

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

School of Environmental Studies Graduate Program Guide

Progress and Course Requirements

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Progress through the Degree (Pace)

Students undertaking a research masters are expected to complete their degree within 2 years (6 semesters), whereas course-based students should finish in less than 2 years (generally 4-5 semesters). **Beyond these timelines, the School cannot guarantee financial support.**

RESEARCH STREAM:

The following notes are **guidelines only**.

The progress of research Masters students will be similar to that of any other research Masters at Queen's.

Course Requirements

To remain in the program, students are required to pass all courses with a minimum grade of 65. If a mark on any course is lower than 65, the student will be asked to re-take the course, and if the mark is still below 65, the student will be asked to withdraw from the program.

All students will be required to complete two core courses offered by the School. Students in the research-based option will take another two half courses, for a total of four. The non-thesis students will take a total of six half courses including the two core courses, four graduate electives from the School and/or outside the School (see below) and a major paper. The four graduate course electives may include a maximum of one 400-level or above undergraduate course.

Students are also encouraged to attend weekly School seminars. The School has a very active seminar series.

Credit for attending seminars may be earned by enrolling in ENSC 897* *Seminars in Environmental Studies*, when offered. Consult the [online Graduate Course Calendar](#) for course descriptions and offerings.

ENSC Graduate Courses

Two ENSC courses (801*, 802*) are required elements of the research- and course-based masters. They reflect the multifaceted nature of environmental problems, promote interdisciplinarity, and provide the conceptual background and exposure to case studies needed to develop a broad view of environmental sustainability, and a framework that could support their research projects. These courses should be taken in the first year of a degree.

Courses

[ONLINE COURSE CALENDAR](#)

ENSC 801* - METHODOLOGICAL AND CONCEPTUAL BASIS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The course examines methodological and conceptual issues arising from Environmental Studies position as an inter-, multi- and/or trans-disciplinary practice. It will focus on the inherent difficulties in overcoming disciplinary fragmentation in approaches to studying complex issues in environmental sustainability that require integrated understandings of the inter-relations between social and natural systems. The course will promote methodological literacy beyond student's own area of expertise, develop critical and reflexive thinking about

how environmental studies might approach issues of sustainability, and encourage and facilitate communication across disciplinary paradigms. The course precedes and compliments ENSC 802*, familiarizing students with the historical origins, philosophical underpinnings and practical deployment of key approaches within the social and natural sciences and humanities. Three term-hours; Fall.

ENSC 802* - GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS: ISSUES IN SUSTAINABILITY

This course focuses on real-world environmental problems analyzing their social, ethical, and biogeochemical origins, economic ramifications, and institutional frameworks for their mitigation and resolution in the context of environmental sustainability. This course would logically follow or run concurrently with ENSC 801*, and will deepen and continue the themes through consideration of the intellectual history of theories and concepts relevant to environmental studies, with a focus on the concepts of “sustainability” and “sustainable development”. Three term-hours; Winter.

ENSC 816* - ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS – FATE, TRANSPORT AND BIOACCUMULATION

The course will compare and contrast the behaviour of persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic

OTHER COURSES AVAILABLE TO MES STUDENTS:

Electives may be chosen from among graduate courses available in any department on campus, subject to the permission of the instructor. The online course calendar from the School of Graduate Studies for 2009-10 is at the following link <http://www.queensu.ca/calendars/archive/2009-10/sgr/index.html>. Check the Graduate School website for the course calendar for 2010-11.

Courses that MES students have taken in previous years: [Link](#)

SGS 804 Human Research Ethics (aka CHRPP) is a non-credit course that must be taken by all graduate students who will engage in research involving human subjects. It must be listed on an Academic Change Form so that it will appear on transcripts. SGS 804 does not count towards the MES degree and cannot be substituted for a regular graduate course. It is a web-based tutorial on Canada's national standards of ethics for research. We encourage MES-2 students to take this course if their research involves human subjects. It is compulsory for MES-1 students engaged in this type of research.

In addition, MES candidates may register for one 4th-year course, provided the instructor is prepared to upgrade the course on an individual basis to a graduate course. [Queen's University Academic Calendars](#)

Dates & Deadlines Da