THIS IS ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
[ OPEN YOUR MIND ]
The Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES)

Founded in 1968 at time of rising curiosity and concern for the environment, our pioneering spirit created programs that cross boundaries, focus on student-centred learning, encourage linkages between theory and practice and offer opportunities for experiential learning with communities and organizations. By our definition, environmental studies combines the sciences, social sciences and humanities. Dedicated to inspiring active learners and engaged citizens, we are a community that respects and values insight, creativity, justice and diversity. We work to promote significant social and environmental change through imaginative and critical thought, and concerted action.

FES is dedicated to inspiring active learners and engaged citizens

Programs

The Bachelor in Environmental Studies (BES) program is an interdisciplinary education in environmental well-being and social justice. With three Area of Concentration centred around: Environmental Politics, Justice & Arts; Urban & Regional Environments; and Environmental Management, students will be equipped to pursue successful careers in our ever-changing world.

The Master in Environmental Studies (MES) program utilizes a unique, self-directed pedagogical structure, which will help students articulate their research and action interests. Choose to complete an MES/JD with Osgoode Hall Law School, become an OPPI and CPI recognized planner through our unique Planning Program or incorporate diploma studies with Sustainable Education, Business and Sustainability or Refugee and Migration studies.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Studies (PhD) program allows students to explore natural, social, political, cultural, urban and other environments and connect conventional disciplines and practices in ways that encourage viewing issues through a broader, more contextual perspective to guide original research.

Research

FES is working on over 40 collaborative research projects with various academic, government and private industry groups averaging $1.5-2 Million yearly in research funding from 2010 to date. Our Las Nubes Project in Neotropical Conservation, situated on FES’ Eco Campus in Costa Rica, has made significant achievements in research and conservation in biodiversity protection, rural sustainability, as well as environmental education in local schools in Costa Rica. The new Lillian Meighen Wright Centre provides a home for this important work. With the CITY Institute at York University, FES faculty have a major collaborative research initiative on “Global Suburbanism” which takes stock of suburban developments around the world. FES also hosts the Sustainable Energy Initiative making our Faculty the preeminent place in Ontario for research and education in renewable energy. Unique to FES, our Cultural and Artistic Practices for Environmental and Social Justice (CAP) program supports major performances and art exhibits.

Committed to social responsibility, FES is research-intensive and interdisciplinary in nature. Our researchers investigate the pressing issues of our times by combining innovative methods and theoretical frameworks, producing evidence-based solutions and illuminating analyses of local and global issues.
THE BES PROGRAM

The Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES) at York University offers a unique, dynamic Bachelor in Environmental Studies (BES) degree program that provides students with research opportunities and employable skill development to launch successful careers in the growing green economy. This program is designed to equip students with the knowledge, critical understanding and skills to generate real solutions to complex environmental and social challenges arising at local and/or global levels. As a BES student, we will challenge you to achieve a holistic and comprehensive understanding of the environment. By extending the boundaries of the classroom, the program offers you many opportunities for experiential learning and professional development throughout your studies. Exploring natural, social, artistic, urban and built environments, our program will help you understand how seemingly different issues are actually connected and provide you with strategies that can transform the future.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR DEGREE

Our unique program focuses on your academic and professional development. When you start the BES program, you will begin your studies with common first year foundational courses, grounding your understanding of the environment and building skills for future success. After your first year, you will choose your own direction from one of three AREAS OF CONCENTRATION, allowing you to create a specialized degree in an area you are passionate about!

ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS, JUSTICE AND ARTS
Examine the relationships between humans and environments using literary texts, digital images, pop art and performance. Study how environmental inequalities arise, including class, indigenous, racial and gender dimensions. Learn methods for researching environmental justice issues, and strategies for addressing them both locally and globally.

URBAN AND REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTS
Focus on the relationships between people, buildings, cultures and all aspects of our environment. Use Toronto and the surrounding area as your field lab to take theory from the classroom and apply it to practical research on transportation, food systems, sustainable energy and other aspects of urban studies.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: POLICY, RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
Explore economic, scientific, political, social and legal aspects of the environmental challenges you face. Discover ways to address issues via conservation, natural resource management and policy approaches.

environmental studies
ENHANCE YOUR STUDIES WITH A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
Add more specialized skills without extending your time to complete your BES degree with a certificate program.

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) & Remote Sensing
- Refugee and Migration Studies
- Urban Ecologies
- Sustainable Energy
- Certificate in Cultural and Artistic Practices for Environmental and Social Justice (CAP)

ACCELERATE YOUR FUTURE WITH OUR DUAL CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS
Combine your passion and your career goals while completing a 4-year honours university degree and a 3-year advanced college diploma in just five years through our Dual Credential Programs

- Ecosystem Management with Fleming College
- International Development with Humber College
- Urban Sustainability with Seneca College
- Environmental Management & Technology with Seneca College

BES CAREER PLACEMENT
Want to kick start your career? Take advantage of our BES placement program — an experiential education course designed to provide you with the opportunity to apply your classroom learning in a workplace environment. Through these degree courses and a work placement, you will gain confidence in field-related knowledge and valuable work experience. Exclusive to BES students.

CAREERS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD
Since 2010, careers in the environmental sector have been rapidly expanding. Over 460,000 organizations in Canada are hiring environmental professionals [eco.ca]. Our 6000 graduates are leaders in this change, working locally and globally, at all levels of industry and in diverse community organizations. Whether you have a passion for working in the private or public sector, continuing your education at the graduate level or even creating your own responsible and sustainable company, your BES degree will provide you with the insight, knowledge and skills that you will need to land a successful and dynamic career. Meet our graduates at fes.yorku.ca/besalumni

Jacqueline Haward-Giulati, BES ’12
Manager, Cycling Infrastructure
City of Toronto

VISIT US
YES! FOR A DAY
Sit in on an Environmental Studies first year lecture and take an environmental campus tour of the York University Keele Campus with one of our current students. Offered October to March for individuals and school groups. To book, visit fes.yorku.ca/yesforaday

FALL CAMPUS DAY
Saturday, November 5, 2016
Your chance to attend a BES information session and meet with our professors and students.

EXPERIENCE YORK
Sunday, March 5, 2017
A full day, open door event designed just for you! Attend a mini-lecture, explore our buildings and facilities and meet with professors and students.

CHANGE YOUR WORLD
Tuesday, April 7, 2017
Join us for our exciting high school student conference focused on promoting environmental and social justice in our communities. To learn more visit changeyourworld.yorku.ca

fes.yorku.ca/apply