



## Frequently Asked Questions

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

NUS recognises that current environmental issues are global, complex and interconnected, and these issues are gaining interest among many industries, organisations and government establishments worldwide. Therefore, NUS is offering this BES degree programme to attract students who are passionate about the environment and train them well for diverse careers in the environmental arena, including in the private, public and academic sectors. Through this programme, NUS aims to produce graduates who are able to address the societal and scientific needs and to manage these critical environmental issues competently and effectively.

### Because the BES is a University-wide programme, will I have a home faculty if I join this BES degree programme?

Upon entering this degree programme, students are required to select a specialisation. If you choose to specialise in Environmental Biology, then the Faculty of Science will be your home faculty. If you choose to specialise in Environmental Geography, then your home faculty will be the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Each faculty will render administrative and academic support to its students.

### When do I need to declare my specialisation?

Students must declare a specialisation after they are successfully admitted to and enrolled in the degree programme. However, they are allowed to change their specialisation within the first two years of their studies.

### Can I exit from this programme after three years with a BES degree?

No. This is a four-year direct honours degree programme. This means that students must complete two years of a common curriculum and two years of specialisation. The BES honours degree is awarded to students who have performed well overall in the course, similar to any other four-year direct honours programmes.

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# DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIGERS ARE LEFT IN THE WILD?

## Bachelor of ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

## Responding to Asia's environmental crisis

The tiger. An iconic and revered species. Once found in regions ranging from Western Asia through Siberia and across parts of Indonesia, it is now one of the world's most endangered species with about 3,000 individuals left in the wild. Its decline is the result of a complex set of factors; its survival depends on our ability to resolve multifaceted problems that include aspects of biology, geography, economics, law, public health and environmental policy.

The tiger is not a unique case. All of the environmental problems that Asia is facing today are complex in nature, and sustainable solutions can only be developed if professionals harness information from across multiple disciplines.

The NUS Bachelor of Environmental Studies programme (BES) is designed to produce the next generation of environmental professionals who can contribute to the solutions for complex, modern environmental issues such as climate change, land conversion, habitat and species conservation, water usage, alternative energy and the building of liveable high-density cities.

BES pursues this mission through the joint efforts of the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences with participation from the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Law, School of Design and Environment, NUS Business School and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

## The BES philosophy

BES seeks to create agents of change who are passionate about the environment, scientifically informed about the issues, and creative in generating solutions and opportunities. A BES education is founded on the following principles:

- An **interdisciplinary approach** to identifying, analysing and solving environmental challenges.
- Personal development of **environmental ethics** that, while recognising tradition, culture and heritage, are fundamentally based on science.
- **Strengthening human-environment bonds** through experiential learning, supporting the development of a conservation ethos that extends beyond Singapore.

Our graduates have diverse career opportunities in academia, conservation, consultancy, government agencies and industry.

We train and equip our graduates to be regional advocates for the environment: solving problems in Singapore, Asia and further afield.

## A broad-based curriculum

The BES curriculum is designed to build a strong, interdisciplinary foundation of knowledge, upon which specialisations are pursued during our students' final two years. Core modules include:

- Environmental Studies: An Interdisciplinary Overview
- General Chemistry
- Principles of Economics
- Geographical Journeys: World Environments
- Statistics
- Communications
- Biodiversity
- Global Environmental Change
- Environmental Law
- The Environment and Public Health
- Environmental Economics
- Environmental Management in Singapore

Students will take a two-module series "Environmental Challenges: Asian Case Studies", which culminates in a three-week field trip to another Southeast Asian nation, where students conduct hands-on research on solutions to some of the region's most pressing environmental challenges.

Students specialise in either Environmental Biology or Environmental Geography in their third and fourth years; this specialisation is reflected on the degree certificate.

## Practical, experiential learning

Our programme is designed with special features to improve the practical skill sets of our students in order to enhance their employability in the job market. These include:

- **Internships**, both domestic and overseas, with top-notch environmental organisations in diverse sectors.
- Semester-abroad **exchange programmes** with partner universities.
- Supervised **research opportunities**, including fourth year Honours projects.
- Exclusive, BES-only **town-hall style discussions** with local and regional leaders offering a behind-the-scenes perspective on contemporary environmental problems and solutions.
- **Small average class size** to create optimal interactive space with lecturers.

## Admission criteria

BES encourages applications from students with an aptitude and passion for environmental issues. The minimum criteria for admission include:

- Good H1 pass or equivalent in Mathematics
- Good H2 pass or equivalent in either Biology or Chemistry

Students who do not meet both of the above criteria but have a keen interest in the programme may be interviewed for suitability.

An important characteristic of our applicants is a commitment to better environmental stewardship at both the personal and societal levels. Students with a longstanding record of involvement in environmental activities are especially encouraged to apply.

Admission is on a competitive basis.

