

Environmental Sciences BPhil or BSGS

Overview

Graduating students may pursue employment in environmental planning and consulting companies and county, state and federal environmental agencies. Additionally, many students continue their studies in graduate programs in natural science programs or in policy, legal, or engineering programs.

Job Outlook

Employment of environmental scientists is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2014, while employment of hydrologists should grow much faster than average. Job growth for environmental scientists and hydrologists should be strongest at private-sector consulting firms. Demand for environmental scientists and hydrologists will be spurred largely by public policy, which will oblige companies and organizations to comply with complex environmental laws and regulations, particularly those regarding ground-water decontamination, clean air, and flood control.

See <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos050.htm> for more information.

Compensation

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, beginning salary offers in July 2005 for graduates with bachelor's degrees in a environmental science averaged \$31,366 a year.

See <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos050.htm> for more information.

Career Options/Tracks

Environmental scientists and hydrologists perform investigations for the purpose of abating or eliminating sources of pollutants or hazards that affect the environment or some population—plant, animal, or human. Many other occupations deal with preserving or researching the natural environment, including conservation scientists and foresters, atmospheric scientists, and some biological scientists and science and engineering technicians.

Using their qualitative and quantitative problem-solving skills, physicists; chemists; engineers; mathematicians; surveyors, cartographers, photogrammetrists, and surveying technicians; computer systems analysts; and computer scientists and database administrators may perform similar work in environment-related activities.

Advanced Education Options

A bachelor's degree is adequate for a few entry-level positions, but environmental scientists are increasingly needing a master's degree in a natural science. A master's degree also is the minimum educational requirement for most entry-level applied research positions in private industry, in State and Federal agencies, and at State geological surveys. A doctoral degree is necessary for college teaching and most high-level research positions.

Sample Job Titles

- *geographic data analyst
- *environmental planner
- *risk assessment specialist
- *urban or regional planner
- *laboratory analyst
- *environmental toxicologist
- *industrial environmental manager
- *environmental geologist
- *environmental scientist
- *epidemiologist
- *environmental activist
- *environmental policy manager
- *meteorological analyst
- *geographic information systems analyst
- *climatological specialist

Some Employers of Environmental Science Majors

(Not enough data at this time...Job titles above can be placed in a variety of organizations)

Other Sources of Information

American Geological Institute

<http://www.agiweb.org>

American Institute of Petroleum Geologists

<http://www.aipg.org>

Association of American Geographers

<http://www.aag.org>

Environmental Career Center

<http://www.environmentalcareer.com>

Environmental Careers Organization

<http://www.eco.org>

Environmental Jobs and Careers

<http://www.ejobs.org>

Geological Society of America

<http://www.geosociety.org>

Student Conservation Association

<http://www.sca-inc.org/>

The Riley Guide

<http://www.rileyguide.com>