

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Explore the natural world and the challenges it faces, from local ecosystems to global environmental issues. Environmental Science at Franklin equips you to understand, investigate, and address pressing environmental problems through science, fieldwork, and real-world experience.

LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

FRANKLIN SWITZERLAND
U.S. UNIVERSITY & SWISS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

MAJOR OVERVIEW

The Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science combines ecology, biology, chemistry, and quantitative analysis to examine the forces shaping our planet.
At Franklin, you will gain hands-on experience through field research, independent projects, and study abroad opportunities, including partnerships with the School for Field Studies (SFS). The program prepares you to analyze environmental challenges, develop sustainable solutions, and pursue careers in conservation, policy, and environmental management.

YOUR DEGREE

A 120-CREDIT DEGREE DESIGNED AROUND YOUR INTERESTS

To earn a Bachelor's degree at Franklin, students must complete 120 credits across university-wide core requirements, major requirements, and elective courses. The curriculum combines a shared liberal arts foundation with specialized study in your chosen major, giving you both breadth and depth throughout your undergraduate experience.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

Courses and academic experiences shared by all Franklin students, designed to build essential skills and knowledge across disciplines.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Courses specific to your chosen major, including foundational, required, and elective courses within the discipline

INTERDISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES

Courses selected from across Franklin's curriculum to explore additional interests and complement your major.

Shared by all Franklin students

66 CREDITS

CORE REQUIREMENTS	WHAT IT DEVELOPS
First-Year Seminar, 3 credits	Introduces students to Franklin's liberal arts approach and develops critical thinking, academic research, and communication skills.
Academic Travel, 12 credits	Connects classroom learning with experiential study across different cultural and geographic contexts.
Academic Writing, 12 credits	Develops written and oral communication skills for academic and professional contexts.
Global Responsibility, 18 credits	Examines intercultural competencies, international engagement, and social responsibility.
Modern Language, 15 credits	Builds language skills and cultural literacy, with a focus on Swiss languages.
Quantitative Literacy, 6 credits	Develops the ability to interpret, analyze, and communicate numerical information and data.

Please note: in some cases, courses may fulfill both a Core Requirement and a Major Requirement.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS — 59 CREDITS

FOUNDATION COURSES — 23 credits

BIO 101	Introduction to Biology: Genetics, Evolution, and Ecology
BIO 101L	Laboratory to Introduction to Biology: Genetics, Evolution, and Ecology
BIO 102	Introduction to Biology: Cell and Animal Biology
BIO 102L	Laboratory to Introduction to Biology: Cell and Animal Biology
CHEM 101	General Chemistry I
CHEM 101L	Laboratory to General Chemistry I
CHEM 102	General Chemistry II
CHEM 102L	Laboratory to General Chemistry II
ENV 200	Understanding Environmental Issues
PHYS 101	Physics for the Health Sciences
PHYS 101L	Laboratory to Physics for the Health Sciences

QUANTITATIVE SKILLS — 9 credits

ENV 250	Quantitative Methods for Environmental Science
MAT 200	Calculus
MAT 282	Intermediate Statistics

REQUIRED COURSES — 9 credits

BIO 301	Conservation Biology
BIO 310	Ecology
ENV 372	Sustainability Science

MAJOR ELECTIVES — 9 credits

Three of the following

BIO 203	Plant Biology
BIO 204	Human Anatomy and Physiology: A Biological and Environmental Perspective
BIO 330	Epidemiology, Disease and Public Health
CHEM 201	Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 202	Organic Chemistry II
CHEM 301	Biochemistry
CHEM 302	Introduction to Aquatic Chemistry
ENV 210	Natural Disasters, Catastrophes, and the Environment

ENV 220	Ecocritical Approaches to Literature
ENV 240	Environment and Health

PRACTICAL FIELD STUDIES AND SKILLS — 6 credits

Two of the following

BIO 215T	Alpine and Nordic Ecosystems Dynamics: from Peaks to Poles
BIO 217T	Extreme Ecosystems (Iceland)
ENV230T	Freshwater Conservation
ENV 232T	Marine System Conservation
ENV 280T	Managing the New Zealand Environment
ENV 399	Research in Environmental Studies
ENV 495	Advanced Research Methods for Environmental Science
ENV 498	Internship in Environmental Studies
ENV 499	Senior Research Project in Environmental Studies

CAPSTONE COURSE — 3 credits

ENV 497	Senior Capstone in Environmental Science

CLICK HERE TO **LEARN MORE** ABOUT THE MAJOR

3-YEAR OPTION

This major is also available as a three-year accelerated bachelor's degree for students who qualify for advanced standing based on their high school academic credentials. Students admitted with 30 U.S. credits of advanced standing receive a head start on their university studies, allowing them to complete their degree in three years.

GET TO KNOW OUR FACULTY



PATRICK DELLA CROCE

Associate Professor and Program Director, Biology and Environmental Sciences



SILVIA PICCINELLI

Assistant Professor, Environmental Science



L. MARTIN BULLOCK

Instructor, Chemistry

ACADEMIC TRAVEL

EXPERIENCE THE PLACES YOU STUDY

Academic Travel courses allow students to learn beyond the classroom by exploring real-world environments alongside knowledgeable and passionate professors, turning travel destinations into immersive, living classrooms.

EXPLORE SOME MAJOR-RELATED ACADEMIC TRAVELS



BIO 217T EXTREME ECOSYSTEMS- ICELAND
Journey to Earth's most extreme habitats, from blazing deserts to icy hot springs and the ocean's deepest trenches, and uncover how life adapts. Witness evolution in action during Academic Travel in Iceland.

ENV 230T FRESHWATER CONSERVATION - ITALY AND SLOVENIA
Investigate the ecology and conservation of rivers, lakes, and aquifers, and understand their role in global water systems. Apply field research techniques during Academic Travel in North-East Italy and Slovenia.

ENV 232T MARINE SYSTEM CONSERVATION - EGYPT
Dive into the science of oceans and coasts, examining ecological processes, human impacts, and protection strategies. Engage directly with marine ecosystems and medical applications during Academic Travel along Egypt's Red Sea.



BIO 215T ALPINE AND NORDIC ECOSYSTEMS DYNAMICS: FROM PEAKS TO POLES
Explore the ecology of cold environments from the Alps to the Nordic regions, examining how species adapt to extreme conditions. Through fieldwork and observation, investigate the impacts of climate change and conservation challenges in these fragile ecosystems.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ACADEMIC TRAVEL AND EXPLORE OUR COURSES

WHY CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

Dual Accreditation
United States (MSCHE) & Switzerland* (AAQ)

Residential Campus
with 6 residence halls

350+ Students representing
55+ Countries
8K+ Alumni Community

Academic Travel
once a Semester for Experiential Learning

19 Majors
1 Master
(Master of Arts in Sustainability and Transformation)

Language
Programs fully taught in English

Small Class Sizes
with 16 students on average; 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio

Career-Ready Graduates
75% secure full-time employment within 6 months of graduating; 95% within 12 months



HOW TO APPLY

1. **Online Application**
   Apply online through our **website** or **Common App.**
2. **Academic Transcripts**
   Submit at least 3 years of High School transcripts.
3. **Personal Statement**
   Share what motivates you, the experiences that have shaped you, and the goals you hope to achieve.
4. **Recommendation Letter**
   The recommendation letter can come from a teacher, counselor, or other staff member who is well acquainted with your academic profile.
5. **English Proficiency (if required)**
   If your studies were not in English, submit a TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo.
6. **WELCOME TO FRANKLIN**

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Write to our counselors at **admissions@fus.edu** or visit **www.fus.edu**