

Business and the Environment Graduate Diploma

(Supplement to MES Program Handbook)



environmental &
urban change

YORK U

**Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change
York University**

**Business and the Environment
Graduate Diploma Supplement**



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Introduction

The **Business and the Environment (B+E) Graduate Diploma** is offered jointly by the Schulich School of Business and the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change at York University.

The interests of private enterprise and the pursuit of sustainable development, including environmental, cultural, and economic sustainability, are still viewed in many quarters as fundamentally in conflict - separated by very different philosophies, by private versus public interests, and by differing concepts as to what constitutes "progress." However, economic activity as a transaction mechanism between humans, and between humans and their environments, is of great importance and private enterprise from small local businesses to transnational corporations, for profit and not for profit, play important roles within our economic systems. The challenge is to find new models of economic activity, including new models of private enterprise that can provide needed services and goods in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

The B+E Diploma offers graduates of both the MBA and MES programs the skills and tools needed to advance sustainability transitions in business in response to the climate and other environmental crises. This graduate diploma provides the perspectives, understanding, and recognition for York master's graduates to become leaders in business and the environment.

MES students interested in pursuing the Graduate Diploma in Business and the Environment should contact the B+E Diploma Coordinator, Dr. Lina Brand Correa (brand@yorku.ca).

Admission Requirements

Graduate Students who are registered in either the MBA or MES programs may apply to complete the Business and the Environment (B+E) Graduate Diploma. The B+E Diploma must be taken concurrently with an MES or MBA degree, and must be completed no later than one term following the award of the graduate degree.

Course Requirements

Students must complete 12.0 credits consisting of the following Required and Elective courses:

- A minimum of 6.0 credits of Required Courses (3.0 credit SUST course + 3.0 credit ENVS course)
- Remaining 6.0 credits of additional Required or Elective Courses from list below

Required Courses

- At least one of the following 3.0 credit courses in the ES graduate program:
 - ENVS 5115 3.0 Ecological Economics
 - ENVS 6186 3.0 Environmental Assessment; or
 - ENVS 6119 3.0 Environmental Resource Management
- At least one of the following 3.0 credit courses at Schulich School of Business (SSB):
 - SUST 6250 3.0 Integrating Sustainability Functions
 - SUST 6350 3.0 Orchestrating Sustainability Initiatives; or,
 - SUST 6450 3.0 Sustainability Reporting and Disclosure.

Elective Courses

- At least 6.0 credits (2 courses) from the following list:
 - ENVS 5016 3.0 Protected Area Management
 - ENVS 5070 3.0 Extraction and its Discontents
 - ENVS 5150 3.0 Perspectives on Green Business
 - ENVS 5178 3.0 Environmental Policy: Institutions, Ideas, and Interests
 - ENVS 6180 3.0 Circular Economy: Sustainable Waste Management and Systems Design
 - ENTR 6655 3.0 Social Entrepreneurship
 - FINE 6880 3.0 Sustainable Finance and Impact Investing
 - ORGS 6600 3.0 Diversity & Inclusion in Organizations
 - PROP 6550 3.0 Sustainable Cities: Urbanization, Infrastructure, and Strategic Choices
 - SUST 6151 3.0 Innovating for Sustainable Impact
 - SUST 6152 3.0 Scaling Climate Innovations (MBA students only)
 - SUST 6950 1.5 Ethics and Finance (MBA students only)
 - SUST 6900 1.5 or 3.0 Independent Study (MBA students only)

Additional Diploma Requirements

In addition to successfully completing the above 12.0 course credits, MES students are required to also complete the following additional requirements:

- **B+E Internship:** MES students must complete a (non-credit) internship of at least 120 hours at an organization or agency with a focus on business and the environment. The internship site must be pre-approved by the Diploma Coordinator prior to the commencement of the internship. See details of internship proposal and report below.
- **B+E content in MES Plan of Study, MES Research Proposal and MES Major Research:** All documents must reflect a strong business and environment focus. The MES Research Proposal (for a Major Paper, Major Project or Thesis) must be pre-approved by the Diploma Coordinator prior to the MES II-III examination.

Internship Requirements

MES students taking the diploma must complete an internship in a business or organization, with a focus on business and the environment topics, learning about business-environment inter-relationships, of at least 120 hours. Students are responsible for securing their own internship placement. The no-credit internship is to be completed in addition to the minimum 36-credit requirement of the MES Program.

To receive approval for an internship, the Diploma Coordinator must receive an internship proposal 4 weeks prior to the start of the placement. Internships completed prior to the start of your degree are not eligible for consideration.

Internship Proposal Requirements

Four weeks prior to the start of the placement students will submit an internship proposal to seek approval of their internship site. In approximately 2 pages, the internship proposal should:

1. Identify the name and nature of the organization within which the internship will be undertaken;
2. Indicate that the organization recognizes that you are working toward an internship requirement and is committed to helping you achieve your goals;

3. Indicate the time period that the internship will start and extend over;
4. Indicate whether the internship will be paid or unpaid;
5. Identify the Supervisor of the internship and that they understand the internship requirements (Supervisor agreement form attached). Obtain the Supervisor's signature on this form and return it to the Diploma Coordinator;
6. Indicate how the internship will allow you to explore business-environment relationships. Please provide some specificity into the Business and Environment dimension(s) that will be examined;
7. Clearly identify business-environment related learning objectives for the internship;
8. Clearly identify how the business-environment related learning objectives will be met;
9. Identify the form that the internship report will take (i.e., the deliverable, portfolio of evidence, written report etc.).
10. Refer to the requirements for the final internship report, presented below, when developing your internship objectives.

Internship proposals from MES students should be directed to Dr. Lina Brand Correa (brand@yorku.ca), B+E Diploma Coordinator who will review the proposals and, when satisfied, will send it on to the Schulich Diploma Coordinator for consideration. Proposals must be approved by both Diploma Coordinators prior to beginning the Internship. An internship cannot begin before the final confirmation from Dr. Brand Correa.

Internship Report Requirements

Upon the internship's completion, the student's internship Supervisor should complete a statement (see Appendix A). Moreover, the student will prepare a reflection report on their internship learning experience for submission to their B+E Diploma Coordinator for their review before circulation to the Schulich Co-coordinator for approval.

Following the template provided (see Appendix B), the Internship report should:

1. Identify the name and nature of the organization within which the Internship was undertaken.
2. Describe the internship activities i.e., specific activities, initiatives and tasks you were involved with, what was your role or responsibility within these activities, as well as outcomes.
3. Discuss what you have learned from the Internship, in terms of the business and environment relationship, in the context of your (previously identified) internship objectives. This should be more in-depth than a simple description of the issues, and should incorporate some of the concepts, theories or strategies tackled in the diploma courses you have taken.
4. Confirm that the internship was at least 120 hours in duration.
5. Discuss how you were able to apply, within the internship setting, your knowledge about business-environment principles, strategies or methods gained in your academic studies.
6. Critically reflect on the issues and barriers experienced in implementing such principles, strategies or methods, and the means required to address such issues and overcome barriers in your internship setting.
7. If your internship was in a not-for-profit organization, critically reflect on the differences in implementing such principles, strategies, or methods between for-profit vs not-for-profit organizations, based upon coursework insights into for-profit organizations.

It is recognized that different internship settings will present different opportunities for meeting the above learning criteria, and that depending on the student's study interests, these learning criteria will be addressed differently.

Major Research Requirements

MES students pursuing the B+E Diploma need to demonstrate that their Major Research (Major Paper, Major Project, or Thesis) has a clear business and environment focus. Students must submit their Major Research Proposal to the B+E Diploma Coordinator for approval, prior to their MES II-III exam. For the purposes of the B+E Diploma, the Major Research Proposal should:

1. Include at least one subsection in the literature review that uses business and environment related concepts, theories, or strategies;
2. Include at least one business and environment dimension to be researched in the student's Major Research (this usually takes the form of a business and environment related research objective);
3. Provide sufficient information on how, for the Major Research this business and environment dimension will be researched (this usually takes the form of a methodological description of how the objective above will be addressed).

Expressions of Interest/Information

MES students wishing to complete the Business and the Environment Diploma should submit their Declaration of Interest for Planning/Diploma Options in the ES Graduate Dossier and contact Dr. Lina Brand Correa (brand@yorku.ca), B+E Diploma Coordinator.

Appendix A: Supervisor's Statement of B+ E Internship Completion

A major requirement for the Business and the Environment Graduate Diploma is an internship placement which allows the student to explore business and environment considerations in a work setting. Important to the success of the internship is the understanding and commitment of the host organization and of the Internship supervisor. This form allows you to confirm this placement and provide some feedback on the experience and student.

Name of Sponsoring Organization	
Name of Internship Supervisor	
Position of Supervisor	
Contact information	

Please provide a short description of the types of activities or the student's responsibilities during their internship placement with your organization.

If you wish, please feel free to provide additional feedback or comments about the internship.

I confirm that [insert student name] completed an internship placement as outlined in their internship proposal of [insert number] hours at [insert organization/company name] under my supervision.

Signature

Date

Please complete and return this form to Dr. Lina Brand Correa (brand@yorku.ca), B+E Diploma Coordinator.

Appendix B: Experiential Learning Report for B+E Students

Student name	
Student number	
Student email	
Name of Organization	
Name of Field Supervisor	
Email of Field Supervisor	
Internship Position/Title	
Duration (from/to and Total of hours)	

- 1. Where did you work?** Describe the nature of the organization within which the Internship was undertaken, identifying specifically its perspective, challenges and opportunities in both the business and the environment realms (500 words maximum)
- 2. What did you do?** Describe the tasks/activities for which you were responsible (500 words maximum)
- 3. What did you learn?** Describe and evaluate your experience in substantive knowledge and skills gained or refined (500 words maximum)
- 4. How did the experience help you gain mastery of the business and the environment relationship?** Discuss how you were able to apply, within the internship setting, your knowledge about business-environment principles, strategies or methods gained in your academic studies. Critically reflect on the issues and barriers experienced in implementing such principles, strategies or methods, and the means required to address such issues and overcome barriers in your internship setting. This should be more in-depth than a simple description of the issues, and should incorporate some of the concepts, theories or strategies tackled in the diploma courses you have taken (1000 words maximum)
- 5. Reference List**