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ENVIRONMENT

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OVERVIEW

Environmental consultant

As an environmental consultant you'll work with organizations on a range of environmental issues. You'll offer expert advisory and assessment services to your clients with the aim of minimizing or eliminating environmental damage.

You'll usually be employed by a consultancy firm and work on a range of commercial or government contracts, addressing a variety of environmental issues. You may be responsible for ensuring that your client complies with environmental regulations.

Environmental Education officer

Environmental education work involves making people aware of environmental issues, promoting conservation and sustainability and enhancing public enjoyment of the environment. You'll do this through teaching and interpreting the natural world.

You may work mainly within a specific setting, such as in schools or nature reserves, or you could lead guided nature walks for visitors or organize events and awareness campaigns. Training volunteers and community groups involved in environmental work such as conservation projects is also a common part of the job.

Environmental engineer

Environmental education work involves making people aware of environmental issues, promoting conservation and sustainability and enhancing public enjoyment of the environment. You'll do this through teaching and interpreting the natural world.

You may work mainly within a specific setting, such as in schools or nature reserves, or you could lead guided nature walks for visitors or organize events and awareness campaigns. Training volunteers and community groups involved in environmental work such as conservation projects is also a common part of the job.

Environmental manager

Environmental managers, increasingly known as sustainability managers, are responsible for overseeing the environmental performance of private, public and voluntary sector organizations. Examining corporate activities, you'll establish where improvements can be made and ensure compliance with environmental legislation across the organization.

You'll also create, implement and monitor environmental strategies to promote sustainable development. Your wide remit means you'll review the whole operation, carrying out environmental audits and assessments, identifying and resolving environmental problems and ensuring necessary changes are implemented.

Marine Biologist

Marine biology is the study of all aspects of life in the sea and the environment on which it depends. This includes marine plants, animals and other organisms, both vertebrate and invertebrate, in deep oceans, shallow seas and the laboratory. The main aims of marine biology are to improve understanding

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of the marine world and to understand and predict changes in ecosystems affected by human and natural disturbances.

Marine biology is a broad-ranging career. You could go into field work, academic research, laboratory work, consulting, charity, outreach or policy making.

[Nature Conservation officer](#)

As a nature conservation officer you'll work to protect, manage and enhance the local environment. This can include grassland, woodland, forests, coastal areas, moorland, mountains and rivers. Depending on the region, you might also work in marine habitats.

Part of the role is to encourage people to use the countryside and promote awareness and understanding of the natural environment. You'll develop policy which may have local and national impact.

Job titles within this sector are varied and you could be known as a:

- Conservation assistant or technician
- Project officer or biodiversity officer
- Sustainable development officer.

[Recycling officer](#)

As a recycling officer you'll plan and develop environmental and waste reduction policies, through the management of local recycling schemes, the creation and delivery of educational programs and by organizing community and media liaison initiatives.

You might work for a local authority such as a county, district, borough or metropolitan council in a relevant department, such as environmental services, waste management or community services. Alternatively, you could work in the private sector for recycling contractors or environmental charities.

[Sustainability consultant](#)

As a sustainability consultant, you'll promote sustainable solutions for the often conflicting needs of people, the environment, development and successful business. You'll help businesses develop an environmental conscience, while simultaneously saving them money by making choices that positively impact the earth and all who live on it.

Your work will involve evaluating the impact a company is having on the environment (for example, their carbon footprint) and then minimizing that impact or planning the use of limited resources. You may be involved in all or some stages of a project from planning and building, through to remediation, restoration and reuse of land and property, for example.

[Waste management officer](#)

In the role of waste management officer, you will organize and manage waste disposal, collection and recycling facilities. You may also be responsible for waste treatment and street cleaning operations.

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Some posts combine waste management and recycling functions, while others split them into separate jobs.

Waste management companies have to balance providing the best value service for their clients with safe waste disposal (in line with government regulations), increases in landfill tax, packaging regulations and recycling targets.

[Water quality scientist](#)

As a water quality scientist, you'll be concerned with safeguarding all aspects of water quality through scientific analysis, and setting targets and standards in response to specific legislation. You'll compare test results with these standards, investigate shortfalls and take action to remedy problems.

Depending on your employer, you may be involved in providing solutions to water quality problems and water quality regulation. More senior roles may involve significant liaison with businesses, the public and other water industry professionals.

Citation: - <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/water-quality-scientist>

WHO EMPLOYS ENVIRONMENT GRADUATES

Wondering where to Jump Start your career? Below is a list of employers who typically hire Finance Graduates.

- ✓ Forestry, mining, environmental issues, waste management, architecture or surveying companies
- ✓ Insurance, communications, international trade, transportation
- ✓ Private industry including utilities, construction, energy, environmental planning
- ✓ Government agencies
- ✓ NGOS (non-governmental organizations)
- ✓ Consulting firms
- ✓ Real estate developers
- ✓ Scientific or research groups
- ✓ Museums
- ✓ Market research organization
- ✓ Boards of education/universities/colleges
- ✓ Outdoor recreation companies
- ✓ Magazine/newspaper companies

PROGRAM RELATED SKILLS

Students with environment majors develop the ability to formulate concepts, allowing them to solve practical problems and to find better ways of meeting world needs. Such skills are applicable to job responsibilities in a variety of fields in the sciences, business, government and education. The following list presents some examples of the skills developed and used by students in environment majors.

Analytical skills

- Summarizing research findings
- Attend to details
- Analyzing data
- Applying logic to problems
- Perceiving patterns/structures

Investigating skills

- Reviewing relevant data
- Applying concepts
- Applying knowledge creatively
- Defining problems

Technical skills

- Processing data
- Mapping/GIS
- Solving quantitative problems
- Laboratory skills
- Field work
- Sampling
- Plant identification

Communication skills

- Organizing and reporting data
- Informing/explaining
- Reporting results and conclusions orally and written
- Designing charts/graphs

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POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS

There are many different career options available for graduates of Environment. Your degree provides you with a variety of intellectual and applied skills that are valuable in a range of careers. The wide variety of careers that graduates have moved on to is a reflection of the diversity of skills gained through an undergraduate program. Involvement in extracurricular, volunteer and work experiences will also supplement your skills and focus them to a particular industry. Below is a sample of the types of positions graduates have gone on to.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list as there are many other careers available. Many positions require additional education or experience.

Environmental Epidemiologist*	Fundraiser, Environmental Organizations*
Ecologist*	GIS Analyst*
Environmental Auditor	Remediation Specialist
Environmental Health Officer*	Environmental Marketing Specialist*
Water Quality Inspector	Public Relations Specialist*
Environmental Quality Analyst	Recycling Manager
Environmental Risk Assessor	Hazardous Waste Material Manager
Water Treatment Plant Operator*	Waste and Water Resource Specialist
Environmental Consultant*	Eco-tourism Planner
Environmental Chemist	Environmental Engineer*
Air Quality Specialist	Teacher/Professor*
Soil Scientist	Forester*
Planner (Urban)*	Botanist*
Park Naturalist	Environmental Reporter
Conservation Officer	Editor, Science Magazine*
	Agronomist*
	Environmental Activist/Lobbyist

*View these titles at Career Centre Cruising, available on [CLN](#) under the *Resources* tab.

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HOW TO GET EXPERIENCE

Volunteer

- Planting & Stewardship event volunteer – City of Toronto
- Tree planting Captain program – City of Toronto
- Historical facilitator – Royal Ontario Museum
- Residential work-stay/volunteer – Bethlehem Centre, Vancouver Island BC
- National Park Volunteer Stewards 2019, Banff National Park, Banff, Alberta

Internships

- Animal care internships – Wild at Heart Wildlife Refuge Centre, Ontario
- Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Environment Canada, Science Horizons Youth Internship Program
- Nature Conservancy of Canada, Shell Conservation Internship Program

Part-time positions

- Project Technologist, Indoor Environmental Quality – Pinchin Ltd., Hamilton ON
- Environmental Consultant – Pollutech Environmental Limited., Oakville ON
- Seasonal Environmental Education Assistant – EcoSpark., Toronto ON
- Environmental Scientist – MTE Consultants Inc., Kitchener ON
- Environmental Field Technician – Golder Associates., St. Catharines ON

Additional Student Related Organizations

Join a student club or an academic society at UTM to meet like-minded people, explore your interests, and make valuable connections. To view a list of current clubs and societies, visit the Centre for Student Engagement's [website](#). Some organizations you may consider are:

- Student Association of Geography and Environment:
<https://www.ulife.utoronto.ca/organizations/view/id/1743>
- World Wildlife Foundation at UTM
- UTM Student's Union: <https://utmsu.ca>

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- Erindale Biology Society: <https://ulife.utoronto.ca/organizations/view/id/1767>

[Create a LinkedIn Profile](#)

Create a [LinkedIn](#) profile to connect with professionals in various fields, explore the career paths of UTM alumni, research employers, apply for specific positions, and more. Need help? Come to the Career Centre to book a linkedIn profile critique.

[Join Professional associations](#)

There are many benefits of becoming a member of association(s), such as developing a network of contacts, learning about industry trends, accessing industry-related job postings, and stating your affiliation on your resume. Some associations related to this major are:

- Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN): <http://rcen.ca/>
- Ontario Environmental Industry Association (ONEIA): <http://www.oneia.ca/>
- Environmental Studies Association of Canada (ESAC): <https://esac.ca/>

[SAMPLE JOB LISTINGS FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS/RECENT GRADUATES](#)

Below is a sample of delisted positions that have been posted on UofT's Career Learning Network (CLN).

To access current listings, login to [CLN](#) and click on *Jobs*.

- Environmental Policy Analyst, Pembina Institute
- GIS Planning Assistant, Halton Region
- Park Interpreter, Parks Canada
- Environmental Consultant, Terraprobe Inc.
- Renewable Energy Program Coordinator, Falls Brook Centre
- Junior Regulatory Analyst, Intertek Scientific & Regulatory Consultancy
- Fisheries Habitat Technician, Credit Valley Conservation
- Science Educator, Ontario Science Centre
- Waste Management Policy Analyst, Department of Facilities Management and Planning, UTM
- Copywriter/Editor, Citizens' Environment Watch Program
- Ecohydrology lab and field assistant, Department of Geography, UTM
- Environment Sustainability Specialist, PVH Corporation
- Great Lakes Environmental Engineering Technician, Toronto Zoo

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- Health and Safety Leader, Sysco Food Services
- Outreach and Food Services Program Intern, Chestnut Residence, UofT

HOW CAN THE CAREER CENTRE HELP

Library Resources

The Career Resource Library contains information about a wide range of occupations in all industries, resume and cover letter resources, effective work search methods, graduate/professional school preparation guides and more. Below listed are some sample of Career Centre Library Resources:

- Alternative Careers in Science
- Canada's Top 100 Employers
- Canadian Environmental Directory
- Career Cruising (electronic career guide)
- Careers for Nature Lovers and Other Outdoor Types
- Careers in Environment
- Careers with a Conscience: Making a Difference While Making a Living
- Enviro Employment Guidebook
- Great Jobs for Environmental Studies Majors
- Red Career Information Binders
- The Big Guide to Living & Working Overseas
- The Canadian Student Employment Guide
- The Eco Guide to Careers That Make a Difference
- What You Can Do With A Science Degree
- What You Can Do With An Arts Degree

You can also visit our on-line library collection by going to the Career Centre website:

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/> Click on the Career Planning icon and then scroll down to Library Resources. Once you register, you can download a book for up to 14 days.

Appointments

- Attend a one-on-one appointment with a career counsellor or an employment strategist to discuss what career options might work for you and determine a job search plan.
- Meet with an academic or departmental advisor, who can guide you in achieving academic success. Contact the Office of the Registrar or your department for more information.

Career Planning by Year

Visit our Career Planning by Year page for ideas of important career related activities for each year. You can visit us in the Career Centre to find out more about careers that interest you.

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The UTM program plans are also a good resource to learn more about how you can use your degree and to find out how to map out your academic career path for each year while at UTM. Visit: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans/program-plans>

[The National Occupational Code Binder](#)

The National Occupational Code Binders in the Career Resources Library provide very detailed, specific and extensive information relating to hundreds of careers. From general overviews of the job, to working conditions, to sample job postings related to the field and related articles, the binders are sure to provide you with in-depth answers to many of your job-specific questions.

[Tip Sheets](#)

Do you like information in an easy-to-read, easy-to-digest, take home format? Take a look at our tip sheets on subjects like Effective Interviewing, Networking and Preparing for Graduate School.

[Events](#)

Would you like a chance to interact with prospective employers and expand your networking circle? The Career Centre offers a number of events that help you brush shoulders with professional and experts from all fields. Attend the Get Experience Fair, Get Hired Fair, Professionals School Fair and Summer Job Fair. Practice putting those networking skills to use and land yourself a job! Check out the events and workshops section of the Career Learning Network to find out what is happening on Campus.

www.clnx.utoronto.ca/home

[Extern Job Shadowing Program](#)

Are you still curious about what career path is best for you? Would you like a chance to experience working in an industry to find out if it's really the path for you? The Extern Job Shadowing Program can help. This job-shadowing program grants you a one-to-five day placement in a career of your choice. Go to the Career Learning Network to register for the workshops that will help you to prepare for your placement. To register go to: www.clnx.utoronto.ca and then go to workshops and events to see when the next workshop is happening.

[Talk to Professors](#)

Connecting with our professors can be a great way to explore the different paths a major can lead you to, as well as learn about possible opportunities for research, volunteer, or becoming a TA. Drop by during their office hours or request an appointment.

[Career Counselling](#)

Are you feeling lost, unsure and overwhelmed with finding out what career path you would like to choose? Or you've decided on a career or the type of job you want, but what are the next steps? Our career Counsellors are here to help. Book an appointment with one of our professionals who can help you determine what paths you can take after graduation or how your area of study can relate to a career post-grad.

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[Job Postings](#)

Are you graduating soon or a recent graduate? Sign up for the Graduating Students Employment Service (GES) or the Recent Graduate Employment Service (RGES). These services allow you to gain access to full-time job postings while your final year of study or access full-time job postings for up to two years after you graduate. To learn more, check out our Career Centre website.

Please feel free to come and visit us in Room 3094, South Building. You can also reach us by phone, 905-828-5451 or email at careers@utm.utoronto.ca.

[ALUMNI PROFILES](#)

Name: Sameer Masood

Grad Year: 2009

Degree: BA

Program: Biology & Geography

Title: Prevention Service Representative

Organization: Health and Safety Ontario - Workplace Safety and Prevention Services

Q: Briefly describe your current position and responsibilities, including challenges/rewards. How did you go about your job search upon graduating -- what strategies were most successful and why do you think you were hired?

Currently reporting to the Regional Director and Manager for Organizational Development and Performance as a Prevention Service Representative - My duties include Consulting, Hazard Assessments, development of Health and Safety Manuals, conducting public training and facilitation and also the design of consultant in-training program. I have been successful in gaining 3 promotions within a span of 2 years with another due in a couple of months. Connecting with the right people and portraying superior relationship building skills are key in any sector or field of occupation.

Q: List the key positions you have held since graduation, and any post-graduate degrees/diplomas you earned after graduation. If applicable, list any other ways you are involved in your profession or in your community (member of a professional association, involved as a leadership volunteer, etc.).

Recipient of Circle of Excellence award for Team work at Ontario Service

Safety Alliance

Active volunteer in YWAP (Young Worker Awareness Program)-High school and Humber College, Guest speaker

Member of CSSE (Canadian Safety Society of Engineers) and Eco-Canada (EPt -Environmental Practitioner in Training-Occupational and Environmental Health)

Alumni Guest speaker - Env400

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Community Outreach and Youth Initiative Sub-Committee

Steps for Life - Team Caption -Swps Legacy Legs

Certification in Occupational Health and Safety - Ryerson University

Q: What personal characteristics/skills are most important for success in your job/field?

Consulting

Leadership

Facilitation and Presentation

Effective communication and focused conversation

Q: During your university career did any key experiences assist you in making your career choices? If yes, how so? (Internships? Extern Program? Volunteering? Student clubs? Summer job? Mentorship?)

Internship - Env400

Q: What have been the keys to your success? What advice would you give to students who wish to pursue a similar career path? If you had the chance to plan your studies and your career path again, what would you do differently (if anything)?

The keys to my success have been self-awareness and creating challenging opportunities. It is equally important to get out of your comfort zone and experience through trial. I would strongly suggest to follow a path of interest and focus on it from a holistic long term approach.

Additional Web Resources

- UTM Environmental Programs: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/environment/>
- Jobpostings.ca - Career Guides in Agriculture, Forestry, Green Initiatives, and more: <https://www.jobpostings.ca/career-guides>
- ECO Canada Blog - Industry Trends: <https://www.eco.ca/topic/industry-trends/>
- Environment and Climate Change Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change.html>
- Canada's Top 100 Employers for Young People: https://www.canadastop100.com/young_people/

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