

PhD in Environmental Studies

Introduction

The **MANDATE** for the School as stated in the proposal to the Senate (1994) stated: The School of Environmental Studies will, through collaboration with appropriate academic units at Queen's: a) offer undergraduate programs in environmental sciences with strong emphasis on the basic disciplines; b) conduct research and graduate supervision on topics related to the environment; c) foster interdisciplinary research by promoting collaboration among faculty in the natural and social sciences and humanities departments and in other Faculties and Schools; and d) be a focus within the Faculty of Arts and Science for future expansion of teaching and research related to the environment, especially in the social sciences and humanities.

The proposed PhD program in Environmental Studies would provide graduate training in environmental studies, emphasizing interdisciplinarity and focusing on the concept of sustainability and sustainable practices. The theme of sustainability emphasizes the long-term nature and impacts of environmental change, the connections between today's decisions and tomorrow's welfare, and the strong dependence of human well-being on environmental quality. The program responds to widespread perceptions and concerns about society's future in a world of finite resources, and there is a growing demand for this program as demonstrated through the increasing number of inquiries from students about PhD opportunities in our School.

Our vision is that Queen's University will develop an outstanding PhD program in environmental sustainability that is integrated and coordinated across Queen's faculties to meet the needs of students and society. This program will facilitate interdisciplinarity, and will meet the challenge of establishing ways that Queen's Faculty members can work across disciplinary and institutional boundaries to develop collaborative and integrated programs of teaching and research. This vision is consistent with and directly addresses four of six stated objectives (objectives 3-6) of the Queen's University Strategic Research Plan (2012-2017).¹

¹Objectives 3-6 of the Queen's University Strategic Research Plan (2012-2017): Objective 3: Promote and enhance opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary initiatives between faculty across the university and with other universities and institutions. Objective 4: Promote and enhance research partnerships that expand on our research strengths, increase support for the research, and enhance the delivery of research to stakeholders and partners locally, regionally, nationally and globally. Objective 5: Advance diversity and inclusivity through research that leads to increased understanding of cultures and communities within Canada and abroad, and research that enables connections to people and the quality of their lives. Objective 6: Encourage and support the translation and transfer of research outcomes, new knowledge and innovation for the betterment of society.