

# BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (BES) FAQs

## NUS e-OPEN HOUSE 2020

[GENERAL](#)  
[ADMISSION](#)  
[CURRICULUM](#)

### GENERAL

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

NUS recognises that the environmental issues that are presented to the world today are global, complex and interconnected. There is a compelling need for new educational models such as the BES to nurture graduates who can think broadly and deeply so as to effectively address the societal and scientific needs for understanding environmental issues. At NUS, we hope to continue to be the preferred choice of top students in Singapore and around the world by always putting ourselves at the forefront of innovative education.

#### 2. Is the BES a major under the Science course or the Arts & Social Sciences course?

No, this is a 4-year direct honours degree programme. Students will be awarded a Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree at the end of the programme.

#### 3. Can I exit from BES after 3 years with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree?

This is a 4-year programme and students will need to complete 2 years of common curriculum and 2 years of specialisations. BES (Hons.) will only be awarded to students who have met the CAP requirements upon completion of the 4-year programme.

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

Students will need to declare their specialisation upon admission into the programme. However, students will be allowed to change their declaration of specialisation for one more time only within the first 2 years of their studies.

#### 5. Should I specialise in Environmental Biology or Environmental Geography?

BES students read a common broad-based curriculum in the first two years and specialisation kicks in at the third and fourth years. Students choose to specialise in Environmental Biology or Environmental Geography based on their interests and will read different modules in the Biology or Geography disciplines. For example, an Environmental Biology student would need to read modules such as Freshwater & Terrestrial Ecology and Behavioural Biology while the Environmental Geography student would need to read modules such as Urban Climates, Environmental Modelling and Geographical Information Systems. All these modules have an environmental focus.

The emphasis of these two specialisations is different. Environmental Biology allows students to appreciate environmental issues from a more biological angle. For examples, modules such as Freshwater Ecology, Terrestrial Ecology and Tropical Conservation Biology can help students achieve in-depth understanding of the biological aspects influencing environmental problems. Environmental Geography on the other hand allows students to appreciate environmental issues from a more geographical angle with training in urban climates, environmental modelling and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Despite the different emphasis in the two specialisations, BES students can still come together to have a common appreciation of environmental issues through the specially designed integrated ENV modules strategically placed at each of the years.

#### 6. This is a University-wide programme. Will I have a home faculty if I join this programme?

Upon admission into the programme, students are required to choose a specialisation. Students who choose Environmental Biology will have the Faculty of Science as their home faculty while students who choose Environmental Geography will

have the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences as their home faculty. The respective faculties will render administrative and academic support to students.

**7. What kind of new pedagogies will I be expecting in this new programme?**

Students can expect the newly designed environmental studies modules to adopt a combination of case studies, fireside chats, small group discussions, field studies and research. This will differentiate the modules within this programme from the existing NUS modules which are mainly lecture-tutorial style.

**8. What are my career options when I graduate with a BES degree?**

As a graduate of the Environmental Studies Programme, the career opportunities are endless. This programme will also prepare students well for graduate studies. The more entrepreneurial graduates have also set up their own business ventures.

Possible careers include:

*Conservation Biologist*

*Ecologist*

*Environmental Consultant*

*Environmental Educator*

*Environmental Health Officer*

*Environmental Technologist*

*Environmental Impact Assessor*

*Environment Policy Maker*

*Environmental Quality Specialist*

*Forest Conservationist*

*Geologist*

*Geographer*

*Parks Manager*

*Public Policy Analyst*

*Regional Planner*

*Researcher*

*Teacher*

*Wildlife Biologist*

*and many more...*

[Back to top](#)

## ADMISSION

**9. What are the minimum criteria to apply to BES?**

Students with an aptitude and passion for environmental issues are welcome to apply for direct admission into the Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES) if they meet the following minimum criteria:

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

Candidates may be required to take bridging module(s) if they do not meet the minimum criteria.

**10. Will polytechnic diploma holders be able to apply to BES?**

For polytechnic diploma holders, accredited diplomas are necessary for entry into the BES programme.

Please refer to the NUS Office of Admissions' website (<http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/apply-to-nus/polytechnic-diploma-from-singapore/subject-pre-requisites>) for the full list of accredited diplomas.

**11. I am an international student, what are the minimum criteria to apply to BES?**

Please refer to the NUS Office of Admissions at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/apply-to-nus> for information.

## 12. Can I still apply to BES if I do not meet the minimum criteria?

Students who do not meet the minimum criteria but have a keen interest for the BES may be interviewed for suitability for the programme.

[Back to top](#)

# CURRICULUM

## 13. What kind of modules will I be reading in this programme?

Students will undergo a common curriculum for the first two years. In order to provide students with a solid foundation to specialise in the third and fourth years, they will need to read modules in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, Economics, Geography, Building, Law, Public Health, Management and Policy.

## 14. Who will be teaching in this programme?

As this programme is very broad-based, students will be taught by faculty members from the Faculty of Science, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Faculty of Law, and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. Students will also get the opportunity to read environmental related electives from the Faculty of Engineering, School of Design and Environment, as well as the NUS Business School.

## 15. Will I be able to join other special programmes such as the University Scholars Programme (USP) if I enrol in the BES?

Yes, students will be able to participate in both the Environmental Studies Programme and USP. For details on the curriculum, please refer to: [www.envstudies.nus.edu.sg](http://www.envstudies.nus.edu.sg).

## 16. Will I be able to stay in the UTown if I enrol in BES?

Yes, students in BES can reside in UTown. They will have to read all the compulsory 5 modules as part of the residential programme as well as fulfil the BES programme requirements.

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

BES is not under the list of specially-designed double degree programmes (DDPs) offered for direct admission to the first year at NUS.

Students can take a DDP as long as they can complete their studies within 5 years and that the curriculum of the second degree and BES do not overlap by more than one-third. However, BES cannot be taken with Pharmacy or Law as a Double Degree.

If students are interested in pursuing their own double degree combination, a minimum CAP of 4.0 must be obtained after completing between 60 to 80 MCs (excluding MCs earned from student exchange programmes or advanced placement credits). Written approval to embark on the DDP must be obtained from the relevant faculties. Students are also required to seek advice and approval from the BES academic advisors before submitting their applications to read a DDP.

For more details on DDPs, please refer to:

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

## 18. Can I pursue a second major if I enrol in the BES?

All BES students (regardless of their specialisations in Environmental Biology or Environmental Geography) can only declare a Second Major after they have completed their first year of studies. This is regardless if the Second Major is taken within the home faculty or outside the home faculty.

Upon completing their first year of studies, students can approach the Programme Office to apply to read a Second Major. They are also required to seek advice and approval from the BES academic advisors before submitting their applications to read a Second Major.

Environmental Biology students can read any Second Major listed in this URL:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/academic-information-policies/undergraduate-students/special-programmes/double-major-programmes>. For those who read Life Sciences as a Second Major, they are not allowed to read the modules under the Environmental Biology (EVB) basket.

**19. Can I pursue a minor if I enrol in the BES?**

All BES students (regardless of their specialisations in Environmental Biology or Environmental Geography) can declare up to 2 minors from Year 1 Semester 1 onwards.

BES Environmental Biology students can read any minors (except for the Minor in Aquatic Ecology and the Joint Minor in Environmental Biology with the University of Toronto) listed in this URL:

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

BES Environmental Biology students may participate in the Joint Minor in Environmental Biology with the University of Toronto (U of T) but will not be conferred the joint minor upon completion. Only grade-transfer for the U of T courses will apply, and can count the modules towards the BES requirements.

**20. Where can I find more information about BES?**

You can go to our website <http://envstudies.nus.edu.sg/> for more information.

[Back to top](#)