Environmental Science investigates the natural world by integrating knowledge from a wide variety of scientific fields to resolve complex environmental problems. Environmental Science at SFU fosters critical thinking about how the world works with an emphasis on the communication skills needed to be an effective practitioner.

Graduate with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree, major or honours, with the option of co-operative education.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SCIENCE FOUNDATION
The Program provides a broad, interdisciplinary education, with a solid foundation in the physical and biological sciences, anchored by core environmental science courses.

CORE COURSES
All students complete common core Environmental Science (EVSC) courses each year, which develop key knowledge and skills such as writing, critical thinking, collaboration and communication. This core course structure facilitates the formation of an Environmental Science cohort group of students who progress through the program together, providing opportunities for idea exchange, team-building, friendship and networking during their studies.

CAPSTONE PROJECT
Students complete their program with an EVSC ‘capstone’ course in their final year, where they apply what they’ve learned during their studies to a collaborative group research project on a real-world environmental problem.

PROGRAM CONCENTRATIONS
Concentrations offer course selections tailored to foster specialized skills and knowledge. Students choose the concentration that allows them to dig deeper into the area of environmental science that interests them most.

CONCENTRATIONS

APPLIED BIOLOGY
Develop a strong background in ecology, whole-organism biology and applied conservation biology. Assess the impacts of human activities on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH SYSTEMS
Acquire integrative understanding of environmental processes and systems. Develop technical skills in quantitative research methods. Use remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems to analyze spatial data.

ENVIORNMETRICS
Build a broad knowledge base in biology, environmental analytical chemistry and geography. Receive in-depth training in the design of sampling schemes for environmental analysis and monitoring.

WATER SCIENCE
Receive comprehensive training in hydrology, climatology, glaciology and aquatic sciences. Develop expertise in assessment of water resources in the context of Earth’s changing climate.
The Environmental Science Co-operative Education Program integrates work experience with academic studies, and is an exceptional way to acquire career-related experience and finance your education.

Potential placements include:
- Fish Habitat Student Biologist
- Waste Management Program Assistant
- Water Quality Monitoring Student Technician
- Environmental Regulation Compliance Promotion Assistant
- Environmental Waste Audit Technical Assistant
- Geographic Information Systems Technician

The Environmental Science Co-op student Sarah Gutzmann during her placement in the Arctic with Parks Canada.

MEET A STUDENT: TESICCA TRUONG

Tesicca is a fourth-year Environmental Science BSc (Honours) student (Environmental Earth Systems concentration), with a minor in Environmental Education. Her passions lie at the intersection of sustainability, youth empowerment and community-building and have earned her a place on The Starfish Canada’s Top-25 Environmentalists Under 25 list and a Greenest City Leadership Award from the City of Vancouver in 2015 where she also serves on the Engaged City Task Force.

Tesicca put her studies and passion to work as a volunteer for the Board of Sustainable SFU and as a student representative on both the SFU Senate and the Simon Fraser Student Society.

CAREER OPTIONS

- Air Quality Technician
- Climatologist
- Field Technician
- Environmental Chemist
- Environmental Consultant
- Environmental Educator
- Environmental Health And Safety Inspector
- Fisheries Technician
- Food Safety Coordinator
- Geographic Information Systems Analyst
- Hazardous Waste Management Officer
- Interpretive Park Naturalist
- Natural Resources Specialist
- Scientific Journalist
- Soil Conservationist
- Water Quality Controller