Environmental Life Sciences, PhD

You'll be prepared to tackle critical research on human-caused and natural environmental change with the multidisciplinary education you'll receive in this unique program.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Environmental Life Sciences
The PhD in environmental life sciences is a novel graduate degree program that provides doctorate-level training in several complementary fields focused on the interactions between organisms (e.g., plant, microbe, people and other animals) and the environment.

This unique program provides opportunities to train across many fields of study, including:

- biology
- biochemistry and chemistry
- conservation science
- ecology
- evolution
- environmental engineering
- geosciences
- mathematics and statistics
- spatial sciences
- social sciences
- sustainability

Graduate students are trained by means of a core class taught by environmental life science faculty members, through hands-on experiences in the lab and field, with guidance from committee members across multiple disciplines, and in research seminars.

The focus is on collaborative, interdisciplinary and integrative study of the causes and consequences of environmental variation across scales ranging from the organism to the globe. The overall goal is to provide a unique, interdisciplinary doctoral program that encourages students to explore and solve complex problems in the context of natural and anthropogenic environmental change.
Administered by ASU's School of Life Sciences, seven additional schools participate in this interdisciplinary program to promote broad, collaborative training.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (3 credit hours)**
ELS 501 Environmental Life Sciences: Grand Challenge: Global Climate Change (3)

**Electives (69 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**
ELS 799 Dissertation (12)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
ELS 501 is required for students to take during their first semester at ASU.

For electives, students should see the academic unit for approved coursework. Students also may take ELS omnibus courses to fulfill some of the elective requirements.

When approved by the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate College, this program allows 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree to be used for this degree. If students do not have a previously awarded master's degree, the 30 hours of coursework are made up of electives and research.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a related discipline from a regionally accredited institution.
Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants must submit the following:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. academic record form
4. personal statement
5. curriculum vitae or resume
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

Career Opportunities

Environmental life sciences addresses ecological, environmental, sociological or governance questions in a changing world. Graduates are prepared for a range of careers related to global environmental change, conservation and resource management, among others.

Career examples include:

- atmospheric and space scientist, professor, consultant or research director
- forestry and conservation science professor, consultant or research director
- climate change analyst, oceans and climate manager
- environmental compliance inspector, environmental engineer, environmental safety and health coordinator
- public health scientist
- insect ecologist and exhibits specialist
- operations research scientist
- research ecologist
- wildfire biologist

Contact Information

School of Life Sciences | LSA 181
sols.grad@asu.edu | 480-965-1768