

Bachelor of Science *in* Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences FAQs for Prospective Students

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1) What is the Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences (ENCS) Program?

Yukon University, in partnership with the University of Alberta, offers years 3 and 4 of a [Bachelor of Science degree in Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences](#) (B.Sc. ENCS), granted by the University of Alberta. This Northern ENCS Program is delivered primarily by University of Alberta faculty and Yukon University instructors based in Whitehorse.

Canada's North is experiencing unprecedented rates of change in environmental, social, and economic conditions, due to climate change, new governance structures, and accelerated industrial and infrastructure development. These pressures create significant challenges for northern communities, management of northern resources, and maintenance of northern values.

The Northern Systems Major of the Northern ENCS Program applies a systems perspective to understanding the implications of rapid environmental and social change affecting the North, and developing responses that promote resilience and adaptation. Strong foundations in natural and social sciences provide a platform for exploring approaches to conservation and sustainability, with course content that is relevant to the region. Students will learn about systems in the North, in a learning environment respectful of the area's unique ecological, cultural and social realities.

Graduates are prepared for careers in federal, territorial and First Nations governments, with resource industries, conservation organizations, and consulting companies operating in the North, and in environmental education and outreach.

2) What kinds of courses does the Northern ENCS Program offer?

The Northern ENCS Program consists of an interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates natural and social sciences as related to issues such as global climate change, non-renewable energy resources, land use, resource management under modern treaties, changes in water quantity and quality, and wildlife conservation.

Examples of core courses include: Northern Land-use Planning; Ecology of Northern Landscapes; Northern Resource Management; Environmental Policy; Natural Resource and Environmental Economics; Wildlife Ecology and Management; Biodiversity Conservation; Introduction to Soils and Soil Science; Applied Statistics for Environmental Sciences; and Critical Thinking and Advanced Communication in Science.

3) Can I complete my entire Northern ENCS degree at Yukon University?

Yes! You would complete the first two years of the degree in one of Yukon University's science-based diploma programs ([Northern ENCS Diploma](#) or [Renewable Resources Management Diploma](#)), and then apply to transfer to the Northern ENCS Program for your final two years. To receive transfer credit toward the B.Sc. ENCS program for courses from Yukon University or from other institutions, students must have received a

grade of C- or higher. Once accepted to the Northern ENCS Program, students maintain dual registration at the University of Alberta and Yukon University and complete their coursework at Yukon University.

4) Where is the Northern ENCS Program located at U of A and at Yukon University?

The B.Sc. in Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences Program is housed in the [Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences \(ALES\)](#), and partnered with the [Faculty of Native Studies](#) at the [University of Alberta](#), in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The Northern ENCS Program is offered by [Yukon University](#) in partnership with U of A, and is located in the [School of Science](#), within the Division of Applied Science and Management, at Yukon University in [Whitehorse](#), Yukon, Canada.

5) What first and second year courses are required in the Northern ENCS Program?

Core first and second year courses include: first-year Biology; one term each of first-year Chemistry, Calculus and English; introductory courses in Statistics, Ecology, Soils, Plant Science (Botany), GIS, Microeconomics and Indigenous Studies; and 1-2 field courses. Some of these courses may be completed after admission to the Northern ENCS Program. See [Appendix A](#) for a full course plan for the ENCS degree.

6) Can I take courses in the Northern ENCS Program part-time?

Yes, part-time study is an option. This may be particularly appealing to returning professionals who would like to continue to work while completing their ENCS course work, parents with young children, and students who need to be employed while studying.

7) Who can apply to the Northern ENCS Program at Yukon University?

Students who have completed 24 credits of transferable post-secondary coursework may be eligible to apply to the Northern ENCS Program. Application is made to the University of Alberta following consultation with an [ENCS Program Advisor](#) at Yukon University.

Transferable coursework includes first- and second-year courses such as Biology, Chemistry, English, Calculus, Ecology, Microeconomics, Introductory Statistics, and many others. Many students complete this coursework as part of a two-year diploma program, such as [Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences diploma](#) (formerly the Northern Science “ENCS Stream” diploma) or [Renewable Resources Management](#), at Yukon University or another institution.

Students may transfer a maximum of 60 credits toward the Northern ENCS degree.

Students must meet the minimum entrance requirements of the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences (ALES), in which the Northern ENCS Program is housed. These are:

- 24 transferable credits of coursework (with grades of C- or higher on courses to be used for transfer);
- Minimum Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) of 2.3;
- Proficiency in English (refer to sections 13.3.1 and 13.3.2 of the U of A Academic Calendar at <http://calendar.ualberta.ca/index.php>); and
- For students under 21 years of age*:
 - English 12, Chemistry 12, Biology 12, Pre-calculus 12, and one of: Calculus 12, Physics 12, Geology 12, Environmental Science 12, History 12, 12-level language, or 12-level Fine Arts.
- For non-matriculated students* (21 years of age or older):
 - Chemistry 12, Biology 12, and Pre-calculus 12 (or equivalents), with a grade of at least 50% in each and a minimum overall average of 70%.
- *Note: if a student does not have the high school prerequisites but has completed a more advanced college/university course in that subject (e.g., does not have Biology 12 but has successfully completed a first-year college/university-level biology course, such as YukonU's BIOL 101/102), then U of A may waive the high school prerequisite. Please contact an [ENCS Program Advisor](#) for more information.
- If you do not meet the high school prerequisites above, see the section below ["I am a high school graduate but I did not complete the high school entrance requirements for University of Alberta. Can I still apply to the Northern ENCS Program?"](#)

8) I think I'm eligible. How do I apply to the Northern ENCS Program?

Contact an [ENCS Program Advisor](#) at Yukon University. The Advisor will conduct a preliminary assessment of your completed coursework and unofficial transcripts to ensure that you are eligible to apply. Once the advisor has confirmed that you are eligible to apply, you will submit an application by going to the [U of Alberta undergraduate admissions page](#) and clicking on the Apply Now button. This will take you to the ApplyAlberta system. Please note the following details when filling out the application: the Faculty being applied to is Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences (ALES), the Program is Environmental and Conservation Sciences (or just ENCS), and the Major is Northern Systems. For campus, select "North Campus (Edmonton)" (selecting Northern Systems in the Major section indicates that you are applying to the YukonU program). **U of Alberta application fees apply.** After submitting the application, please also email a pdf copy of the application to Dr. Kathryn Aitken, kaitken@yukoncu.ca, for Yukon University records.

Transcripts: Please have official copies of high school and post-secondary transcripts sent to University of Alberta, Office of the Registrar, 3-294 University Commons, Edmonton, AB, Canada, T6G 2R3 or have them emailed to transcripts@ualberta.ca. Please ALSO have copies sent to Yukon University, by email to admissions@yukonu.ca or by mail to Yukon University Office of the Registrar, 500 University Drive, PO Box 2799, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5K4. **If you attended Alberta high school or post-secondary institutions that are part of the ApplyAlberta system, then you will not need to have official copies sent to University of Alberta.**

After submitting your application, follow the instructions at <https://www.ualberta.ca/en/admissions/how-to-apply/after-you-apply/index.html> to ensure that you have activated your Campus Computing ID (CCID) and password. You can monitor the progress of your application by logging into your [UALberta Launchpad](#) account.

Once you receive an offer of admission from University of Alberta, **you will be required to pay a \$500 tuition deposit** to indicate your intention to attend. The deadline to pay the deposit will be indicated in your [UALberta Launchpad](#) account. For more information on tuition deposits and how to accept your offer of admission, visit:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/en/admissions/how-to-apply/after-you-apply/accept-your-offer.html>. For further information, contact U of A Financial Services via the Student Service Centre: <https://www.ualberta.ca/en/services/student-service-centre/index.html>.

If you are an Indigenous student who will be receiving third-party funding for your education costs (e.g., through your First Nation, etc.), contact the Student Service Centre to coordinate payment of your tuition deposit:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/en/services/student-service-centre/index.html>.

9) What is the deadline to apply?

The deadline for applications is:

- May 1 for September admission (late applications may be accepted as late as July 15 - contact an ENCS Advisor for details)
- November 15 for January admission

10) I'm still in high school and want to apply to the Northern ENCS Program after graduation. Which courses should I take?

Please note that you will not apply directly to the Northern ENCS Program after high school graduation. Instead, you will apply to either the [Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences Diploma](#) or [Renewable Resources Management \(RRMT\)](#) diploma programs at Yukon University, or to a similar program at another post-secondary institution, to complete courses for transfer as years one and two of your ENCS degree. Please see the Yukon University website for entrance requirements and application information for Northern ENCS diploma and RRMT diploma (www.yukonu.ca/programs/). For the Northern ENCS diploma, you must have: English 12, Pre-calculus 12, Biology 11, and Chemistry 11 (Chemistry 12 is strongly recommended). You may be admitted to the diploma with two of the high school prerequisites, but you will be required to complete upgrading in the missing courses while in the program.

11) I am a high school graduate, but I did not complete the high school entrance requirements for University of Alberta. Can I still apply to the Northern ENCS Program?

Yes, it is possible. Yukon University offers high school equivalencies for English 12, Chemistry 12, Biology 12, and Pre-calculus 12. Depending on your background and other coursework, you may be able to apply for admission to the Northern ENCS Program and complete the necessary equivalencies at Yukon University while also completing ENCS coursework. Talk to an [ENCS Program Advisor](#) for more information. Options for upgrading courses at YukonU are listed in the section below.

12) I need some math, chemistry, or biology upgrading. Which courses do I need to take?

Equivalencies in high school math, chemistry, and biology are available through the School of Academic and Skill Development at Yukon University.

The Yukon University equivalents for Chemistry 11 and Biology 11 are CHEM 050/CHEM 050L and BIOL 050/BIOL 050L. The equivalents for Chemistry 12 and Biology 12 are CHEM 060/CHEM 060L and BIOL 060/BIOL 060L.

YukonU equivalents for Pre-calculus 11 and 12 are MATH 050 and MATH 060, respectively. Because U of Alberta and Yukon University require equivalents for Yukon's Pre-Calculus 12 (or previously Principles of Math 12), a student entering the Northern ENCS program with Math 11 and 12 may still be required to do some upgrading if they completed other high school math courses (e.g., Applications of Math, etc.). Contact an [ENCS Program Advisor](#) to discuss whether you will need math upgrading.

Students who need math upgrading may be advised to write a math placement test to determine whether they need MATH 050 or 060. These tests are written through the Testing and Assessment Centre at Yukon University. Information on testing is available here: <https://www.yukonu.ca/student-life/learning-matters/testing-assessments>, which includes review material and a link to the online test booking system. Students may be able to complete their placement test from off-campus. Contact the School of Academic and Skill Development at the link above for more information.

13) I live in a Yukon community outside of Whitehorse. Can I still complete the Northern ENCS Program?

Whenever possible, the Northern ENCS Program offers courses via Distance Learning (usually web conference) to Yukon University community campuses.

However, due to lab components in some courses and other logistic constraints, we cannot offer all courses in the program via Distance Learning. Therefore, while a student may be able to complete some of their ENCS coursework from their community, they should expect to spend most of their time in the program at the Ayamdigut campus in Whitehorse.

Students taking the Northern ENCS or Renewable Resources Management diploma programs in anticipation of transferring to the Northern ENCS Degree, or students applying to the Northern ENCS Program with less than 60 transferable credits, should plan to complete most of their coursework in Whitehorse.

14) How much does the Northern ENCS degree cost?

After being accepted into the Northern ENCS degree at Yukon University and University of Alberta, students pay tuition only at University of Alberta but pay mandatory non-instructional fees at both institutions. The fees below are based on [2025-2026 rates for Canadian citizens or permanent residents](#). For information on international student fees, visit <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/costs-tuition-fees/undergraduate-tuition/fall-winter-tuition-for-international-students.html>

Sample totals for tuition and fees, based on 2025-2026 U of A rates (as of June 2025):

- For a student taking a full-time course load of **five 3-credit courses**, academic year per-term fees are:

U of A fees	Per-term cost
U of A tuition (\$715.08 per 3-credit course; tuition cost here is based on full load of 5 courses per term)	\$3575.40
Non-instructional fees (assessed at off-campus, full-time rate)	\$519.36
Students' Union Health & Dental Plan ¹	\$404.77
Yukon University fees	
Student Union, Technology, and Activity fees	\$197.00
Total:	\$4696.53

¹ Students are automatically enrolled in the U of A student health and dental plan but may choose to opt out (see <https://www.studentcare.ca/> for more information).

- For a student taking a part-time course load of **two 3-credit courses**, academic year per-term fees are:

U of A fees	Per term cost
U of A tuition (\$715.08 per 3-credit course; tuition cost here is based on load of 2 courses per term)	\$1430.16
Non-instructional fees (assessed at off-campus, part-time rate)	\$319.88
Students' Union Health & Dental Plan ¹	\$404.77
Yukon University fees	
Student Union, Technology, and Activity fees	\$61.00
Total:	\$2215.81

¹ Students are automatically enrolled in the U of A student health and dental plan but may choose to opt out (see <https://www.studentcare.ca/> for more information).

Students registered in Yukon University Northern ENCS or Renewable Resources Management diploma programs in preparation for transfer to the ENCS degree pay

tuition and non-instructional fees ONLY to Yukon University. For information on current Yukon University tuition rates, visit: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters>

15) Are there services or supports available for Indigenous students?

Both Yukon University and University of Alberta have a variety of services for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. For more information on University of Alberta services, download the [Indigenous Student Handbook](#) and visit [UAlberta First Peoples' House](#). For information on Yukon University services, visit: <https://www.yukonu.ca/student-life/health-wellness/first-nations-support-services>

16) Does Yukon University have student housing in Whitehorse?

Yes, Yukon University has campus housing with single and double-occupancy rooms, as well as housing for mature students (aged 25 and older), and for families. For more information on student housing at Yukon University, visit <https://www.yukonu.ca/student-life/campus-housing>

17) Is there any funding available to help me during my studies?

Students registered in the Northern ENCS Program at Yukon University and University of Alberta are eligible to apply for funding at either institution.

For information on funding available through U of A, visit <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/scholarships-awards-financial-support/index.html>. Please note that some U of A awards have Alberta residency requirements.

For information on funding available through Yukon University, visit <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters> and go to the Financial Supports section.

The Yukon Government offers several Student Financial Assistance programs for Yukon residents. For more information, visit <http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/student-funding.html>.

18) Who do I contact for more information on the Northern ENCS Program at Yukon University?

Email ualberta@yukonu.ca, or contact the Northern ENCS Program Advisors directly:

Dr. Kathryn Aitken, Program Coordinator
t. 867.668.8866, kaitken@yukonu.ca

Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow, Director
t. 867.668.8711, fiona.schmiegelow@ualberta.ca

Appendix A. Course plan for B.Sc. ENCS, Northern Systems Major

U of Alberta course codes in **green**, with Yukon University equivalencies or substitutions in **purple**.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
UA ECON 101 Intro to Microeconomics YukonU ECON 100 Intro to Microeconomics	UA AREC 214 YukonU MATH 100 Calculus I or MATH 120 Math for the Life Sciences	UA R SOC 375 Public Participation & Conflict Resolution YukonU FNGA 301 Theory and Practice of Negotiation	UA ENCS 473** Environmental and Conservation Policy
UA NS 200 Indigenous Canada YukonU HIST 140 History of Yukon First Nations and Self-gov't	UA BIOL 208 Principles of Ecology YukonU BIOL 220 Ecology UA	UA AREC 365 Natural Resource Economics	UA REN R 480 Applied Statistics for Environmental Sciences
UA BIOL 108 Intro to Biological Diversity YukonU BIOL 101 Ecology, Evolution and Diversity	UA REN R 201 Intro to Geomatic Techniques YukonU GEOG 250 Intro to GIS	UA REN R 307 Environmental Assessment Principles and Methods YukonU RRMT 238 Env. Prot. and Impact Assessment	UA REN R 466 Climate Change and the North
UA CHEM 101 Introductory Univ Chem YukonU CHEM 110 Structure of Matter	REN R 205 Wildlife Biodiversity and Ecology YukonU NOST 201 Natural History of the North	UA REN R 364 Principles of Managing Natural Diversity YukonU BIOL 230 Conservation Biology	UA REN R 473 Northern Resource Management
UA REN R 110 Natural Resource Measurements YukonU RRMT 125 Renewable Resources Measurements	UA REN R 210 Intro to Soil Science and Soil Resources YukonU SOIL 210 Intro to Soil Science and Resources	UA REN R 376 Fisheries and Wildlife Management YukonU RRMT 223 Wildlife Management	UA REN R 463 Biological Adaptation to Northern Environments
UA REN R 105 Intro to Environmental Sciences YukonU ENVS 100 Intro to Env Sci I	UA REN R 260 History and Fundamentals of Env. Prot. and Conservation YukonU ENST 200 Env. Perspectives OR ENST 201 Environmental Ethics	UA REN R 365 Ecology of Northern Landscapes	Approved Program Elective*
UA REN R 121 Plant Structure & Function YukonU BIOL 210 Intro to Northern Botany	UA REN R 250 Water Resources Mgmt YukonU RRMT 239 Freshwater Ecosystems and Hydrology	UA NS 390 Research Methods YukonU FNGA 240 Indigenous Peoples and Research	300/400 Level Approved Program Elective*
UA R SOC 260 Indigenous Foundations for Env and Cons Sci.	UA STAT 151 Intro to Applied Stats I YukonU MATH 105, MATH 200, OR RRMT 202	UA ALES 391 Critical Thinking & Advanced Communication in Science	300/400 Level Approved Program Elective*
ENGL (3 credit) or UA ALES 204 Communication Theory and Practice or WRS 101 YukonU COMM 204 Intro to Scientific and Technical Communication	UA REN R 290 + ENCS 299 Field School** YukonU NOST 215	Approved Program Elective*	300/400 Level Approved Program Elective*
FREE ELECTIVE YukonU BIOL 102 Cellular Biology and Physiology	FREE ELECTIVE YukonU ENGL 100	FREE ELECTIVE	CAPSTONE: UA REN R 491 Land-Use Planning in Canada's North

* APE = Approved Program Elective (The total 100 and 200 level APEs cannot be greater than 2 courses (*6 credits))

** Students in the Northern Systems major usually fill the ENCS 473 requirement with a substitution of REN R 427; REN R 290/ENCS 299 requirement is usually filled with a substitution of REN R 465.