



The Department of Environmental Studies, Tel Aviv University

The Department of Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary graduate school, focused on providing students with the knowledge and skills required for future careers related to advancing sustainability. Since its founding in the year 2000, as part of the Porter School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, it has grown into a thriving academic unit with 200 students and a strong record of promoting environmental initiatives both within and outside of academia. The department is housed in the Porter Building, an award-winning example of environmental design, accredited with both LEED (Platinum) certification and the highest rating of the Israeli green building standard.

Faculty & Teaching

The department offers Master's programs in Environmental Studies (both thesis and non-thesis tracks, towards MA/MSc); a PhD program in Environmental Studies, and a one-year [International MA Program in Environmental Studies](#) taught in English.

The department has 6 permanent faculty members as well as a large number of additional teaching and research staff. In keeping with the interdisciplinary outlook, the faculty represent a range of disciplines including ecology, bioengineering, industrial ecology, and ethics. The department is headed by Prof. Colin Price, professor of atmospheric sciences.

Teaching in the department covers a range of environmental topics and disciplines across the hard and soft sciences, including ecology, energy and water resource management, urban sustainability, environmental ethics, corporate environmental management, sustainable food systems and environmental law. In 2021, the department will be piloting a new program based on project-based learning (PBL). In contrast with conventional courses, the PBL program includes short-term, applied environmental projects supervised by academic and external mentors, bringing together both academic teaching and practical experience.

Students in the department also have access to the 'Porter Internship Program', a 7-month internship with environmental NGOs, local authorities and the private sector. Interns complete 120 hours of work with their host organization, gaining practical and professional experience while bringing their knowledge and skills to the organization's activities.

Special Projects

The department runs several special initiatives based on environmental collaboration with other sectors. The Urban Innovation and Sustainability Lab maintains strong collaborations with local authorities and related research networks in Israel and abroad. Teaching under the auspices of the lab includes practical clinics and seminar on issues of urban sustainability.

In 2014, the department established Capsula TAU, an accelerator supporting early stage start-ups with the opportunity for research collaboration with the university. The accelerator was established in conjunction with the government's Smart Mobility Initiative and has since expanded into further areas of environmental technology.

The department maintains ties with academic institutions abroad including coordination of international research projects and international summer schools in the Middle East region.

We are interested in expanding our connections to support diverse teaching opportunities for students, research cooperation, and collaborations in the environmental technology and innovation sphere.

More information on our academic programs, faculty, research and other projects can be found on the website: <https://en-environment.tau.ac.il/>

Contact details: Prof. Colin Price cprice@flash.tau.ac.il