

January Spotlight

Grad School Spotlight: A Look at Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University

Sue Smith, Admissions Officer in Academic & Enrollment Services, answered questions about the master's programs at Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. This information may also assist students in understanding the graduate school admissions process in a general way:

What do you need to learn about programs you are considering?
What do admissions committees want from you?

Q) What are typical interests of students who enter the graduate program at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University?

A) Students come from varied backgrounds, but they all have in common a real passion for the environment. Their interests are equally diverse, and might include areas where they hope to make a difference, such as study related to climate and energy, terrestrial and marine ecosystems or human health and the environment.

Q) What academic backgrounds and other qualifications do you seek in candidates for the program?

A) Our Master of Environmental Management (MEM) and Master of Forestry (MF) graduate professional degree programs attract students from many different undergraduate majors. Strong applicants will have a basic understanding of natural and/or social sciences relevant to their area of interest. In addition to the two schoolwide prerequisites (an undergraduate college semester of Calculus and Statistics prior to matriculating, with a grade of at least a B-), there may be another prerequisite depending upon the area of study. Students who have taken advantage of internships and work experience add value to their applications.



For additional important admissions information, please see our website:
<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/programs/professional/>

There are numerous ways to learn more about the Nicholas School of the Environment. For an inside view of the school and its students, browse through our student blogs on the Nicholas School of the Environment website, where they are describing many aspects of student life at the Nicholas School: <http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/insider/trenches>

Another way to learn about the Nicholas School of the Environment is to "like" us on Facebook, and learn more about school activities:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nicholas-School-of-the-Environment-at-Duke/172033820709?ref=nf>

You can follow us on Twitter as well: <http://twitter.com/#!/nichschool>

And William L. Chameides, dean of the Nicholas School, has a blog, The Green Grok, where you can read his frequent posts about creating a sustainable future:
<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/thegreengrok>

Q) What concentrations are available?

A) Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment offers two professional graduate degrees:
<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/programs/professional/mem>

The specific concentrations for the Master of Environmental Management (MEM) degree are:

Coastal Environmental Management (CEM)
Ecosystem Science and Conservation (ESC)
Ecotoxicology and Environmental Health (EEH)
Energy and the Environment (EE)

Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP)
Global Environmental Change (GEC)
Water and Air Resources (WAR)

For the Master of Forestry (MF),

<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/programs/professional/mf> Students come into a Society of American Foresters accredited program and study Forest Resource Management (FRM).

Q) Is an internship required? If so, what are typical internships?

A) The Nicholas School of the Environment has its own dedicated, excellent Career Services office that works with students throughout the career planning process, including internships and permanent employment:

<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/programs/professional/career>

Some examples of student internships in the past include:

*working as a legislative aide on Capitol Hill;

*tagging and studying tunas off the Atlantic coast;

*participating in sustainable transportation energy projects with a company in California.

Students' experiences are as varied as are their studies. Some of them travel abroad for these opportunities. Here is a map representing internships for the summer of 2010:

<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/career/2010internships>

All students are required to do a Masters Project, either as an individual or in a small group working with a client. Here is a link to a selection of Master's Projects from 2010:

<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/programs/professional/2010-mps>

Q) What are typical career paths of your graduates?

A) Just as the students entering the Nicholas School have varied backgrounds, they leave our programs to pursue equally diverse careers, ranging from federal or state governmental organizations, to working for NGO's or consulting groups or in industry. Career Services places a high priority on career development, including professional networking, alumni contacts, a student resume book, and the annual Duke/Yale Career Fair in Washington, DC. Contact information for Sue Smith at the Nicholas School: 919.613.8070 or admissions@nicholas.duke.edu