

BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (HONOURS) FAQs

NUS-College of Humanities and Sciences Open House 2023

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PROGRAMME INFORMATION

1) Why is NUS offering a Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES) degree?

NUS recognises that environmental issues are global, interconnected, and in desperate need of solutions. There is a compelling need for new educational models, such as the BES, to nurture graduates who can think broadly and deeply, and who come away prepared to effectively address environmental issues in a way that is grounded in science but takes the needs of society into account.

2) Is BES a major?

No, BES is a 4-year direct honours programme. It is a Cross-Disciplinary Programme (XDP) that focuses on the tight integration of knowledge from multiple disciplines which include courses in biology, chemistry, economics, geography, law, management, math, policy, public health, and statistics.

3) What kind of new pedagogies will I be expecting in this new programme?

The specially designed ENV courses adopt diverse pedagogical approaches. In part, these reflect the varied backgrounds of the faculty members who teach the BES programme. You can expect some traditional lectures and tutorials, as well as case studies, small group discussions, field studies, and research projects.

APPLICATION/ADMISSION

1) Are polytechnic diploma holders eligible to apply to BES?

BES accepts applicants with any full-time Diploma from a local Polytechnic. Successful candidates need to read the bridging course LSM1301 - General Biology in Year 1, except for the Diplomas listed under Table 5 at <https://chs.nus.edu.sg/prospective-students/#subject-prerequisites>. (Select Bachelor of Science and choose the Polytechnic Bridging Courses option)

2) I am a polytechnic diploma holder. Do I get any course exemptions?

If you hold an accredited Polytechnic diploma and are accepted to the BES programme, then you may be granted advanced placement credits for up to a maximum of 20 Units to fulfill your Unrestricted Elective requirements.

3) I am a current NUS student and wish to transfer my course of study to BES. Can I do so?

If you have an aptitude and passion for environmental issues and challenges, you can consider transferring to the Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES). Applicants for the cohort AY2023/2024 who do not have a pass in H2 Biology or equivalent are to read the bridging course, LSM1301 General Biology, upon successful admission to the programme.

You can read more information about the transfer application at this link <https://nus.edu.sg/oam/apply-to-nus/transfer-applicants>

OTHER INFORMATION

1) Who will be teaching me in this programme?

This is a very broad-based programme so your instructors are very diverse. You will be taught, first and foremost by our BES faculty members, and read courses taught by educators from the Faculties of Science, Arts and Social Sciences, Law, the College of Design and Engineering, NUS Business School, and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

2) Will I be able to stay in University Town (UTown) if I enrol in BES?

Sure, you can live in UTown, but be aware that all undergraduates who live in UTown have to undertake five compulsory courses as part of the residential programme. That is on top of the BES programme requirements.

3) Can I pursue a Double Degree Programme (DDP) if I enrol in the BES?

BES cannot be taken as a Second Degree. For Double Degree students, BES has to be taken as the First Degree. You should also know that BES is not among the specially-designed double degree programmes (DDPs) that are offered for direct admission to the first year at NUS.

That said, you can take a DDP as long as (1) you complete your studies within five years and (2) the curriculum of the second degree and BES do not overlap by more than one-third. Take note that BES cannot be taken with Pharmacy or Law as a Double Degree.

If you are interested in pursuing your double degree combination, you need a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.0 after completing between 60 and 80 Units (excluding Units earned from student exchange programmes or advanced placement credits). You also need written approval to embark on the DDP from the relevant Faculties. You must also seek advice and get approval from the BES academic advisors before applying to read a DDP.

For more details on DDPs, please refer to this [website](#).

4) Can I pursue a second major if I enrol in the BES?

BES cannot be taken as a Second Major. For Double Major students, BES must be taken as the First Major. All BES students can declare a Second Major, but only after completing the first year of studies. Please refer here for the list of available second majors:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/academic-information-policies/undergraduate-students/special-programmes/double-major-programmes>.

5) Can I pursue a minor if I enrol in the BES?

Yes, you can declare up to two minors anytime starting in the first semester of your first year. For more information on minor programmes, please refer to <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/academic-information-policies/undergraduate-students/special-programmes/minor-programmes>.

6) Will I be able to go for Student Exchange Programmes (SEP)?

Definitely! The Student Exchange Programme (SEP) is the largest and most established global programme in NUS. You are able to choose from over 300 partner universities in more than 40 countries to broaden your horizons and gain essential soft skills in preparation for the world after graduation. You can refer to <https://www.nus.edu.sg/gro/global-programmes/student-exchange/outgoing-exchangers> for more information.

CAREER PROSPECTS

Environmental studies graduates work in applied fields and interdisciplinary settings that focus on the impacts of human activities. This may include biodiversity conservation, pollution control measures, preservation of natural resources, or sustainability solutions.

Our graduates have diverse career opportunities in academia, conservation, consultancy, government, and industry. Career pathways include conservation biologist, ecologist, forest conservationist, geologist, public policy analyst, researcher, sustainability officer and wildlife biologist.

Some graduates go on to work in academia in research institutes, universities, etc., after pursuing PhD degrees in a range of environment-related disciplines, including geography, biology, ecology, and social sciences.