

Sustainability Studies at Trent

Sustainability is in Trent's DNA. As the leading institution for sustainability studies in Canada, Trent provides graduate students with advanced opportunities to drive your career forward.

The M.A. in Sustainability Studies features a customized individual study plan for each student, consisting of a balance of core and elective courses. Guided by complementary course instruction in research methods, professional development, leadership and entrepreneurship, you'll acquire the tools and expertise necessary to address complex social and environmental challenges in practical ways.

Graduates will find career opportunities and success in a number of realms, from academia to industry, to government and the non-profit sector.

Sustainability Studies Co-op

Co-op is an opportunity for students to gain hands-on work-integrated learning experience that will help them get a head start on their career. The Sustainability Studies Co-op assists graduating students in achieving a competitive edge while gaining experience in an industry-specific sector. Specifically, co-op gives students a chance to obtain 4 months of practical on-the-job experience, explore career options, enhance their transferable and technical skills, and network with industry professionals and future employers.

Program Requirements for Admittance into Co-op:

- Honours Bachelor of Arts or Honours Bachelor of Science degree
- Minimum A- (80% CGPA 3.7)
- Submission of required documents (transcripts, referee contact information, proof of English language proficiency, plan of study, resume or CV)

To remain in the co-op, students must:

- Successfully complete the required co-op preparatory course, COOP 5000H
- Receive a minimum 70% in each academic course
- Complete the academic co-op work term
- Submit all work term documentation and receive satisfactory evaluations during their work term

Co-op Work Term Schedule

Fall	Winter	Summer
Study Term 1	Study Term 2	SUST 5700Y (Work Term)
SUST 5700Y (Paper)		

Sustainability Studies Co-op is a competitive direct-entry program with a limited number of spaces.

All students are encouraged to meet with the graduate program and the Co-op Coordinator to ensure they are meeting program and work term requirements.

Please Note: Co-op is meant to prepare students for the real-world job application process, and as such, the co-op process is competitive and dependent upon many factors, including market conditions, the student's efforts to secure a work term, the student's communication with their Co-op Coordinator, and the academic performance of a student. Every effort is made to find suitable co-op work terms for students, but a work term opportunity cannot be guaranteed for every student. Co-op students will secure positions through successful participation in the co-op interview process and/or their own job search activities. Withdrawal from the co-op program will not normally be approved while a student is on their work term.

Students who are unable to obtain a suitable co-op work term will have the opportunity to graduate as part of the Major Research Paper stream.

Students are required to pay a \$750 administrative co-op fee during their Summer work term. The Co-op Assistance Program is available to support students in financial need with co-op expenses. For more information, please reach out to coop@trentu.ca.

Students with Disabilities are strongly encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Please contact sas@trentu.ca for more support.

International Students As of April 1, 2026, international post-secondary students no longer need a co-op work permit to participate in a mandatory work component of their study program. To be eligible for student work placements, you must have a valid study permit that includes authorization to work on campus. For full eligibility requirements and updates on working in Canada as an international student, visit [Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/2023/06/immigration-refugees-and-citizenship-canada.html).

Sample Work Term Areas:

- Environmental policy analysis
- Municipal sustainability planning
- Education and outreach
- Conservation and natural resources
- Corporate social responsibility
- Non-profit and advocacy organizations

Potential Career Paths:

- Policy Analyst
- Sustainable Development Consultant
- Education & Program Manager
- Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator
- Non-Profit Program Manager/Director
- Environmental Researcher

