

Your world awaits.

Iethi'nistenha Onhwenstia
Our Mother the Earth

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Mnaajaadaa Eshkakimi-kwe
Honouring Our Mother the Earth

The Indigenous Environmental Studies Program at Trent University is an innovative and multidisciplinary program in the broadest sense. It brings together both Indigenous environmental knowledge and western science to provide students with the skills and critical thinking abilities to address the complex environmental problems facing peoples, cultures and communities around the world today. The approach upon which the program and courses are based is one which recognizes both the strengths and limitations of only one way of

knowing in attempting to understand and address issues. Through theory and practical based learning, often involving real-world case study reviews and research, students gain an appreciation for the value of different ways of knowing and develop the skills to apply different forms of knowledge and problem solving skills to understand and address current-day issues. The development of these skills supports the development of creative and broad thinking individuals, well-prepared to address a wide range of environmental and health issues.

LEARNING TO MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.™





The IES program provides students with the opportunity to learn how to work with Indigenous Environmental Knowledge in addition to gaining the scientific literacy necessary to apply the tools and technologies of environmental sciences to environmental issues and problems impacting Indigenous Peoples, communities and the environment.

With the unique nature of Indigenous Environmental Studies, program growth has been rapid. Starting as an Emphasis in 1999, it became a Specialization in 2002. Course offerings include:

- Environmental Assessment Techniques for Aboriginal Communities
- Introduction to Indigenous Environmental Studies
- Introduction to Environmental Science Techniques for Indigenous Communities
- Issues in Indigenous Environmental Studies
- Indigenous Peoples Health and the Environment
- Sustainable Indigenous Communities
- Indigenous Environmental Research Protocol and Ethics



Programs of Study

The Indigenous Environmental Studies program provides an interdisciplinary and creative approach to environmental issues affecting Indigenous communities. The program blends Indigenous and western environmental perspectives and is offered jointly by Environmental & Resource Science/Studies Program and the Department of Indigenous Studies. It is available as a Specialization in either the B.A. or B.Sc. programs or as a Diploma. The Diploma is intended for students of Indigenous ancestry.

Diploma in Indigenous Environmental Studies

- The Diploma is a two-year program open to students who have the equivalent of Ontario Grade 12 or qualify as mature students.
- The Diploma will be awarded upon successful completion of the program. With it will be included a Trent University transcript identifying all courses undertaken and grades received.
- Students who have earned the Diploma may apply for admission to the B.A. or B.Sc. program. Credits earned in the Diploma program are transferable to the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees.

Specialization in Indigenous Environmental Studies

- The Specialization in Indigenous Environmental Studies is available to students in the Bachelor of Arts program in Environmental & Resource Studies and/or Indigenous Studies and in the Bachelor of Science program in Environmental & Resource Science. The Specialization is designed to provide students with a theoretical and practical framework for working on environmental and natural resources issues that involve Indigenous Peoples.
- The transcripts of students graduating with a General or Honours degree who have successfully completed the requirements of the Specialization will contain the notation "with a Specialization in Indigenous Environmental Studies."



"The IES course provides an excellent opportunity for students in different disciplines to expand their minds and adopt new ways of thinking into their practices. As a biology/environmental science student, exposure to Indigenous life-views and methodologies in environmental sciences was a critical component to which I feel all students should be exposed. The cross-cultural sharing and exchange of knowledge between students and disciplines is invaluable!"

Katelyn Friendship
B.Sc. Environmental Sciences/Biology
M.A. candidate
Indigenous Studies-Canadian Studies

Future Visions

Future growth is anticipated in both the undergraduate and graduate studies (diplomas and degrees), and students will be offered opportunities to expand their studies into 5 key areas of knowledge:

- Indigenous Foods and Medicines: growing, gathering and utilization.
- Indigenous Peoples Health and the Environment: the relationship between local environments and community well-being.

- Natural resource and ecological restoration: community development and environmental remediation.
- Environmental planning: for ecological and cultural sustainability.
- International Indigenous Environmental Network: sharing and creating innovative Indigenous solutions through knowledge exchange programs.



Career Opportunities

Throughout their degree IES students prepare to work at local, national and international levels in communities, government, business, industry, Non-Governmental Organizations, and teaching and research fields.



Program in Practice

For environmental and resource initiatives with Indigenous communities to succeed, the communities must be involved in every aspect of the process. This ranges from identifying the problems to implementing solutions.

A trained individual must be able to facilitate community involvement, help direct the research, develop creative solutions, implement and evaluate them to be of benefit to the community. This is a specialized process. It demands a skilled and

knowledgeable individual with the capacity to act as a bridge of understanding and communication between two distinct bases of knowledge. As the issues and problems demanding this expertise escalate in number and severity, there is a real need for these individuals.

