Ph.D. Map FAQs

What do I need to know to apply?

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**
- Master’s degree.

**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 deadline: 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 and 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 expertise. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Meet with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students.

What about funding?

The minimum funding guarantee for Environmental Studies PhD students is $20,000 per year, throughout years 1–4. This basic level of funding is pro-rated based on the duration of study. The minimum funding guarantee for Environmental Studies PhD students is $20,000 per year, throughout years 1–4. This basic level of funding is pro-rated based on the duration of study.

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 PhD 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 School of Environmental Studies is a hub for multi-disciplinary collaborative research projects that focus on solving environmental issues. [The school] fosters well-rounded research projects, significant contributions to research, and highly-qualified graduate students.”

— Julie Adams, PhD

The PhD 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.
Environmental Studies

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as ENSC 897, Seminars in Environmental Studies.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Complete the ARU Horizons and Coaching Horizons modules.
- Apply to SSHRC, OSS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the school Graduate Chair about getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, media outlet like the Queen's Journal CFRC OTV and the SGSS Blog, links in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations such as the Commission of Environment and Sustainability.
- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in the community.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), the Centre for Graduate Teaching and Learning (T&L), and the Student Academic Success Services (SASS) for more professional development.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding career fits starts with knowing yourself. Take the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. 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.

**YEAR I**
- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Embark on your substantive research.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons. Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Water Initiative for the Future (WattF).

**YEAR II**
- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Take part in the Environmental Studies Research Day.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

**YEAR III**
- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Attend the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Attend additional training through the Analytical Research Unit (ARU) on chemical analysis techniques or contamination remediation.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Complete and defend your dissertation.
- Continue to pursue publication options for your research.

**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 ethical sensitivity.
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions.
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussions.

**Degree Options**
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
- Master of Environmental Management (MEM)
- Master of Environmental Studies (MES)

**CAREER SERVICES**
- Student Academic Success Services
- Student Career Services
- Student Academic Success Services
- Student Academic Success Services

**ONLINE RESOURCES**
- Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!