to your own particular interests. These courses can be arranged into themed groupings, including (but not restricted to) areas such as:
- Environment, economy and development;
- Environmental policy and politics;
- Environmental attitudes and ethics; and
- Sustainable urban environments.

You also have the flexibility to create a different 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 should 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 *Introduction to Environmental Studies*;
- 0.5 credit in *People, Places and Environments*;
- 0.5 credit in *Introduction to the Environment*;
- 1.0 credit in an introductory social science course from Anthropology, Economics, Law, Political Science or Sociology;
- 1.0 credit in a First-year Seminar in any subject of interest; and
- 1.0 credits in electives.

**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 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;
- urban planning;
- recreation and ecotourism;
- protection of endangered species and habitats;
- environmental law and policy;
- environmental activism and education; and
- international environment and development.

Employment opportunities exist in all levels of government, the non-profit sector, education, private sector businesses, 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, planning, resource management, environmental assessment, urban studies, sociology, political science, public administration, philosophy and other fields and 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.

**FAQs**

**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.

**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.
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](http://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 4U/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](http://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](http://carleton.ca/geography) or consult the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar at [carleton.ca/cuuc](http://carleton.ca/cuuc).

Anna Flood, student in Environmental Studies with a minor in Law

Applying to the Environmental Studies program was one of the best decisions I have made thus far. Throughout my years, I have had the pleasure of engaging in a variety of disciplines within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences while gaining knowledge about environmental issues that are facing the world today. The professors make themselves available to assist students in their understanding of these issues and the program provides students with a set of skills that prepares them for careers within the green industry, which are currently in demand as the economy “greens” itself.
Do you want more information? Please contact us at:

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
Carleton University
B349 Loeb Building
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa ON K1S 5B6
Canada
Tel: 613-520-2561
Fax: 613-520-4301
Website: carleton.ca/geography

Undergraduate Recruitment Office
Carleton University
315 Robertson Hall
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa ON K1S 5B6
Canada
Tel: 613-520-3663
Toll-free in Canada: 1-888-354-4414
Fax: 613-520-3847
Email: liaison@carleton.ca
Website: carleton.ca/admissions

This document is available in a variety of accessible formats upon request. A request can be made on the Carleton University website at: carleton.ca/accessibility/request.
For more information on all of Carleton’s undergraduate programs, visit

admissions.carleton.ca

where you can browse program descriptions, career possibilities, and electronic versions of all of our program guides. You can also check out financial aid options, book a tour, sign up for our monthly newsletter, watch Carleton videos, and connect with us on social media.

You may also wish to consult our current

Admissions Viewbook

We look forward to hearing from you!