Careers in International Environment Studies

Description of the Field

Over the past 100 years, environmental policy analysts have tracked the general environmental movement. Early efforts were targeted at conservation and preservation, eventually growing into the pollution regulation and mitigation focus of the 1970s through the mid-1990s. Today’s environmental managers and policy makers are focused on pollution prevention and the integration of environmental considerations into economic and social decision making.

Population and economic growth pressures are creating complex environmental problems that directly impact all aspects of human society. Sustainable development, once the cutting edge of environmental issues, is now expanding to incorporate education, governance and democracy, poverty reduction, public health, security, and economic strategy along with traditional environmental fields of agriculture, natural resource management, pollution abatement and conservation. For example, waste management cannot be addressed with simply landfill policies, but must incorporate smart growth, recycling, emission capture, and the creation of markets to turn waste into a useful commodity.

Challenges for today’s international environmental policy analysts include: controlling global climate change, considering environmental regulations in treaties and trade agreements, creating environmentally and economically sustainable development, and helping the private sector find ways to incorporate environmental concerns into business planning. In much of the world, basic environmental management such as water resources, wetlands protection and restoration, and environmental health are also very important developments as economic progress puts stress on existing systems.

Career-related activities within this field include policy and scientific research, environmental education and advocacy, regulatory and legislative design, technical assistance to government agencies for planning and management, regulatory compliance and enforcement, and entrepreneurial development in environmental products and services.

From the APSIA Career Director’s “International Careers Guide: Options in the Field” Winter 2012

Potential Areas of Interest
- Sustainable Development
- Energy Policy
- Climate Change
- Food Security
- Natural Resource Management
- Environmental Security
- Environmental Policy
- Cultural Ecology
- Conservation
- Water Resources
- Environmental Compliance
- Urban Planning

Student Organizations
- Habitat for Humanity
- Students for a Just and Stable Future
- Urban Policy, Planning & Prosperity
- Tufts Energy Conference
- Tufts Eco-Reps
- Student Planning & Policy Association
- Fletcher Energy Consortium
- Food Education & Action for Sustainability at Tufts

Tufts Online Resources
- IR Careers Website
- Tufts Career Center
- JumboJobs

Public vs Private vs Non-Profit/NGO Development

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Tufts School of Arts and Sciences
International Relations Program
Where can you work in Environmental Studies?

IR students and alumni have interned and worked in Environmental Studies around the world.

Private Sector
- Chemonics International, Inc.
- Development Alternatives, Inc.
- Environmental Resources Management
- ICF Consulting Group, Inc.
- Louis Berger Group
- The Body Shop

Research, Nonprofit and Non-Governmental Organizations
- Audubon International
- Conservation International
- Friends of the Earth
- Galapagos Conservancy
- Greenpeace
- International Institute of Environment and Development
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Sierra Club
- Stanford Woods Institute
- The Nature Conservancy
- Research Triangle

Online Job Search Engines

www.eco.org
www.ecojobs.com
www.environmentalcareer.com
www.sustainablebusiness.org
www.ecoemploy.com/jobs
www.environmentaljobs.com
www.greenjobs.net
www.greenjobs.com
www.idealista.org
www.USAJOBS.gov

Key Skills & Qualifications
- Research
- Evaluation
- Flexibility
- Adaptability
- Teamwork
- Foreign Language Proficiency
- Technical Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Program Management
- Quantitative Analysis
- Regional Expertise
- Cross-Cultural Communication Skills
- Overseas Experience
- Experience Working on Social Issues
- Fieldwork Experience

Sample Job Titles
- Proposal Writer
- Policy Analyst
- Consultant
- Permit Specialist
- Program Manager
- Philanthropy Officer
- Development Officer
- Research Assistant
- Advocate
- Journalist

Professional Organizations
National Association of Environmental Professionals
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Water Environment Federation
International Water Association