We rely on our natural environment to sustain our lives and our lifestyles. We continually need to improve our understanding and management of the natural environment to balance our development with wise management while minimising impacts and degradation.

An understanding of the mechanisms controlling environmental systems provides the skills required to undertake a great range of scientific environmental planning and management, and tackle problems such as local water quality and ecosystem impacts, soil erosion, catchment and groundwater use, or adaptation to global climate change.

You will experience some of the most advanced laboratories and field work opportunities in Australia and be taught by staff who are at the top of their research fields internationally. You will also stay in touch with the real world, as guest lectures, site visits and opportunities for work integrated learning bring a strong industry flavour to the degree.

**Why choose this course?**
Environmental scientists have careers in planning, management, monitoring and research. These roles are usually found in government departments and agencies, local councils, consultancies, and industrial and mining companies, and you could be working in urban, rural or remote settings.

Graduates assess resources, implement environmental impact programs, analyse and interpret environmental data and formulate contingency plans in areas including strategic land-use planning; waste disposal; pollution measurement and control; coastal protection; environmental impact of mining, tourism and urban development; rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded sites; ground water assessment and modelling; flood plain planning; erosion control; and marine science.

**Assumed knowledge**
Before you start this course we assume you have sound knowledge in these areas
- English
- Maths B

We assume that you have knowledge equivalent to four semesters at high school level.

**Michelle, environmental science student**

**Real choices**

‘I like environmental science because it combines a lot of different scientific disciplines into the one. There’s chemistry, geology and biology. In environmental science, they all come together.’
Course structure

Your science degree

During your first year of study you’ll get to sample a range of core science disciplines, allowing you to decide on your major later.

Faculty core units

These six units give you an introduction to the principles of science. The inquiry based experimental science units will give you the opportunity to learn by enquiry and become familiar with the methods of scientific inquiry.

From your very first semester, you will collaborate with your peers and teaching staff in QUT’s exciting new learning environments. You will explore real-world problems from multiple scientific perspectives and learn the tools of the trade. Depending on your choices, you may find yourself out in the field, working in the laboratory or learning about the impact of scientific discovery on people, policy, industry and the planet.

Working with data you have collected, you’ll study how to apply fundamental methods of scientific practice, perform scientific analysis, and learn the tools to present your findings. You’ll have the opportunity to explore and discover the range of career and professional outcomes available to you, so you can gain the most from your unit selection and the flexibility the Bachelor of Science has to offer.

Primary major

Your major is your main area of study for what you aspire to become professionally. You will receive in-depth knowledge and expertise within your chosen scientific discipline, preparing you for entry into the workforce or further study. Your primary major comprises 10 units.

Complementary study areas

This is where you make the degree your own, tailoring your studies to further match your individual career goals with a wide range of complementary study options available. You’ll have the opportunity to develop sought-after professional skills, deepen your understanding of your major discipline, pursue an interest from across the university, or broaden your scientific understanding. You can even work with industry or study overseas to gain credit towards your degree.

You can choose: a second major (eight units); or an extended minor (four units) or breadth minor (four units), plus either a faculty minor (four units) or breadth minor (four units).

Second major (eight units)

Choose a second area of study to complement your major, and develop a significant depth of knowledge and skills in two discipline areas. Experience another field, learn another academic methodology and experience interdisciplinary networking.

Choose a second science discipline (biological sciences, chemistry, environmental science or physics), or explore different perspectives which might include:

- computational and simulation science
- innovation and entrepreneurship
- science communication, or
- policy and governance.

Minor (four units)

You might prefer to expand the breadth and depth of your studies by adding to your chosen science major with two minors. Minors include:

Extension minor (four units)

Gain further insights and depth in your primary area of study. Intensify your chosen major to develop additional knowledge, skills and experience for your career in science.

Breadth minor (four units)

Broaden your studies to include minors from the list of science majors, second majors or from the list of university-wide minors.

Careers and outcomes

Environmental scientists are continually needed in a wide variety of planning, management, monitoring and research careers. These roles are usually found in government departments and agencies, local councils, consultancy, and industrial and mining companies. As an environmental science graduate, you could be working in urban, rural or remote settings depending on your interests.

Graduates are equipped to assess resources, implement environmental impact programs, analyse and interpret environmental data and formulate contingency plans in a wide variety of areas. These include strategic land use planning; pollution measurement and control; coastal protection; environmental impact of mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and urban development; rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded sites; natural resource management (ground water, soil, vegetation) and modeling.

Professional recognition

Graduates are eligible for membership of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand and a variety of other scientific societies, including the Soil Science Society of Australia and the Ecological Society of Australia.

Other study options

- Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Mathematics/Bachelor of Science

Fees

HECS-HELP

You may be eligible for HECS-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your course fees, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the HECS-HELP information.

Student Services and Amenities Fee

You’ll need to pay the student services and amenities fee as part of your course costs. You may be eligible for SA-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your student services and amenities fee, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the SA-HELP information.

Scholarships

You can apply for scholarships to help you with study and living costs.

- Equity scholarships scheme
- QUT Sport Scholarship (Elite Athlete)
- Undergraduate Indigenous Fee Waiver Commencing Student Scholarship

This information has been prepared for Australian and New Zealand citizens and those with Australian permanent resident status. Some courses are not open to international students, and entry requirements and fee information may be different. For more information and to check if a course is available, international students should visit www.qut.edu.au/international. Last updated on: 22/10/2019. Information contained in this document was correct at the time of printing. The university reserves the right to amend any information, and to cancel, change or relocate any course. CRICOS No.00213J