Environmental Science is a holistic and multidisciplinary field that explores the links between air, land, water, biology and human society - creating an understanding of our natural environment on which successful management is based. Environmental Management and Sustainability translates that science into practical and effective management actions, to improve local, regional and global sustainability.

These majors are interrelated and are often completed together, however can also be completed as a single major.

Careers in the Environment are varied but most graduates in this field are skilled at conducting research, problem solving and then communicating their findings to both technical and non-technical audiences. They identify causes of environmental issues, develop solutions, policy or strategies for protecting the environment and human health, as well as better managing our natural resources.

Engage in your career before you graduate

Environmental majors encompass a broad field. It is important to seek independent work experience or volunteer work and engage with industry to develop your network and confirm your key interest areas.

This can include:
• Applying for a formal Vacation Employment program with large consulting firms, water authorities or resource companies. (The School of Veterinary and Life Sciences also offers undergraduate students the chance to undertake a short research project over the summer break to gain hands-on research experience in an area of interest)
• Volunteering with independent Conservation or Natural Resource Management groups
• Engaging in curricular opportunities through university (e.g. Peer Tutoring, mentoring or Leadership Programmes)
• Joining and becoming an active member of a relevant student club or society (e.g. Murdoch University Environmental Science Association (MUEnSA)
• Become an active campaigner for environmental causes in your local area

The Murdoch Volunteering Hub (situated next to the Guild Shop on Bush Court) is a useful resource for ideas on where to gain relevant experience. Student can also graduate with a "Community and Career Skills Development Transcript" through volunteering. The Volunteering Hub can be contacted via email: volunteering@the-guild.com.au or telephone: 08 9360 6307.

To complement the initiatives outlined above, multidisciplinary student team competitions, hosted by industry groups are encouraged as they provide further industry exposure and are a great way to network. The experience can also be used to evidence the ability to work in diverse teams and think critically – additional skills for the resume.
Careers in Environmental Science, Environmental Management and Sustainability

Careers in Environmental Science, Environmental Management and Sustainability typically fall into the following categories:

• Air/Water Quality Protection and Management
• Agriculture
• Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration
• Climate Change and Protection
• Ecotourism
• Education and Awareness
• Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife
• Green/Alternative Energy
• Mining
• Natural Resource Management
• Parks Management Policy Formation
• Research Sustainability
• Urban Planning
• Waste Management

Many Environmental graduates work for federal, state or local governments. They conduct research, manage natural resources, advise on policy, manage conservation areas and/or wildlife, educate and verify that organisations are following regulations. Graduates can also be involved in; raising environmental awareness and protection within the not-for-profit sector, mining rehabilitation, sustainability start-ups and consultancy work such as carrying out environmental impact assessments, just to name a few.

Some typical job titles include:

• Agricultural Research Assistant
• Atmospheric scientist
• Energy Efficiency Analyst
• Ecotourism consultant or operator
• Environment and Quarantine Advisor
• Environmental Assessment Officer/Environmental Liaison Officer
• Environmental Auditor
• Environmental Campaign Officer
• Environmental Consultant
• Environmental Policy/Research/Project Officer
• Green Army Supervisor
• Parks and Wildlife officer
• Regional Landcare/NRM Facilitator
• Science communicator/Teacher/Education Officer
• Soil Systems Analyst
• Sustainability Officer
• Technical Assistant
• Waste Management Officer

Alternative Careers

The Environmental Science degree and the Environmental Management and Sustainability degree can be studied as a single major or together as a double major, incorporating both science and management aspects. Considering a double major or an additional minor could further diversify your career options in the environment.

Environmental Science graduates have also been successful in securing multi-discipline Graduate Program roles. Graduate Programs are structured professional development programs specifically designed for new graduates. Final year students apply for these positions from March for the following year. Murdoch Environmental Science graduates have previously secured Graduate Officer positions with both Government Departments as well as larger organisations within the resources sector.

A Science degree majoring in Environmental Science and/or Environmental Management and Sustainability presents a world of opportunity to a diverse range of careers. It is best to start with an open mind and look for specialty areas that interest you while you do your degree and pave your own journey. You have the ability to continuously develop your career by actively engaging in university life, networking initiatives and stepping up to opportunity in industry. Choosing Environmental Science and/or Management and Sustainability is just the beginning, but remember, it’s up to you to decide where you take your degree.