

HONOURS BA ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Environmental studies delve into some of the most significant issues of our day, such as anthropogenic climate change, urban pollution and possible threats to human health. You learn how to use applied research tools and management principles that can be applied in a variety of areas, such as conducting environmental impact assessments and resource management.

Learn more about this program (<https://www.uottawa.ca/faculty-arts/geography-environment-geomatics/undergraduate/environmental-studies/>)

Program Requirements

Co-operative education is available with this program.

The French immersion stream is available with this program.

Requirements for this program have been modified. Please consult the 2025-2026 calendar (<http://catalogue.uottawa.ca/en/archives/>) for the previous requirements.

Basic Skills

ENG 1100	Workshop in Essay Writing	3 Units
----------	---------------------------	---------

3 course units from:	3 Units
----------------------	---------

PHI 1101	Reasoning and Critical Thinking
----------	---------------------------------

PHI 1301	Philosophy: Ideas and Arguments
----------	---------------------------------

3 course units from:	3 Units
----------------------	---------

AHL 1100	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study in the Arts ¹
----------	--

AHL 1900	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study in the Arts ¹
----------	--

ENG 1120	Selected Topics in Literature and Composition
----------	---

3 course units from:	3 Units
----------------------	---------

AHL 1100	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study in the Arts ¹
----------	--

AHL 1900	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study in the Arts ¹
----------	--

PHI 1102	Moral Reasoning
----------	-----------------

PHI 1103	Fundamental Philosophical Questions
----------	-------------------------------------

PHI 1104	Great Philosophers
----------	--------------------

PHI 1302	Philosophy: Themes and Texts
----------	------------------------------

Total:	12 Units
---------------	-----------------

Compulsory courses

BIO 1131	Introduction to Organismal Biology	3 Units
----------	------------------------------------	---------

ECO 1104	Introduction to Microeconomics	3 Units
----------	--------------------------------	---------

ENV 1101	Global Environmental Challenges	3 Units
----------	---------------------------------	---------

GEG 1301	The Physical Environment	3 Units
----------	--------------------------	---------

GEG 1302	Places and Spaces of Human Activity	3 Units
----------	-------------------------------------	---------

POL 1102	Politics and Globalization	3 Units
----------	----------------------------	---------

BIO 2129	Ecology	3 Units
----------	---------	---------

ECO 2118	Introduction to Environmental and Natural Resources Economics	3 Units
----------	---	---------

ENV 2301	History of Environmental Thought	3 Units
----------	----------------------------------	---------

ENV 2304	Climatology	3 Units
----------	-------------	---------

ENV 2918	Introduction to Field Research ¹	3 Units
----------	---	---------

GEG 2320	GIS and the Digital Earth	3 Units
----------	---------------------------	---------

ENV 3101	Legal Context of Environmental Issues	3 Units
----------	---------------------------------------	---------

ENV 3321	Human and Policy Dimensions of Environmental Change	3 Units
----------	---	---------

ENV 4104	Methodological and Theoretical Approaches in Geography and Environmental Studies	3 Units
----------	--	---------

ENV 4120	Research Seminar in Environmental Studies	3 Units
----------	---	---------

Optional courses

3 optional course units from:	3 Units
-------------------------------	---------

ENV 4113	Selected Topics in Environmental Issues
----------	---

ENV 4129	Global Climate Change
----------	-----------------------

3 optional course units from:	3 Units
-------------------------------	---------

ENV 4001	Northern Field Research
----------	-------------------------

ENV 4002	Tropical Field Research
----------	-------------------------

ENV 4910	Environmental Studies Field Research
----------	--------------------------------------

GEG 4100	Glaciology Field Research
----------	---------------------------

GEG 4920	Urban Geography Field Research
----------	--------------------------------

GEG 4921	Physical Geography Field Research
----------	-----------------------------------

6 optional course units at the 3000 or 4000 level from the list of optional courses	6 Units
---	---------

Total:	60 Units
---------------	-----------------

Elective Courses

48 elective course units	48 Units
--------------------------	----------

Total:	48 Units
---------------	-----------------

The electives may be replaced by a combination of a Minor, Microprogram(s) (http://catalogue.uottawa.ca/en/undergrad/honours-environmental-studies/en/programs/#filter=filter_19&filter_170&filter_27), and/or elective units.

List of optional courses

BIO 3115	Conservation Biology	3 Units
----------	----------------------	---------

BIO 3117	Ecosystem Ecology	3 Units
----------	-------------------	---------

EAS 2101	Colonialism and Indigenous Peoples	3 Units
----------	------------------------------------	---------

ENV 3114	Biogeography	3 Units
----------	--------------	---------

ENV 3303	Health Geography	3 Units
----------	------------------	---------

ENV 4000	Honours Essay ²	6 Units
----------	----------------------------	---------

ENV 4113	Selected Topics in Environmental Issues	3 Units
----------	---	---------

ENV 4118	Environmental Impact Assessment	3 Units
----------	---------------------------------	---------

ENV 4129	Global Climate Change	3 Units
----------	-----------------------	---------

GEG 2301	Earth Surface Processes and Landforms	3 Units
----------	---------------------------------------	---------

GEG 3105	Earth Observation	3 Units
----------	-------------------	---------

GEG 3107	Geography of Polar Regions	3 Units
----------	----------------------------	---------

GEG 3302	Natural Resource and Environmental Management	3 Units
----------	---	---------

HIS 2129	Technology, Society and Environment Since 1850	3 Units
----------	--	---------

LSR 2121	Recreation and Environmental Quality	3 Units
----------	--------------------------------------	---------

POL 3175	Ecopolitics	3 Units
----------	-------------	---------

This is a copy of the 2026-2027 catalog.

¹ ENV 2918 caters to both English and French students. This course is taught "bi-unilingually".

² A minimum CGPA of 7.0 is required to register in ENV 4000.