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Faculty of Environmental Studies - Keele Campus

Bachelor in Environmental Studies

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The Bachelor in Environmental Studies

The Faculty of Environmental Studies offers both a Specialized Honours BES program (120 credits) and a bachelor program (90 credits).

The Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES) provides a unique educational experience in an expanding field of study and research. Defined broadly from an interdisciplinary perspective, environmental studies at FES is a combination of core courses and four distinct academic and professional areas of concentration in:

- Environment and Culture: Philosophy, Arts, Technology and Education;
- Environmental Politics: Development, Globalization and Justice;
- Environmental Management: Policy, Resources and Conservation;
- Urban and Regional Environments: Analysis, Planning and Design.

A coherent set of core courses, area of concentration courses and elective courses provides a well-rounded education in various fields relating to natural, built, organizational and social environments. Faculty members come from a wide range of backgrounds including political science, ecology, planning, philosophy, sociology, geography, economics, education, architecture, and anthropology. All share a commitment to exploring the complex questions and solutions of the human and environmental challenges facing the world.

The BES program introduces students to the links between the exploitation of the natural world and justice issues related to class exploitation, racism, and gender inequity. Fully aware of the growing interdependencies of human and natural life worlds in a globalized environment, the Faculty of Environmental Studies believes that an inclusion of non-Western perspectives is essential to a fruitful discussion of all environmental issues. To that end, faculty members strive to include a broad range of perspectives in their course offerings. York's BES program is designed to equip students with the knowledge and understanding to deal effectively yet sensitively with complex environmental and social problems arising at the local, regional, national or global scale.

In the first two years of the program, students take required courses that introduce them to the wide range of environmental studies while building critical academic and practical knowledge, including research, writing, analytical and communication skills. During the latter half of the first year, students start creating their "Plan of Study", a portfolio-style document, that helps to guide them through the BES program. The plan of study is also initially used to identify an area of concentration, which is designed to give structure and focus to a student's program in the years ahead. The plan of study process is supported by group and individual advising by staff, faculty and teaching assistants in core and foundation courses.

The BES program offers four areas of concentration that reflect the Faculty's broad understanding of environmental studies. Students in the program use these areas of concentration to help them begin to define their own interests within the plan of study. In their second year, each student will take two of the four "foundations courses" which introduce each area of concentration. While students will be required to choose one of the four areas as their "home", they can still change their focus during the second year. Normally, students that switch areas will have to take the foundations course of the area they switch to during the third year (if they have not taken it during their second year).

Areas of Concentration

The BES program's four areas of concentration reflect the Faculty's broad understanding of environmental studies. Each area is established with scholarly, professional, and pragmatic considerations in mind. Students use these areas of concentration to help define their own path through the program.

Environment and Culture: Philosophy, Arts, Technology and Education

This area focuses on the conceptual, historical and cultural roots of environmental issues, and on environmental arts, education, policy and cultural organizations as crucial sites of environmental action. A focus in this area leads students to develop both a strong theoretical grasp of complex ecological-environmental relations, and critical and creative skills important in transforming these relations.

Sample topics include:
- environmental ethics and philosophy
- environmental and sustainability education
- environment, media and communication
- human and other animal relations
- science, technology and the environment
- environmental literatures
- community arts

Required course:
- ES/ENVS 2100 6.00 (formerly ES/ENVS 2100 3.00)

Nine credits at the 3000 level from the following list:
- ES/ENVS 3000 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3160 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3110 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3120 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3140 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3150 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3151 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3226 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3230 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3410 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3420 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3450 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3760 3.00

Nine credits at the 4000 level from the following list:
- ES/ENVS 4100 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4110 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4111 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4120 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4140 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4150 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4312 3.00 (formerly ES/ENVS 4311 3.00)
- ES/ENVS 4420 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4430 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4445 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4455 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4520 3.00
Environmental Politics: Development, Globalization and Justice

Communities and environments are being dramatically transformed by the globalization of economies and cultures. This area is concerned with the analysis of these forces and possible responses to them at local, regional, national and international levels. It involves exploring competing approaches to development, politics and justice that are being formulated and put into practice by a variety of social groups, communities, NGOs, governments, corporations and international organizations.

Sample topics include:
- economic globalization
- international development
- sustainable development
- gender and development
- human rights and refugee studies
- social/environmental movements
- climate change
- green international business
- culture and global media

Required course:
- ES/ENVS 2300 6.00 (formerly ES/ENVS 2300 3.00)

Nine credits at the 3000 level from the following list:
- ES/ENVS 3130 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3160 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3310 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3340 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3420 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4312 3.00 (formerly ES/ENVS 4311 3.00)
- ES/ENVS 4320 3.00

Nine credits at the 4000 level from the following list:
- ES/ENVS 3151 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3161 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4225 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4226 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4410 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4440 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4445 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4455 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4510 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4520 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4521 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4800A 3.00/4411 3.00

Urban and Regional Environments: Analysis, Planning and Design

This area of concentration focuses on the interrelationships of the ecological, social, built and organizational environments within urban and regional settings. The intention of this area is to provide the student with a critical understanding of urban and regional environments along with a solutions-based approach to addressing urban and regional issues with an explicitly environmental perspective. Students will thereby attain a thorough knowledge of the theories, histories and current issues of urbanization and regionalization and their effect on environments, and will learn practical methods of analysis and intervention in different human settlements.

Sample topics include:
- migration and settlement
- urbanization and the urban process
- environmental design/landscape design
- urban sustainability
- urban governance and regulation
- global cities and global urbanization
- urban social and environmental movements
- urban and regional planning
- healthy and sustainable community development
- urban social relations (class, race, gender)
- Native/Canadian relations

Required course:
- ES/ENVS 2200 6.00 (formerly ES/ENVS 2200 3.00)

Nine credits at the 3000 level from the following list:
- ES/ENVS 3151 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3160 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3225 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3226 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3230 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3340 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3520 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3521 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3740 3.00

Nine credits at the 4000 level from the following list:
- ES/ENVS 4151 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4161 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4225 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4226 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4312 3.00 (formerly ES/ENVS 4311 3.00)
- ES/ENVS 4320 3.00

Environmental Management: Policy, Resources and Conservation

This area examines the origins and nature of environmental challenges facing society through the study of their scientific, socio-economic and political dimensions, and explores ways of addressing these challenges through environmental and natural resource management, conservation and policy approaches. It is concerned with existing and emerging strategies for preventing and managing the impacts of human activities and for conserving the resources of the biosphere in ways that are supportive of sustainable development. It provides concepts, knowledge, and skills that are needed to be effective in environmental management in government, business, and not-for-profit sectors.

Sample topics include:
- ecology and conservation
- environmental assessment
- resource management
- environmental monitoring and auditing
- energy and the environment
- environment and health

Required courses:
- ES/ENVS 2400 6.00 (formerly ES/ENVS 2400 3.00)
- ES/ENVS 2410 3.00 (formerly ES/ENVS 2500 6.00)
- ES/ENVS 2420 3.00 (formerly ES/ENVS 2500 6.00)
- ES/ENVS 3009 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3010 3.00

Nine credits at the 3000 level from the following list:
- ES/ENVS 3110 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3130 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3226 3.00

Nine credits at the 4000 level from the following list:
- ES/ENVS 3151 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3160 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3225 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3226 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3340 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3340 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3520 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3521 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3740 3.00
Academic Advising and the BES Plan of Study

In addition to completing the program credit requirements, all BES students must develop and maintain a plan of study that will be developed in the core and area of concentration courses, and must be approved by the relevant course director and supervisor. The plan of study is centred on a portfolio, which will provide students with an evolving sense of their progress through their program. This is intended to guide second, third and fourth year course selection, to outline future program objectives, and to ensure that the courses chosen keep important options open to each student. The plan of study ensures that both Specialized Honours and bachelors students meet the requirements of their declared area of concentration and the credit requirements of the BES program.

Organized advising sessions in the required courses of the BES program assist students with the development of their plan of study. Plan of study development and academic advising will be incorporated into ES/ENVS 1200 6.00 in the first year of study. In the second year the plan of study will be incorporated into ES/ENVS 2100 6.00, ES/ENVS 2200 6.00, ES/ENVS 2300 6.00, and ES/ENVS 2400 6.00 and students will write a more extensive statement based on a chosen area of concentration. The final plan of study will be produced as part of ES/ENVS 3011 3.0, with students indicating their choice of capstone activities. Students can choose ENVS 4000 6.00 Senior Honours Work Seminar or two three-credit courses at the 4000 level chosen in the context of their area of concentration.

Degree Requirements

Honours BES Degree Course Requirements (120 credits)

Students must pass courses worth a minimum of 120 credits (equivalent to 20 full-year courses) in order to graduate with the Specialized Honours BES degree. At least 60 credits and a maximum of 90 credits shall be environmental studies courses. An overall grade point average of at least 5.0 must be maintained.

Students choose their courses in the Honours BES program according to the following requirements:

General Education (12 credits):
Following York's philosophy of undergraduate education, BES students are required to study in the humanities and natural sciences.

- **Humanities requirement:** The BES humanities requirement can be satisfied by taking ES/ENVS 1800 6.00 or a 1000-level course (at least six credits) from the following: classical studies; English; French studies; history; humanities; languages, literature and linguistics; or philosophy.
- **Science requirement:** The science requirement is met by taking ES/ENVS 1500 6.00 Introduction to Science for Environmental Studies or a first-year (six-credit) course from the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science (excluding natural science courses).

Note: Students who declared Environmental Management as their area of concentration are required to take either ES/ENVS 1500 6.00, or SC/BIOL 1010 6.00 to fulfill their natural science requirement.

Required Core Environmental Studies Courses (18 credits):

- ES/ENVS 1000 6.00
- ES/ENVS 1200 6.00
- ES/ENVS 3009 3.00

or

- ES/ENVS 3010 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3011 3.00

Note: Students who declared Environmental Management as their area of concentration are required to take either ES/ENVS 3011 3.00 and two three-credit 4000-level BES seminars and/or selected graduate courses at the 5000 level (by permission of the instructor) with paper and/or project outcomes, in addition to their Faculty requirements. The 4000-level courses must be in the student's area of concentration.

(ii) Students enrolled in the Environmental Management area of concentration are required to take ES/ENVS 2410 3.00 and ES/ENVS 2420 3.00; further, they are required to take both ES/ENVS 3009 3.00 and ES/ENVS 3010 3.00.

Area of Concentration Requirement (at least 12 credits):

- ES/ENVS 2100 6.00
- ES/ENVS 2200 6.00
- ES/ENVS 2300 6.00
- ES/ENVS 2400 6.00

Faculty Requirement (27 credits):

A minimum of 27 credits at the 3000 and 4000 level in environmental studies (ENVS) courses in addition to (b) and (c) above. Of these, at least nine credits must be at the 3000 level in the declared area of concentration and at least nine credits must be at the 4000 level in the declared area of concentration. The remaining nine credits will be satisfied by taking ES/ENVS 4000 6.00 and one other three-credit course at the 4000 level. For the course-based option students need to take two three-credit 4000-level courses.

Out-of-Faculty Elective Requirements (24 credits in student area of concentration):

In addition to the general education requirements, students must take 24 credits of electives outside of the Faculty. These courses are selected in the context of the student's area of concentration and plan of study.

Free Electives:

Students must take up to 27 credits from any undergraduate program (including FES). These courses are selected in the context of the student's area of concentration and plan of study.

BES Degree Course Requirements (90 credits)

Students will automatically be placed in the 90-credit bachelor program if they do not achieve or maintain the minimum grade requirements for the Specialized Honours degree program. Students registered for a Specialized Honours degree may choose to graduate with a 90-credit BES if they fulfill that program's requirements.

In order to graduate with a BES degree, a student must successfully complete 90 credits and achieve a satisfactory academic standing, including the requirements as outlined below:

General Education (at least 12 credits):

Following York's philosophy of undergraduate education, BES students are required to study in humanities and the natural sciences.

- **Humanities requirement:** The BES humanities requirement can be satisfied by taking ES/ENVS 1800 6.00 or a 1000-level course (at least six credits) from the following: classical studies; English; French studies; history; humanities; languages, literature and linguistics; or philosophy.
- **Science requirement:** The natural science requirement is met by taking ES/ENVS 1500 6.00 Introduction to Science for Environmental Studies or a first-year (six-credit) course from the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science (excluding natural science courses).

Note: Students who declared Environmental Management as their area of concentration are required to take either ES/ENVS 1500 6.00, or SC/BIOL 1010 6.00 to fulfill their natural science requirement.

Required Core Environmental Studies Courses (15 credits):

- ES/ENVS 1000 6.00
- ES/ENVS 1200 6.00
- ES/ENVS 3009 3.00

or

- ES/ENVS 3010 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3011 3.00
Faculty of Environmental Studies

Note: Students enrolled in the Environmental Management area of concentration are required to take ES/ENVS 2410 3.00 and ES/ENVS 2420 3.00; further, they are required to take both ES/ENVS 3009 3.00 and ES/ENVS 3010 3.00.

Area of Concentration Requirement (at least 12 credits):

- ES/ENVS 2100 6.00
- ES/ENVS 2200 6.00
- ES/ENVS 2300 6.00
- ES/ENVS 2400 6.00

Faculty Requirement (24 credits):

A minimum of 24 credits at the 3000 or 4000 level in environmental studies (ENVS) courses in addition to (b) and (c) above. Of these, at least 12 credits must be in the declared area of concentration; the remaining 12 credits must be taken in the context of the plan of study.

Out-of-Faculty Elective Requirements (12 credits):

In addition to the general education requirements, students must take 12 credits of electives outside of the Faculty. These courses are selected in the context of the student's area of concentration and plan of study.

Free Electives:

Students must take up to 15 credits from any undergraduate program (including FES). These courses are selected in the context of the student's area of concentration and plan of study.

Students pursuing the 90-credit bachelor in environmental studies are required to declare an area of concentration. Course selection will be determined through the normal academic advising and plan of study processes.

Honours Double Major, Honours Major/Minor, Concurrent Education Program

In addition to taking courses in the BES program, students may decide to specialize in a specific subject or combination of subjects. The area or primary concentration is known as the major. An area of secondary concentration (if any) is known as the minor. In such cases, an application must be made using the application form available through the Current Students Web site. This request is subject to approval by the undergraduate program director and the other academic unit involved. Each program sets the details of the requirements for each double major or minor program in the Faculties of Arts, Fine Arts and Pure and Applied Science. BES students should consult the York University undergraduate calendar or the York University Web site (http://www.yorku.ca) for specific program requirements.

General Requirements

All students will have a "home" Faculty; students enrolled in the Faculty of Environmental Studies will receive a BES degree upon successful completion of their program; students in the Faculty of Arts will receive a BA; students in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science will receive a BSc; and students in the Faculty of Fine Arts will receive a BFA or BA.

All students in these programs must maintain Honours standing; for Faculties of Arts, Fine Arts and Pure and Applied Science students that will mean a cumulative grade point average of 5.0 (C+) over all courses including those in environmental studies; for Faculty of Environmental Studies students that will mean a cumulative grade point average of 5.0 (C+) over all courses including those in the Faculties of Arts, Fine Arts or Pure and Applied Science. Students must meet the degree and program requirements of their home Faculty.

Degree Double Major Requirements

For a major in environmental studies, Faculty of Arts students are required to complete seven full courses (42 credits) in environmental studies:

- ES/ENVS 1000 6.00
- two full-courses (12 credits) in the “foundations” series at the 2000 level (2100, 2200, 2300 or 2400)
- ES/ENVS 3009 3.00
- or
- ES/ENVS 3010 3.00

Note: Faculty of Arts students in the linked interdisciplinary Science and Society Program are required to complete six full courses (36 credits). Urban studies students who have declared environmental studies as their double major before September 2002 are required to complete 36 credits in environmental studies. Effective September 2002, students who declare environmental studies as a double major with urban studies are required to satisfy the 42 credits requirement listed above.

For further information, please refer to the Faculty of Arts section.

Degree Minor Requirements

For a minor in environmental studies, Faculties of Arts, Fine Arts and Pure and Applied Science students are required to complete five full courses (30 credits) in environmental studies:

- ES/ENVS 1000 6.00
- two full-courses (12 credits) in the “foundations” series at the 2000 level (2100, 2200, 2300 or 2400)
- six credits at the 3000 level or higher
- six credits at the 4000 level

Students should be aware that in order to complete the requirements of the honours double major or honours major/minor programs it may be necessary to complete more than 120 credits.

Faculty of Arts

Students in the BES program may apply to pursue an Honours Double Major program or an Honours Major/Minor program in any discipline in the Faculty of Arts, along with their major in environmental studies. Second major programs are available with any seven- or eight-course major discipline in arts, and the linked interdisciplinary Program in Science and Society. Minors may be pursued in several Faculty of Arts programs. For detailed information on requirements and application forms, please consult the Undergraduate Calendar at: http://www.registrar.yorku.ca.

Faculty of Fine Arts

BES students may apply to do a minor in any of the disciplines within the Faculty of Fine Arts with the exception of the Design Program. Students should consult the Undergraduate Calendar and visit the Faculty of Fine Arts for information on specific programs at: http://www.yorku.ca/finearts/

Faculty of Pure and Applied Science

BES students who want to integrate their interest in environmental studies with science may apply to pursue an Honours Minor program with biology, chemistry, earth and atmospheric science, or physics and astronomy disciplines in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science (FPAS). Students who intend to apply to any of these programs must complete relevant science courses in high school and take their University first-year environmental science course from FPAS instead of the ES/ENVS 1500 6.00 course offered in FES. For detailed information, please consult the Undergraduate Calendar at: http://www.registrar.yorku.ca.

Faculty of Education Concurrent Education Program

The Faculty of Education at York University offers the BEd degree in both a Consecutive Program (i.e. requiring a one-year period of study after obtaining a bachelor’s degree), and a Concurrent Program, where students who are enrolled in the BES program may apply to co-register in the Faculty of Education.

BES students may apply to enter the Concurrent Program after completing one or two years in the BES program. Candidates admitted to the Concurrent Education Program would add a minimum of one year to their undergraduate studies. Successful candidates then work to complete their BES program in addition to completing their education studies for a bachelor of education degree.

Admission Requirements for the Concurrent Education Program:

- completion of a minimum of four full courses of a first year of undergraduate studies or the equivalent, by April 30; and
- a minimum of six full courses left to complete the student's academic degree; and/or
BES Certificate Programs

While working towards the completion of their BES degree, students may opt to study towards a York University general or professional certificate in one of three areas: geographic information systems and remote sensing, environmental landscape design or refugee and migration studies. In order to do so, students are required to complete a number of required and elective courses, in addition to completing other degree requirements. Contact the FES Office of Student and Academic Services, room 352 Lumbers Building, for more information on applying to these certificate programs.

Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing

York University degree candidates and non-degree students may earn a Certificate in GIS and Remote Sensing. GIS and Remote Sensing encompasses the art, science and technology involved in collecting and managing geographically-referenced information.

Required Courses (24 credits):
- ES/ENVS 1000 6.00
- ES/ENVS 3009 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3520 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3521 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4520 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4521 3.00

or
- ES/ENVS 4522 3.00

Elective Courses:
- ES/ENVS 4455 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3226 3.00
- SC/EATS 4220 3.00
- SC/EATS 4230 3.00
- AS/SC/GEOG 2130 3.00
- AS/GEOG 2350 3.00
- AS/GEOG 3140 3.00
- AS/GEOG 4240 3.00

Note: Students intending to pursue the GIS certificate with the Faculty of Environmental Studies should enrol in ES/ENVS 3009 3.00 in their second year of study.

Other Requirements:
Students working towards this certificate must:
- maintain a cumulative grade point average of 6.0 (B) in the certificate required courses and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 5.0 (C+) in all courses; and
- register in the program after completing 24 credits.

Students who have been exempted from any of the required courses or non-degree students who have successfully completed the equivalent of any of the required courses must substitute additional credits from the certificate program elective courses list, for an overall total of 24 credits in the certificate program.

Certificate in Environmental Landscape Design

Undergraduate students may earn a Certificate in Environmental Landscape Design (ELD) as part of their BES Specialized Honours program. Along with the ELD certificate requirements, students must complete the BES Honours degree requirements. The ELD certificate is linked to the area of concentration in urban and regional environments, accordingly, ELD students must enrol in ES/ENVS 2200 6.00 as one of their area of concentration courses. The certificate emphasizes environmental design as an innovative and interactive practice to critically intervene in the social and environmental reclamation of urban landscapes, places, sites and ecologies. Lecture courses, studio workshops and site visits examine the social, experiential, political, ecological, artistic and technological aspects of ELD.

Required Courses (42 credits):
- ES/ENVS 3230 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3700 6.00
- ES/ENVS 3720 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3730 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3740 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3760 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3770 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4225 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4700 6.00
- ES/ENVS 4750 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4760 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4770 3.00

and
- one additional three-credit course at the 3000 level in environmental studies

Suggested courses:
- ES/ENVS 3226 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3000 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3120 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3140 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3160 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3420 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3430 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3440 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3450 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3520 3.00

* This three-credit environmental studies course will satisfy the core requirement instead of ES/ENVS 3011 3.00.

Academic Standards:
Minimum grade of 5.0 (C+) in each course credited to the ELD certificate and a cumulative grade point average of 5.0 (C+) must be maintained.

Certificate in Community Arts Practice (CAP)

York University students may earn a Certificate in Community Arts Practice (CAP). The certificate focuses on working with communities by using art as a tool to express diverse identities and to explore and take action on social and environmental issues. Students will develop creative artistic skills, expand their social analysis and learn to work collaboratively with groups for social change.

Required Courses (24 credits):
- ES/ENVS 2122 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3122 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4122 6.00
- ES/ENVS 2100 6.00 or FA/VISA 2053 3.00 and FA/VISA 3001 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3140 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3160 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3160 3.00
- FA/VISA 2053 3.00 and FA/VISA 3001B 3.00
- Six credits from the elective list

Information on elective courses is available by contacting the Faculty of Environmental Studies and the Faculty of Fine Arts.

General Certificate in Refugee and Migration Studies

Faculty of Environmental Studies students may earn a General Certificate in Refugee and Migration Studies while, in addition to, fulfilling the
requirements for the BES program. To qualify for the General Certificate, students must complete AS/SOSC 1130 9.00 (International Migration) or AK/SOSC 2000 6.00 (Introduction to Refugee Studies) and three full (or equivalent) courses from a list of approved courses of which at least two will be at the 3000 or 4000 level. The cumulative grade point average in these courses must be 5.0 or higher and BES degree requirements must be met.

FES students must submit a study plan to the education coordinator at the Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS), to ensure that all certificate requirements have been considered. Further information is available from the education coordinator, Centre for Refugee Studies, or the coordinator’s academically accredited designate.

Required Courses:
- AS/SOSC 1130 9.00

or
- AK/SOSC 2000 6.00
- three full (or equivalent) appropriate courses

A list of pre-approved environmental studies courses follows. Other relevant courses may be selected and submitted for approval with the student’s study plan, which must be reviewed by the education coordinator, Centre for Refugee Studies, or the coordinator’s designate.

Environmental studies courses for the Refugee and Migration Studies Certificate:
- ES/ENVS 2200 6.00
- ES/ENVS 2300 6.00
- ES/ENVS 3160 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3310 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4210 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4220 3.00
- ES/ENVS 4312 3.00

Other courses are listed in the Faculties of Arts, Glendon and Atkinson calendars. For more information, please see the CRS Web site at: [http://www.yorku.ca/crs/](http://www.yorku.ca/crs/).

BES Joint Programs

Joint programs offer students the opportunity to receive a combined university degree and a college diploma from either Seneca College or Sir Sandford Fleming College, and a certificate from Humber College in what would otherwise take seven years. The York-Humber program may be completed in four years, while the York-Seneca and York-Sir Sandford Fleming programs are five years in duration. These accelerated programs can begin either at the respective college or at York University (with the exception of the York-Humber Joint Program), and are then completed at the partner institution. Students enrolled in joint programs must fulfill the joint program requirements of both institutions.

Students who are enrolled in FES are required to complete a minimum of 90 credits within the first three years of the joint program with a 5.0 (C+) grade point average, including core, Faculty, area of concentration and general education requirements. They are also required to submit an application to the joint program at the respective college in October of their third year of study.

With the exception of the York-Humber Joint Program, students who begin their diploma at the college should apply to the Joint Program in Environmental Studies through the normal York admission process in the final year of their diploma. Acceptance is contingent upon students successfully completing the diploma with a minimum 3.0 grade point average at the college. Successful applicants will be awarded 60 block credits toward their BES program. Students who choose to opt out of the Joint Program at York and attend another program will have their advanced standing re-evaluated.

Note: Students enrolled in the 90-credit BES degree program are not eligible to apply to any joint program directly, although they may apply to the respective colleges separately after having completed the 90-credit BES program.

York-Humber College Joint Program in International Project Management

York University students in the BES program may apply to the Joint Program in International Project Management at Humber College at the beginning of their third year of studies. Upon successful completion of the joint program, students receive an Honours BES degree and a post-diploma Certificate in International Project Management.

**BES Degree Requirements**

**Year 1** - (30 credits):
- ES/ENVS 1000 6.00
- ES/ENVS 1200 6.00
- ES/ENVS 1500 6.00
- humanities (six credits)
- electives (six credits)

**Year 2** - (30 credits):
- ES/ENVS 3009 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3100 3.00
- ES/ENVS 2300 6.00
- ES/ENVS 2400 6.00
- electives (15 credits): recommended to include ANTH 1110 6.00

**Year 3** - (30 credits):
- ES/ENVS 3000 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3226 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3310 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3340 3.00
- ES/ENVS 3430 3.00
- 18 credits at the 4000 level chosen in the context of area of concentration

**Year 4** - At Humber College:

Course selections will be determined by the Humber College program coordinator during an individual advising appointment.

For more information on the Humber College program, visit: [http://business.humberc.on.ca/international-project-management/](http://business.humberc.on.ca/international-project-management/).

York-Seneca Joint Program in Urban Sustainability

York University students in the Honours BES program may apply to the Joint Program in Urban Sustainability (JPUS) at Seneca College during their third year of studies, and must maintain a minimum grade point average of 5.0 (C+). After successfully completing the JPUS, students will receive their Honours bachelor in environmental studies degree and their civil engineering technology diploma. Students enrolled in the joint program will take part in a joint colloquium.

**BES Degree Requirements**

**Year 1** - Five full courses (30 credits):
- ES/ENVS 1000 6.00
- ES/ENVS 1200 6.00
- ES/ENVS 1500 6.00 (students may take SC/BIOL 1010 6.00 or SC/BIOL 1410 6.00 instead if they have OACs or equivalents in both chemistry and biology)
- humanities (six credits)
- electives (six credits, recommend SOSC 1730 6.00 Urbanization: A World Perspective or equivalent)

**Year 2** - Five full courses (30 credits):
- ES/ENVS 2200 6.00
- ES/ENVS 2410 3.00
- ES/ENVS 2420 3.00
- ES/ENVS 2400 6.00
- AS/SOSC 2710 6.00
- AS/SOSC 2730 6.00
- electives (six credits)
will take part in a joint colloquium.

Students enrolled in the joint program students will receive their Honours BES degree and their ecosystem electives (nine credits)

ES/ENVS 2050 3.00 (students must inquire at the Biology Department

ES/ENVS 2420 3.00.

ES/ENVS 2400 6.00

Year 2 - (30 credits):

ES/ENVS 3000 3.00

nine credits at the 3000 level (ES/ENVS 3225 3.00 and ES/ENVS 3226 3.00 required)

18 credits in FES at the 4000 level, including the joint program colloquium (ES/ENVS 4225 3.00 and ES/ENVS 4226 3.00 required)

Degree Credit Exclusions for Seneca Technologist Students at York

Students entering the Joint Program in Environmental Studies from Seneca College will be exempted from the following courses: ES/ENVS 1200 6.00, ES/ENVS 1500 6.00, ES/ENVS 2500 6.00, ES/ENVS 2410 3.00, ES/ENVS 2420 3.00.

For more information on the Seneca College program, visit: http://www.senecac.on.ca/fulltime/CVTC.html.

York-Sir Sandford Fleming Joint Program in Ecosystem Management

York University students in the Honours BES program may apply to the Joint Program in Ecosystem Management (JPEM) at Sir Sandford Fleming (SSFC) during their third year of studies, and must maintain a minimum grade point average of 5.0 (C+). After successfully completing the JPEM, students will receive their Honours BES degree and their ecosystem management technologist diploma. Students enrolled in the joint program will take part in a joint colloquium.

Degree Requirements for Students First Enrolling in the BES Program at York

Year 1 - (30 credits):

ES/ENVS 1000 6.00

humanities (six credits)

12 credits of foundations courses

plus six credits from the following: ES/ENVS 2100 6.00; ES/ENVS 2300 6.00; ES/ENVS 2400 6.00

electives (six credits)

Year 2 - (30 Credits):

ES/ENVS 3000 3.00

eight credits at the 3000 level (ES/ENVS 3225 3.00 and ES/ENVS 3226 3.00 required)

18 credits in FES at the 4000 level, including the joint program colloquium (ES/ENVS 4225 3.00 and ES/ENVS 4226 3.00 required)

Degree Credit Exclusions for SSFC Technologist Students

Students entering the Joint Program in Environmental Studies from SSFC will be exempted from the introductory course in GIS at SSFC, and will take an elective course instead.

Degree Requirements for Students Enrolling at York After Completing their Technologist Program at Seneca College

Year 1 - (30 credits):

ES/ENVS 1000 6.00

humanities (six credits)

12 credits of foundations courses

plus six credits from the following: ES/ENVS 2100 6.00; ES/ENVS 2300 6.00; ES/ENVS 2400 6.00

electives (six credits)

Year 2 - (30 Credits):

ES/ENVS 3000 3.00

nine credits at the 3000 level (ES/ENVS 3225 3.00 and ES/ENVS 3226 3.00 required)

18 credits in FES at the 4000 level, including the joint program colloquium (ES/ENVS 4225 3.00 and ES/ENVS 4226 3.00 required)

Degrees

Academic Honours

The Faculty recognizes the academic excellence of its students in appropriate ways. The following honours will be recorded on a student’s transcript.

Scholarships and Merit Awards

These include FES Awards and Scholarships, Merit Awards, Entrance Scholarships, Renewable Scholarships and In-Course Scholarships.

Sessional Dean’s Honour Roll

The Dean’s Honour Roll recognizes a student’s academic achievements in a given session based on the following criteria:

• Students taking 12 to 17 credits in a given session who have attained a sessional grade point average of 8.00.

• Students taking 18 or more credits in a given session who have attained a sessional grade point average of 7.50.

Graduating Honours

Students with high grade point averages are eligible for the following honours upon graduation from the Faculty:

Honours BES Degree (120 credits)

• Summa cum laude: 8.00 or above cumulative grade point average.

• Magna cum laude: 7.80 - 7.99 cumulative grade point average.

• Cum laude: 7.50 - 7.79 cumulative grade point average.

Grading and Academic Standards

The Faculty of Environmental Studies follows the York University undergraduate grading scheme which awards letters ranging from A+ to F and assigns a point value from 0 to 9 to each letter grade. The various grades that may be awarded in satisfying the requirement of a BES course or assignment are outlined in the BES Supplemental Calendar, available at the Office of Student and Academic Services in 352 Lumbers Building.

BES Term Work, Tests and Examinations

Term Work: Term work includes reports, assignments, essays, tests, and other written and oral work assigned in a course, with the exception of final examinations, as outlined in the approved course syllabus. Course directors set the deadlines for submission of term work. All term work must be submitted by the last day of classes of the term in which the course ends. Term work submitted after the last day of classes of the term in which the course ends will not be accepted for grading. Students will be penalized one-half grade point per day that their assignments are late. Exceptions to the lateness policy for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds etc. will be entertained by the course director only when supported by written documentation (e.g. a doctor’s letter).

Examinations: Examinations may be held in any BES course in such form and manner as decided by the course director and as described in the approved course syllabus. Examinations are an essential part of the learning and evaluation process. They must be conducted under fair conditions which allow students to analyze, synthesize, and demonstrate what they have learned. Disruptions or attempts to obtain an unfair advantage are offences against due academic processes and carry severe penalties.

End of Term Restrictions: The total value of any test(s) or examination(s) given during the last two weeks of classes in a term must carry a combined weighting of no more that 20 per cent of the final mark for the course.

Scheduling of Tests: Except where testing is conducted during individual appointments which accommodate a student’s schedule (for example, individually scheduled make-up tests), tests or examinations given during the term must be held within the hours regularly scheduled for the course in question.

Students’ Rights of Refusal: Students who are asked to write tests or examinations in contravention of the preceding two regulations may refuse to do so without academic penalty. They also have the right to raise the matter with the undergraduate program director.

General Regulations for Tests and Examinations

Identification: Students who are being tested or examined are required to present their sessional validation card and an acceptable form of photographic identification when asked to do so by an instructor or invigilator. Acceptable forms of photographic identification include a valid driver’s license with photograph attached, a valid passport or other certificate of citizenship with photograph attached.

Formally Scheduled Examinations

Final Examination Period: There is a final examination period at the end of each term, as published in the York University Undergraduate Lecture Schedule.

Examination Schedules: The dates, times and places of formally scheduled examinations are published each term on the Current Student’s Web site (http://www.yorku.ca, click on Current Students). Examinations may last two or three hours. Students are responsible for making themselves aware of the appropriate examination details.

Missed Examinations: A student who misses an examination must contact the Office of Student and Academic Services or the Registrar’s Office within 48 hours of the examination. A student who wishes to write a make-up examination must petition for deferred standing in the course.

Rewriting of Examinations: There shall be no rewriting of a final examination to improve a mark.

Assessment of Students in BES Courses

The course director shall assess students enrolled in each BES course in light of the requirements set at the beginning of the course as articulated in the course syllabus. These assessments shall be based on a combination of tests or formal examination(s), participation in classes, term work submitted, and other evidence as determined by the course director.

Marking scheme:

- Announcement in class: The means of determining the final grade in a course shall be provided to students by the course director. Such information must include the types of assignments, essays, examinations, and other components, which make up the grade, their relative weight(s), and any other procedures, which enter into the determination of the final grade.
- Subsequent changes: In exceptional circumstances, a previously announced marking scheme for a course may be changed, but only with the consent of all students and the approval of the undergraduate program director. The course director must distribute the new marking scheme in written form to the students.
- Feedback during course: Instructors are obliged to provide a mechanism by which students can be apprised of their progress in a course. Students must be able to make an informed decision on whether to withdraw from a course within the university’s official deadline. Students will receive some graded feedback on work for all courses prior to the final deadline for withdrawing from a course without receiving a grade. Instructors are urged to provide more feedback where possible. Under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15 per cent of the final grade for fall, winter, or summer term, and 30 per cent for full year courses offered in the fall/winter term must be received by students. Exceptions include: graduate or upper level courses with course work consisting of a single piece of work and/or are based predominantly on student presentations; practicum courses; ungraded courses; courses in Faculties where the drop date occurs within the first three weeks of classes; and, compressed courses (where academic credits of work are accomplished at a rate of more than one credit hour per two calendar weeks).

Alternate Grading Method

Pass/Fail:

Students in the Faculty of Environmental Studies can request a pass/fail option only after completing 24 credits. Courses taken under the pass/fail option will be annotated on their transcript as “Pass” or “Fail.” Unless these grades will be calculated into their grade point average. The following rules apply to the pass/fail option:

- Only students who have good academic standing may choose this option (i.e. above 4.0 or 5.0 grade point average, depending on degree program);
- Students are required to have completed 24 credits before requesting this option;
- Courses taken under this option may not be used to satisfy major, minor, general education or certificate requirements or 1000-level science courses;
- Students in the Honours BES program can take a maximum of 12 credits on the pass/fail option;
- Students in the 90-credit BES program may take a maximum of six credits on the pass/fail option;


- Students who intend to take a course on the pass/fail option must request to do so within the first two weeks of classes in the term in which the course is being offered;
- Students are required to fill out an application form - available at Student Client Services or online at the Current Students Web site. The student will return the completed form with the course director’s approval to Student Client Services;
- Students who select the pass/fail grading option can switch back to a graded option without academic penalties until the last day to drop the course.

Repeated Courses
Students are allowed to retake a failed course once for academic degree or certificate credit. Students are allowed to retake a passed course once for academic degree or certificate credit, only if the student has failed to achieve sufficient standing to proceed in a core or prerequisite course in a degree or certificate program and if no alternative remedies are provided (e.g. alternative qualifying examination). Students should note that course availability and space considerations may preclude the possibility of repeating a course in the session they choose.

When a student is allowed to repeat a course for academic degree or certificate credit, the second grade will be the grade of record and the only grade calculated in the student’s grade point average (major, cumulative, sessional and overall). In the rare circumstance that a course is retaken more than once, the second grade remains the grade of record, regardless of the numbers of times the student retakes the course. A course can be credited only once towards satisfaction of degree or certificate academic credit requirements.

The record of both the first and second time the course was taken will appear on the student’s transcript, with the first course designated as “No Credit Retained” (NCR). A student must be declared eligible to proceed in degree or certificate program in order to be eligible to repeat a course. That is to say, when a student fails to achieve sufficient standing to proceed in a degree or certificate program, or when they are required to withdraw, they would not be eligible to repeat a course or courses.

Grade Reappraisals

Reappraisal of Final BES Course Grades:
A student may, with sufficient grounds, request that a final course grade be reappraised. Such requests must be submitted on the approved form (which is available from the respective office) to the departmental office responsible for offering the course within 21 calendar days of the release of the final grade in the course. The course director shall do the reappraisal personally, or recommend a qualified person to do so to the undergraduate program director (e.g. a teaching assistant from the same course or a faculty member familiar with the course material). A reappraisal may result in a lower, higher, or unchanged grade. Whenever the grade reappraisal reflects a grade change it will be annotated on the student’s transcript.

Further Appeal for Reappraisal of a Final BES Course Grade:
If the student is not satisfied with a reappraised final course grade, the procedure shall be as follows:

i) The course director and the student shall discuss the matter with the undergraduate program director, who may or may not arrange another reappraisal;

ii) If the matter remains unresolved, the student may appeal the grade by petition on the appropriate form provided by the Office of Student and Academic Services to the BES Program and Admissions Subcommittee, clearly stating the grounds for appeal;

iii) The decision of the BES Program and Admissions Subcommittee shall be final, and may be appealed to the FES Appeals Committee only on grounds of procedural irregularity.

Reappraisal of Grades Other Than Final Course Grades:
If a student is not satisfied with any grade — other than a final course grade — received from an instructor or teaching assistant, the student is expected to discuss the matter (and at such time may request a reappraisal) with the person from whom the student received the grade, normally within two weeks. A reappraisal may result in a lower, higher, or unchanged grade. If the student is not satisfied with the result of the reappraisal, the instructor or teaching assistant (where appropriate) shall discuss the matter with the course director. The course director shall decide whether or not to reappraise the student’s work, and his/her decision is final for all grades other than final course grades.

Deferred Standing
In some cases, students may be eligible for deferred standing (an extension) to write a test or final examination or to complete an assignment after the Faculty’s deadline for submission of term work. Senate policy states that students must request deferred standing through the department responsible for the course within one week following a missed examination or the last day to submit course work.

Students are responsible for ensuring that full documentation (medical or other) is provided in support of a petition for deferred standing. Application forms are available at Student Client Services or online at the Current Students Web site, or from the FES Office of Student and Academic Services.

Aegrotat Standing
In cases where a student cannot be expected to complete the work for a course, the phrase “aegrotat standing” (from the Latin for “she/he is ill”) is substituted for a grade on the transcript. Aegrotat standing is seldom granted, and only in exceptional circumstances where deferred standing is inappropriate. For more information, please contact your course director.

Academic Penalties
Students whose academic record does not meet Faculty standards are subject to the academic penalties of academic warning, required withdrawal, debarment warning, debarment and academic probation.

Academic Warning
Students whose cumulative grade point average falls below 4.0 (C) at the end of any session, or who enter the Faculty with a grade point average equivalent to less than 4.0 (C) on the York University undergraduate grading scheme, receive an academic warning. Students who receive an academic warning must achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 4.0 (C) within the next 24 credits taken, or must earn a sessional grade point average of at least 5.0 (C+) in the session in which the 24th credit is completed and in each subsequent session until the cumulative average reaches 4.0 (C), or be required to withdraw.

Required Withdrawal
Students whose academic record show marked weaknesses may be required to withdraw from their studies for one year, during which time they are encouraged to identify and remedy any problems which may have contributed to their failure to perform up to their potential, and to reflect on their reasons for pursuing a university education. The following regulations apply to required withdrawals:

Grade Point Average Below 3.0 (D+)
Students whose cumulative grade point average on at least 24 credits is below 3.0 must withdraw for 12 months.

Grade Point Average Below 4.0 (C) and Greater than 3.0 (D+)
Students who have received an academic warning for a cumulative grade point average below 4.0 (C) must achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 4.0 (C) within their next 24 credits taken or earn a sessional grade point average of at least 5.0 (C+) in the session in which the 24th credit is completed and in each subsequent session until the cumulative average reaches 4.0 (C); otherwise, they must withdraw for 12 months. Should the student’s cumulative grade point average fall below 3.0 (D+) at any time after completion of 24 credits, they will be required to withdraw.

Petition to Continue Without Interruption
Students who have been required to withdraw may submit a petition to the Faculty of Environmental Studies Petitions (BES Program and
Academic Standing

Academic standing depends on several factors, including the number of courses a student has passed, the grade point average achieved during a particular session (sessional grade point average) and the overall grade point average (cumulative grade point average).

BES Honours Degree

Qualifying for Honours: Students with no Previous Postsecondary Education

Students who enter the Faculty of Environmental Studies with no prior experience at a postsecondary educational institution (such as a university or college) are automatically enrolled in an Honours program.

Transfer Students

Students who enter with prior experience at a postsecondary educational institution are enrolled in an Honours program if their prior cumulative grade point average (including failed courses) is at least the equivalent of 5.0 (C+) on the York scale. (Note: Courses taken at other postsecondary institutions are not calculated as part of the student's grade point average at York, nor do they appear on the York University transcript.)

Continuing in Honours

To continue in an Honours program, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 5.0 (C+).

Graduating in Honours

To graduate from an Honours program, students must successfully complete (pass) at least 120 credits which meet the Faculty of Environmental Studies' program requirements. The cumulative grade point average for all courses taken must be at least 5.0 (C+).

Courses taken Beyond the Normal Maximum

Students in an Honours BES program who successfully complete more than 120 credits and whose cumulative grade point average is at least 5.0 (C+) will have all credits counted towards their Honours BES and their cumulative grade point average.

Opting to Graduate in the BES Program (90 credit)

Students registered in the 120-credit Honours program may opt to graduate with a 90-credit degree if they fulfill those program requirements. Students who wish to take advantage of this option should complete the relevant form at the Office of Student Academic Services, 352 Lumbers Building, by early December for graduation the following spring, or by mid-August for graduation the following fall (refer to the 90 credit program requirements).

Students registered in an Honours BES program whose cumulative grade point average after completion of 90 credits falls below 5.0 (C+), but remains 4.0 (C) or above, may request to graduate with a 90-credit BES degree if they fulfill the degree requirements, or may continue in the program until the requirements for the 90-credit degree are fulfilled. They may not continue in an Honours program and they may not take extra...
courses in a subsequent session in an effort to raise their cumulative grade point average to re-enter the Honours program.

Ineligibility to Continue in Honours
Students whose cumulative grade point average falls below 5.0 (C+) may continue their studies only in the BES 90-credit degree program.

Re-entering Honours
Students who are ineligible to continue in the Honours program because their cumulative grade point average has fallen below 5.0 (C+) may re-enter the BES Honours program only if they raise their cumulative grade point average to 5.0 (C+) or above by the time they have successfully completed their 90th credit.

BES Degree
Students must successfully complete (pass) courses for at least 90 credits which meet the bachelor of environmental studies program requirements. The cumulative grade point average for all courses taken must be at least 4.0 (C).

Courses taken Beyond the Normal Maximum—in Order to Raise Cumulative Grade Point Average
Students in the BES program who have passed 90 credits in accordance with the Faculty of Environmental Studies program requirements, but whose cumulative grade point average is below 4.0 (C), may attempt to raise their average to 4.0 (C) by taking up to 12 additional credits, to a maximum of 102 credits. These courses must be above the 1000 level and a minimum of six credits must be taken in FES; regulations on equivalent and excluded courses apply.

Courses taken Beyond the Normal Maximum
Students in the BES program who successfully complete more than 90 credits and whose cumulative grade point average is at least 4.0 (C) and less than 5.0 (C+) will have all credits counted towards their BES degree and their cumulative grade point average.

Transferring to Honours
Students in the BES program who become eligible for Honours will automatically be transferred to the Honours BES degree program. Students who have graduated from the Faculty of Environmental Studies with a BES degree and whose record makes them eligible for an Honours BES may apply to the Faculty to pursue the Honours degree.