

The AJ

Environmental Education Directory 2007

Green Campus Life and Learning

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PROJECTS, IN SCHOOL and elsewhere, rarely end how they begin. *Alternatives* set out to update the listings in its previous environmental program directory, but soon realized that a complete list of all environmentally focused degrees in Canada would make this version of *Alternatives* too heavy to fit in your backpack.

After spending the summer speaking with environmentally engaged students, faculty and staff from 40 universities across the country, we realized we were on to a bigger story: A thriving green-student movement is sizzling on Canadian campuses. For the first time in decades, university students are getting a warm response from some administrators when they request progressive environmental policies and programs for their campuses. Students from all departments are lending their energy, skills and commitment to raise environmental awareness and reform policy, and they're having fun doing it.

So in this directory, we offer you a green glimpse into some of the interdisciplinary environmental degrees available at Canadian universities. (By interdisciplinary, we mean that these courses draw from multiple disciplines to explore the social, political and scientific aspects of the environment.) In future editions, we hope to describe other environmental programs.

Please use this guide to get inspired, then contact schools for more information, book a campus tour, and if possible, chat with current students and professors who know the programs best.

Just think, before long some of you will join the thriving groups listed on the following pages, while others will use their degrees to secure jobs with environmental organizations, consultants or government departments, or to go to graduate school. We encourage you to make the best of your time on campus. Get involved. Make a difference. And then tell us about it by visiting our blog at www.alternativesjournal.ca/blog. Let us know what you'd like to see covered in our next version of this directory. ♻️

This section is supported by



University of Toronto

Toronto, Ontario
www.utoronto.ca

St. George Campus, Centre for the Environment: BA (Environment and Society, Environmental Policy and Practice), BSc (Environment and Science), MES (Environmental Studies Collaborative Program)
www.uts.utoronto.ca

UoT Scarborough Campus, Department of Social Sciences: BA (Society and Environment), Internships available, MEnvSc (Professional Master's of Environmental Science Program)
www.utm.utoronto.ca

UoT Mississauga Campus: Department of Geography: BA (Environment and Human Society, Environmental Management), BSc (Environmental Science, Environmental Monitoring and Analysis), Internship course required

With three campuses, seven colleges and 14 faculties, the University of Toronto (UoT) offers a variety of environmental programs and initiatives. A sustainability board unites each campus' sustainability office, and there are numerous active environmen-

tally minded student groups.

Located in the heart of Toronto, the stately St. George campus is home to the Centre for the Environment, which offers BA and BSc degrees in environmental studies as well as collaborative programs with disciplines ranging from archaeology to pharmacy. The active Environmental Students' Union runs *Green Perspectives* magazine and created the University of Toronto Environmental Resource Network (UTERN), a funding and networking body for student projects. UTERN supports groups as diverse as the The Hot Yam, a vegan food collective, and the Sustainable Energy Fair.

Just east of the city, the Scarborough campus resides in the heavily treed Highland Creek Ravine, a perfect location for research and teaching. Internships are available through the Ministry of the Environment or environmental consulting firms, and student groups include 2nd Nature, an action-oriented, awareness-raising club, and the Green Wizards, who promote composting and efficient lighting in residence.



To the west, the Mississauga campus sits on a 91-hectare parcel of land overlooking the Credit River. There are walking trails and areas are protected for research and naturalization. Within the multidisciplinary programs taught by faculty from a wide range of departments, the Research Opportunity Course offers for-credit research assistantships. And a senior year internship course helps students gain professional experience. The campus Environmental Affairs Office is known for its Green Team, which offers students opportunities to work on environmental projects such as anti-idling, bike repair and a community garden. ♻️

University of Victoria

Victoria, British Columbia
web.uvic.ca/enweb/index.html

Faculty of Social Science, School of Environmental Studies: BA, BSc (Environmental Studies), Certificate or Diploma available in Restoration of Natural Systems, Graduate degrees can be arranged upon consultation with a professor, Co-op available, Program size: 196 students

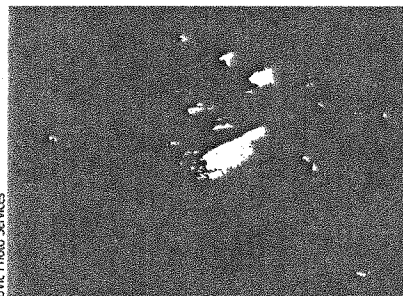
At the University of Victoria (UVic), all environmental studies (ES) students take a double major. The first major can be one of Political Ecology, Ethnoecology or Ecological Restoration, and the second can be in any other subject. This requirement provides students with a depth of exposure in one area that complements the interdisciplinary education offered in ES. In addition, the POLIS project on ecological governance facilitates transdisciplinary research for students and faculty alike.

Students link their coursework to the real world through field trips. Ethno-

ecology students visit a First Nations community to learn about traditional plant uses, while sustainable fisheries classes travel in fishing boats to meet working fishers. Ecological restoration classes plan and implement projects for local landowners, and a community-based service learning course could be a requirement in the near future.

Located on Vancouver Island, UVic overlooks the ocean. The campus has natural woodlands and streams, the mildest climate of any Canadian university, active field research sites, and a native Garry oak ecosystem. Large green spaces, mountains and parks are close by.

The University of Victoria Sustainability Project co-ordinates an array of thriving campaigns and events. A notable initiative is Common Energy, a network of students, faculty, staff, administrators and regional partners who are working to move the university "beyond climate neutral." If accomplished, UVic's net greenhouse gas emissions would be less than zero.



One group completes ecological restoration projects through regular work parties, while the Sustainable Paper Action Group campaigns for default double-sided printing and recycled paper-use across campus. The Food University Network tested local food in the cafeteria over the summer and will run a weekly organic, local market throughout the year.

During the first week of class, Earth-Fest celebrates slow, sustainable living, and later in the year, UVic's annual "Sustainability Day – Ridiculous Name, Essential Event" will feature high-profile speakers and workshops. ♻️