

faculty of
environmental
studies

YORK



UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY

redefine THE POSSIBLE.



graduate programs
Master's & Ph D

Any **number** of reasons to pursue a Master's or PhD in Environmental Studies at York:

- over 40 full-time professors in the Faculty, representing a wide range of research interests, with another 20 contract and cross-appointed faculty members to strengthen our academic impact
- faculty involvement in 6 different research centres and institutes on the York campus
- since 2000, over \$10M in external research funding awarded to FES faculty, with over \$3M in the 2010-11 fiscal year
- our research presence in more than 15 countries worldwide in 2011
- we are situated in Toronto, the economic capital of Canada, a city that is home to countless environmental organizations and all levels of government



Challenge what is. Imagine what could be.

at the faculty of environmental studies

With over 40 years of experience in graduate education, the Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES) has always challenged the status quo. As Canada's first faculty of its kind, we focus on interdisciplinary research and teaching. In examining ourselves and our environments across the globe, we constantly strive to address critical environmental issues and promote social justice. Our dynamic interests are reflected by the breadth and depth of internationally-recognized research and through the many publications of our faculty. FES Master's and PhD programs are celebrated for the diversity and flexibility they offer. These qualities allow you to bring your own interests to the program, while your passions are nourished and encouraged with the guidance of an equally dedicated Faculty.



PHOTO CREDIT: JOSH NEUBAUER

Master's students travelled in 2011 to Leipzig, Germany, in their pursuit to research suburban planning, part of a seven-year Major Collaborative Research Initiative funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

MES MASTER IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

This research-based degree will empower you to make the most of your graduate studies, whether you choose to produce a **Thesis, Major Paper, Major Project, or Portfolio**. You'll have tremendous input in defining your educational path, as we work with you to create a **Plan of Study** that reflects your personal interests in a full-time, two-year format. You will be matched with top notch faculty who will guide you in achieving your own learning objectives, and support your research interests.

courses

The York MES program is unique in that **only two courses are mandatory for all MES students: *Interdisciplinary Research in Environmental Studies* and a research methods course.**

The remaining four to eight courses may be selected from within the Faculty, from other graduate programs at York, or with approval, from other universities.

What can I study?

Many applicants wonder what they can study in the MES program. In short: anything involving an environment!

Below are examples of past students' research topics:

rethinking climate change policy

ecocultural studies

democratizing the global city

children's environmental education programs in zoos

community-based renewable energy development

imagining city building for social change

theorizing the socioeconomic rights of poor single mothers in Canada

the evolution of corporate social responsibility

For faculty research interests:
yorku.ca/fes/wa/FacultyProfiles/

GRADING SYSTEM

pass/unsatisfactory

A Pass/Unsatisfactory grading system is used, along with qualitative feedback from the instructor, to encourage exploration, creativity and breadth of study.

Official transcripts show as:

(P) = Pass

(W) = Withdrawn

(U) = Unsatisfactory

A Pass represents a "B" letter grade or better. Anything else is counted as Unsatisfactory, which is interpreted as a failure.

Many students have been awarded major scholarships and grants under this system, and have continued their studies at the world's most prestigious universities.

MES/JD: A POWER COMBINATION

"I could not be happier with my choice to participate in the MES/JD program. FES and Osgoode both attract the best and brightest students and faculty, who both contribute to an outstanding quality of education."

Rebecca Hall-McGuire
MES/JD candidate 2014 



degree options

In addition to our main MES program listed on the previous page, additional program options are available:

MES planning program

Through the MES Planning Program, you can pursue a full-time two-year "degree in planning" that is recognized by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) and Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP).

yorku.ca/fes/students/future/mes/planning



diploma programs

Several graduate diplomas are available, in areas such as Business and the Environment, Refugee and Migration Studies, Environmental Sustainability Education, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

yorku.ca/fes/students/future/mes/diplomas

MES/JD program

You can apply to complete a four-year full-time Joint Master in Environmental Studies/Law (MES/JD) program with York's Osgoode Hall Law School.

yorku.ca/fes/students/future/mes/jd



PhD DOCTORATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Drawing on students from a vast array of humanities, social science and natural science backgrounds, the PhD program explores issues through an innovative, contextual perspective. Join our ongoing critical dialogue on how “the environment” is defined and redefined, and the implications this has for you as an environmental studies researcher. Our PhD students are valued for their unique perspectives, which are shared and developed through our close-knit collegial atmosphere. The program is offered as full-time only, with a 4-5 year timeline.

design your own program

You are guided by your own **Program Plan** (i.e., no standard curriculum), developed and refined at the guidance of a **Faculty Advisor**. Only one course is mandatory: the PhD seminar. You select other courses from within the Faculty, from other graduate programs at York, or with approval, from other universities.

guided through your progress



Throughout the PhD program, you are supported at every step. An **Interim Advisor** provides guidance with your initial **Program Plan** and will help you develop your own **Advisory Committee**. The Advisory Committee works with you to revise and finalize your Program Plan, complete your comprehensive exams, and develop your **Dissertation Proposal**. A **Supervisory Committee** will offer the support you need as you research and write your dissertation.

fields of research

PhD research covers a vast range of themes, which are further detailed at yorku.ca/fes/students/future/phd/themes



GRADUATE STUDENT FUNDING



York values the contributions of master's and doctoral students, and offers **competitive funding** to excellent full-time applicants. York Graduate Entrance Scholarships are offered to our top-ranked incoming students. Other York funding usually comes in the form of a teaching assistantship (TA), research assistantship (RA) or graduate assistantship (GA).

TA: provides you with teaching or grading experience in an undergraduate course.

RA: provides you with funding to engage in research with faculty members.

GA: provides you with support while you engage in a variety of University activities.

York additionally offers various bursaries, internal scholarships and funds.

For details, please see yorku.ca/grads/financial

There are also a number of FES-exclusive scholarships and awards available.

For details, please see yorku.ca/fes/financial

EXTERNAL AWARDS

Students are strongly encouraged to apply for major external awards. York graduate students have a very high success rate in attracting these scholarships. Together with additional York funding, these scholarships allow students more time to dedicate to their research and make progress in their program of study.

Additional awards and information are listed at yorku.ca/fes/financial

Some major external awards include:
Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS)
osap.gov.on.ca

Social Science and Humanities
Research Council (SSHRC)
www.sshrc.ca

Canadian Institutes of Health
Research (CIHR)
www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council (NSERC)
www.nserc.ca

RESEARCH

IN OUR BACKYARD AND SPANNING THE GLOBE

We take pride in our faculty and graduate students for defining the interdisciplinary forefront of environmental research and for breaking new ground in internationally recognized research projects.

Community and collaboration are integrated throughout research projects of our faculty, which include:

- engaging local communities through regional research in areas such as the Oak Ridges Moraine
- building international networks of scholars to explore environmental literature and culture, led by the Canada Research Chair in Sustainability and Culture
- transforming the food system to be more just and sustainable through the FoodShed Project, which connects a myriad of grassroots initiatives and local food organizations
- developing environmental outreach programs and environment-based curriculum throughout the education system, via an EcoSchools initiative with Ontario's Ministries of Education and the Environment

major research projects

The research activity of the Faculty is constantly growing and evolving. Be sure to visit the main FES page for research announcements or yorku.ca/fes/research/projects for an up-to-date overview of research projects.

Building substantive transparency: Electoral process, oil revenue and democratic governance in the Niger Delta of Nigeria and Gulf of Guinea

Canadian polar bear body condition

Climate adaptation and impacts research using agent-based modeling

Community-based environmental education and mobilization in marginalized urban communities for equitable watershed governance

Exurbia and its impact on environment and politics in the Lake Simcoe Watershed

Green words, green worlds: Environmental literatures and politics in Canada

Juturna project: WEB-GIS to support community-based water quality monitoring in the Toronto region

Mainstreaming the Ontario renewable energy program within the municipal and private sectors

Ontario Network for Sustainable Energy Policy (ONSEP) Research and Curriculum Workshop

National Environmental Youth Corp. (NEYC) initiative

Quantification of the internal phosphorus load in Lake Simcoe to improve phosphorus budgets

Reconciling Canada Non-Aboriginal Discourses and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Revitalizing our landscapes: Perspectives of urban transformation

Sharing research findings in the Canadian Arctic: Assessing the integration of Inuit knowledge in policy communications about climate change related food insecurity

Solar training for high school, undergraduate and graduate students

Suburban identities in the global city between competition and cooperation: Toronto and Frankfurt

Taking Action II: Fostering Aboriginal Leadership in HIV Prevention Using Arts-Based Methods



LAS NUBES: A PLAYGROUND FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY THOUGHT

Las Nubes is the Faculty's Costa Rican rainforest, donated to FES by Dr. Woody Fisher in 1998. The Dr. Woody Fisher Fund for Neotropical Conservation supports research at Las Nubes and the surrounding region. Our diverse and interdisciplinary nature in the Faculty is reflected by a sampling of graduate student research explored at Las Nubes (yorku.ca/lasnubes):

- rainforest plant species
- equitable wage conditions
- sustainable coffee production
- bird migration patterns

real-world experience

A popular option in our graduate programs is the opportunity for hands-on field experience, in a wide range of locations. This consists of applied research, work experience and even internship opportunities that apply directly to your Plan of Study. The Faculty has dedicated resources to help you secure a placement.

career/industry support


We support our students and alumni through specialized career services, keeping your important connections with the FES community and industry professionals intact via alumni mentorship, networking events, job skills seminars, and more.

yorku.ca/fes/careers

A woman with a red apple balanced on her head stands in the middle of a city street. She is wearing a patterned short-sleeved top, a brown skirt, and red shoes. The background shows a street with cars, trees, and buildings.

IT'S ALL CONNECTED

"My studies at FES taught me that environmental work gains meaning – and traction – when you see that it is inextricably linked to culture. It is this belief that has enabled me to affect change through Not Far From The Tree."

Laura Reinsborough, MES '08 alumna 
Founder & Director, Not Far From the Tree

The Faculty of Environmental Studies is proud to celebrate the success of our talented and passionate alumni.

Laura's non-profit organization, Not Far From the Tree, is rapidly growing in size and achievement, picking fruit from community volunteer properties, and providing a generous portion of the harvest to those in need.

join our community

Expect a collegial atmosphere at FES, where sharing your passions with fellow students and faculty inspires a sense of belonging. You are welcomed and encouraged to explore all that the FES community has to offer, and to contribute your own ideas to the mix! Here are just a few of the clubs, resources and events that exist for our graduate students.

Maloca community garden

Grow and harvest your own food, or just help out and learn about sustainable gardens and harvesting. The Garden includes individual and community plots where you can build relationships that give back to the community. Garden volunteers keep in touch via Facebook and an email listserv. malocagarden.wordpress.com

Wild Garden Media Centre

Interested in creatively expressing your ideas? The Wild Garden Media Centre offers workshops on photography and film-making, and gives you exclusive access to photo, video and editing equipment. yorku.ca/fes/resources/wild-garden-media-centre

GESSA/PhESSA student associations

Short for Graduate Environmental Studies Students Association and PhD Environmental Studies Students Association, these active student bodies represent graduate level students and their interests.

eco-art and media festival

Each spring, the Faculty celebrates creative expression with the eco-art and media festival, showcasing student work in visual art, music and performance, film/video/new media, spoken word, storytelling and more.

writing support centre

An exclusive service to the Faculty of Environmental Studies, the Writing Support Centre provides academic writing support and workshops to all FES graduate students. yorku.ca/fes/resources/grad-writing-support

FES events and student group activities are often posted to yorku.ca/fes and listservs, keeping you involved beyond your studies.

Contact Us

Liaison Officer
Faculty of Environmental Studies
York University
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3 Canada
Tel: 416-736-2100 ext. 22671
Fax: 416-736-5679
E-mail: fesinfo@yorku.ca
Web: www.yorku.ca/fes

INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS

Discuss your program interests and the application process with our Liaison Officer. Contact fesinfo@yorku.ca to set up an appointment.

ADMISSIONS NEWSLETTER

FESNews is an e-newsletter for applicants to our MES and PhD programs. Send an e-mail to fesinfo@yorku.ca to receive *FESNews* and get monthly tips on applying to the programs, as well as information on upcoming events.

www.yorku.ca/fes