

Career options: Environmental Science

The Environmental Science program examines, in detail, the critical components of biological, physical and social environments and develops a broad understanding of the complex relationships between them. It prepares you for dealing with environmental problems and issues using an integrated professional method. The program involves core courses in environmental areas designed to enhance literacy, communication and numeracy skills.

The demand is increasing for professionals with the ability to comprehend, analyse and manage environmental issues and problems. The environmental science program is strongly employment-driven, with increasing demand for practitioners in environmental science.

In addition to knowledge and skills directly related to your program of study, you have also developed a range of other skills (e.g. teamwork, analytical, communication) through academic study, employment, voluntary work, sporting activities and life experience. These are often referred to as transferable skills because they can be utilised in different environments. Recognising the value employers place on these skills is an important factor in your graduate job search.

Occupations & industries

Environmental Science graduates are employed in a wide range of occupations and industries including:

Federal, state and local government	Research institutes
Forestry	Museums
Mining	Conservation organisations
Fisheries	Environmental consultancies
Agriculture	Educational institutions
National parks	Biotechnology companies
Marine parks	Environmental protection agencies
Water industry	Infrastructure companies
Ecotourism	Electricity supply companies
Port authorities	Wind and solar energy companies
Road and rail	Intellectual property
Engineering firms	Urban and regional planning

Positions & Employers

Many graduate employers recruit from a wide range of disciplines. The major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia, [Graduate Opportunities](#), lists employers by the disciplines from which they are recruiting. You might be surprised by the range of employers recruiting from your degree and the sectors of the workplace where you might establish a career.

Examples of positions and employers include:

Agriculture Scientist

Bahrung Landcare

Assistant Environment Analyst	Ministry of Defence
Botanist	Environmental Management International
Cadet Laboratory Technician	Caboolture Shire Council
Chemistry Laboratory Demonstrator	Griffith University
Coastcare Bushcare Project Officer	Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre
Community Consultation Officer	PPK Environment and Infrastructure
Conservationist	Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers
Consultant	Power Plus Australia Pty Ltd
Data Collector	Pacific Organics
Environmental Protection Officer	Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Consultant	Environmental Licensing
Environmental Field Officer	Department of Primary Industries
Environmental Agronomist	Sackville Pastoral
Graduate Environmental Officer	Department of Main Roads
Environmental Policy Officer	Queensland Farmers Federation
Environmental Scientist	Border Tech Geotechnical
Environmental Scientist	Lloyd Consulting Pty Ltd
Environmental Scientist	Otek Australia Pty Ltd
Environmental Scientist/Ecologist	FRS Environmental
Soil Scientist	Gilbert and Sutherland
Environmental Trainee	Greening Australia
Experimentalist	Department of Primary Industries
Field Assistant	Department of Primary Industries
Field Assistant, GIS mapping	Department of Primary Industries
Field Operations Manager	Madura Tea Estates
Hydrographer	Department of Natural Resources
Laboratory Assistant	INCITEC Ltd
Laboratory Technician	CSIRO Exploration and Mining
Land Research Officer	Department of Natural Resources
Liaison Officer	Department of Mines and Energy
Licensing Officer	Environmental Protection Agency
Policy Officer	Environmental Protection Agency
Program Manager	Australian Environmental International
Project Officer, Vegetation Management	Department of Natural Resources
Quarantine Officer	Australian Quarantine Services
Research Assistant	Ovens Res Station
Research Officer	Redlands Shire Council
Roadshow Officer	Queensland Science Centre
Terrestrial Ecology Consultant	Fisher Stewart
Waterways Program Assistant	Brisbane City Council

Some sample job advertisements

The Australian Canopy Crane Research Facility , located at Cape Tribulation is looking for a graduate biologist, ecologist or environmental scientist.

The research station includes a 50 metres tower crane, laboratory, and accommodation units, situated within the rainforest of the Daintree National Park.

Duties and Accountabilities:

The position exists to ensure the continuation of the canopy crane operations. The appointed person will undergo supervised training with a qualified crane driver/instructor aiming for a level of confidence which will lead to a full accreditation as a tower crane driver.

The Australian Canopy Crane Research Facility is also engaged in eco-tourism activities in partnership with the Cape Tribulation Resort, this involves two hour tours Monday to Friday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The appointed person will share the duties with other staff members in interpretation services and driving the crane. We endeavour to develop this operation to a higher level, possibly involving some weekend work.

Key Selection Criteria:

- Bachelor's Degree in either Biology/Ecology or Environmental Sciences
- Driver's Licence and own transport
- Ability and willingness to live in remote area
- Ability to enrol into high degree (MSc or PhD)
- Experience in field research
- Ability to learn to drive a tower crane
- Good communication and interpretative skills.
- Desirable Selection Criteria:
- Experience in the field of entomology;
- Senior First Aid Certificate.

Environmental Resources Management (ERM) is one of the world's leading providers of environmental consulting services. Our 2,500 staff in over 100 offices worldwide provide innovative and sustainable solutions to the leading Fortune 500 companies and governments in over 37 countries.

Based within our Sydney office, you become an integral member of our growing Corporate Risk Services team which is made up of specialists across a range of disciplines including environmental health and safety, risk assessment and management, environmental management systems, and environmental due diligence audits. Our work comprises of projects within Australia and overseas. Your time will be spent supporting key project outcomes across our full range of services including undertaking background research, providing audit support and assisting with hazardous materials surveys and assessments.

Ideally you will have gained tertiary qualifications in the area of environmental science, environmental engineering and or an OHS related discipline. Although not essential, your knowledge of relevant legislation and standards will be highly regarded as will your exposure to OHS terminology and practice.

Your drive to excel in your profession and become a specialist in your field will see you thrive in your role. In return for your high level of initiative, your ability to communicate effectively and your desire to play a key part in growing the business, you will be rewarded with a fantastic start to your career all within an environment that encourages both personal and professional development.

The CRC for Australian Weed Management brings together outstanding research and extension groups from universities, government agencies and industry, and is one of 72 Centres funded by the Australian Government.

The CRC has created a position to package and deliver research results from its Landscape Management Program. The appointee will work with project teams and key networks from national to local level, sourcing and delivering weed management information and skills needed by user groups.

In particular the appointee will research and prepare weed management guides based on an existing successful model. They will possess highly developed writing skills, be an excellent information researcher, and a good communicator and network builder. They will have a solid knowledge of environmental issues, including invasive plants. A science degree or equivalent is required.

Vacancies online

Australia

- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Brisbane City Council vacancies](#)
- [Built Environment Jobs Network](#)
- [Careers at CSIRO](#)
- [CareerOne science vacancies](#)
- [Cracker Jobs](#) (Science vacancies in Brisbane)
- [Environmental Jobs Network](#)
- [ETM Placements](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#) (Specialist graduate recruiter in government & corporate sectors)
- [Kelly Scientific Resources](#)
- [LG Jobs](#) (local government jobs Australia wide)
- [MyCareer](#)
- [NRM Jobs](#) (Jobs in environment, water & natural resource management)
- [Queensland Government vacancies](#)
- [Road Jobs](#) (Jobs in the local government and Road sectors throughout Australia.)
- [Research Jobs](#)
- [Science People](#)
- [Seek Campus](#) (specialist Australian graduate recruiter)
- [TechStaff](#)
- [Unijobs](#) (Vacancies in Australian Universities)
- [Water Jobs](#)

International

- [Academic careers](#) (Academic vacancies worldwide)
- [Contact Singapore](#)
- [Hobsons Careers in Asia](#) (specialist Asia graduate recruitment)
- [Eurograduate live](#) (specialist European graduate recruitment)
- [Going Global](#) (Over 10,000 job vacancies listed across Europe, Asia-Pacific, UK, US. Global key employer directories, work permits & visa regulations, country specific cultural & interviewing advice & more)
- [GradIreland.com](#) (specialist Irish graduate recruitment)
- [Hobsons Careers in Asia](#) (specialist graduate recruitment)
- [Idealist.org](#) (paid & voluntary positions in non-profit organisations globally)
- [Malaysia: Graduan](#) (specialist Malaysian graduate recruitment)

- [Off-shore Employment Links for Australian Professionals](#) (Provides links and information for vacancies within international government and non-government organisations)
- [Prospects Web UK](#) (specialist UK graduate recruitment)
- [Quintessential Careers](#) (specialist US graduate recruitment)
- [United Nations competitive recruitment examination](#)
- [United Nations graduate internships](#)

Targeting potential employers

Many work opportunities are not advertised. It is common practice for jobseekers to search out these opportunities. When approaching potential employers, conducting research to identify links between your selling points (your skills, experience, interests and qualifications) and an employer's needs, increases your chances of success. Research will also reduce the number of approaches you need to make, saving you time in the end. Developing and using your personal and professional networks is also a valuable tool in finding these 'hidden' opportunities.

- [Australian fisheries](#)
- [Australian Government Departments & Agencies](#)
- [Australian Universities](#)
- [Australian Water Industries directory](#)
- [Australian Mining Directory](#)
- [Ecotourism Industry Directory](#)
- [Energy supply companies in Australia](#)
- [Environment Departments in Australia](#)
- [Environment Directory Australia](#)
- [Environment Industry Companies in Australia](#)
- [Environmental protection organisations in Australia](#)
- [Infrastructure & utilities companies](#)
- [Local Governments in Australia](#)
- [Minerals industry companies](#)
- [Not for Profit organizations in Australia](#)
- [Plastics & chemicals industries companies](#)
- [Petroleum production & exploration companies in Australia](#)
- [Port Authorities in Australia](#)
- [Queensland Government Departments](#)
- [Rail industry companies in Australia](#)
- [Regional development organisations in Queensland](#)
- [Wind engineering companies in Australia](#)

Employment prospects & starting salaries

[Gradsonline](#) provides information on employment rates and median starting salaries by field of study, for Australian university graduates surveyed four months after graduation. Information on occupations Australia-wide, such as the size of the workforce, employment prospects and average weekly earnings is available from [JobOutlook](#).

Professional associations

Joining a professional association is a great way to meet people in your field, who can assist you to explore your career options and potentially find employment opportunities. These associations exist in every field of employment and hold regular professional development and networking events. Students are welcome to join, and membership often costs as little as \$50 per year.

- [Alternative Technology Association](#)

- [ANZ Society for Ecological Economics](#)
- [Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists & Managers \(APESMA\)](#)
- [Australasian Society for Ecotoxicology](#)
- [Australasian Urban & Regional Information Systems Association](#)
- [Australian & New Zealand Solar Energy Society](#)
- [Australian Association for Environmental Education](#)
- [Australian Conservation Foundation](#)
- [Australian Green Development Forum](#)
- [Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute](#)
- [Australian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy](#)
- [Australian Marine Conservation Society](#)
- [Australian Mathematical Society](#)
- [Australian Rainforest Conservation Society](#)
- [Australian Science Communicators](#)
- [Australian Society of Soil Science](#)
- [Australian Water Association](#)
- [Australian Wind Engineering Society](#)
- [Bayside Creeks Catchment Group](#)
- [Brisbane Region Environment Council](#)
- [Clean Air Society of Australia & New Zealand](#)
- [Ecological Society of Australia](#)
- [Ecopolitics Association of Australia](#)
- [Ecotourism Australia](#)
- [Environment & Planning Law Association](#)
- [Environment Institute of Australia & New Zealand](#)
- [Gold Coast & Hinterland Environment Council](#)
- [Griffith University Alumni Association](#)
- [Institute of Australian Geographers](#)
- [Marine Education Society of Australia](#)
- [National Environmental Law Association](#)
- [Plant Science Australia](#)
- [Queensland Conservation Council](#)
- [Queensland Environmental Law Association](#)
- [Society for Conservation Biology](#)
- [Society of Wetland Scientists](#)
- [Urban Development Institute of Australia](#)
- [Waste Management Association of Australia](#)
- [Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland](#)

Other useful links

- [Guide to environmental careers in Australia](#)