

Advising at the School of the Environment

About the Guide

This guide is intended to help graduate students enrolled in School of the Environment programs better understand how the Graduate Office at the School can support their academic journeys. To explore resources and learn more about advising and how to book an advising appointment with our office, please refer to the details in this guide.

Our Mission

“The School of the Environment is committed to delivering outstanding academic programs on the environment and sustainability by providing students with the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to make a substantive difference in the world. We are focused on creating new knowledge, training future leaders, engaging and forging partnerships with the wider community, and contributing to positive environmental and social change from the local to the global scale.”

To support our mission, the Graduate Office at the School of the Environment is committed to providing our graduate students with the tools needed to become leaders that create a substantive difference in the world. This includes providing advising meetings in order to better understand and address student needs and concerns.

What to Expect in an Advising Meeting

At the School of the Environment, we recognize advising students encompasses complex and interconnected issues that inform how students navigate their academic careers. In our role as advisors, we hope to enter collaborative partnerships and work together with our students to support and develop fulfilling educational experiences.

When meeting with the Graduate Office, you can expect us to do the following:

Listen

Practice active listening to help identify goals and barriers to success and collaborate to develop a plan to meet those goals.

Understand

Work together to understand the rules and regulations set by the University and identify the best resources and on-campus services that can help support student academic success.

Empower

Encourage and empower students to use their understanding of the University and its resources to make confident decisions for their own academic careers.

How to Schedule and Prepare for an Advising Meeting

To schedule an appointment with the Graduate Administrator at the School of the Environment, please email graduate.office.env@utoronto.ca. We encourage students to meet with their advisor as early as possible and as frequently as needed to ensure they feel supported and prepared for their academic year.

To prepare for the meeting, please consider the following:

- Review the [School of Graduate Studies Calendar](#), [Sessional Dates](#) and Degree Program Requirements ([MES](#), [Collaborative Specialization in Environmental Studies](#), [Collaborative Specialization in Environment and Health](#)).
- Attend the meeting prepared with questions and/or concerns related to issues affecting your academic career.
- Ask questions for clarification and work with your advisor to ensure your appointment supports your academic needs.

Example Meeting Topics

1. How to develop a course timetable that supports your program requirements and interests.
2. Contacting services at the University (i.e., Accessibility Services, Student Life, Housing Services).
3. How to understand University policies and procedures.

Resources

Below is a non-exhaustive list of resources available to you at the University of Toronto.

[Accessibility Services](#)

[Student Life](#)

[Gradlife](#)

[Health & Wellness](#)

[First Nations House](#)

[Centre for International
Experience](#)

[Institutional Equity Office](#)

[Centre for Graduate Mentorship
& Supervision](#)