CLARKSON UNIVERSITY
Institute for a Sustainable Environment
About Clarkson

s a private, national research university, Clarkson University is a leader in technological education and sustainable economic development through teaching, scholarship, research and innovation. With powerful intention, we ignite connections across academic disciplines and industries to create the entrepreneurial mindset, knowledge and intellectual curiosity needed to innovate world-relevant solutions and cultivate the leaders of tomorrow.

Through more than 95 rigorous programs of study in engineering, business, the arts, education, sciences and health professions, we educate 4,300 students and pursue interdisciplinary research, scholarship and innovation that invests in a better world. Our alumni earn salaries that are among the top three percent in the nation and realize accelerated career growth. One in five already leads as a CEO, senior executive or owner of a company.

Founded in 1896, Clarkson's main campus is located in Potsdam, New York, and additional graduate programs, online networks and research facilities at locations in the Capital Region (Schenectady), Beacon and New York City connect with industry partners.
Flexibility and connections

Clarkson’s graduate programs integrate innovative technology to afford a tailored experience, and the Clarkson alumni network connects graduates to career success.

Diverse research opportunities

At Clarkson, you will have the opportunity to work with world-renowned faculty in one of many research areas, such as ecology, environmental engineering, environmental chemistry, environmental economics and policy.

Clarkson offers state-of-the-art equipment and technology to advance the frontiers of science and engineering. We apply this new knowledge to drive a healthier environment and society. Current research pillars include the following:

- Clean air.
- Clean water.
- Clean energy.
- Materials for environmental sensing and treatment.
- Assessment, analysis and valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Modeling and analysis of earth systems.
- Circular economy.
- Sustainable and resilient communities.

Extraordinary success for nearly 125 years

From Fortune 500 companies to small firms poised to change the world, companies look to Clarkson for new employees. Clarkson students have access to leaders and professional peers who give experienced perspectives on the best jobs in the industry — and help graduates get them. Clarkson graduates become part of a valuable, powerful network of alumni, now more than 43,000 strong, who support each other and help fellow graduates realize their professional goals.
Institute for a Sustainable Environment

We are committed to including sustainability in everything we do. We value our natural environment and the social well-being of our students and employees, and we strive to create healthy world solutions in our local and global communities.

The interdisciplinary Institute for a Sustainable Environment (ISE) is a hub for faculty and students from all disciplines. We offer an unparalleled diversity of perspectives and expertise to drive campus-wide environmental education, sustainability efforts and collaborative research initiatives.
About the ISE

The ISE inspires our students to think deeply about how we can better our world for ourselves and future generations. With our students and faculty, we create healthy world solutions that ultimately protect air, water and ecological resources to create sustainable communities around the world.

Our faculty and students work in an interdisciplinary setting to advance research focused on solving real-world environmental and sustainability problems for a better future. We actively promote a collaborative approach, encouraging students to work together across campus.

Our commitment to sustainability is evident in on-campus projects that incorporate our cutting-edge research, such as an anaerobic digester, smart living spaces, prototype wind turbines and the ongoing goal to be a carbon-neutral campus. These efforts have resulted in national recognition, including an AASHE STARS Gold sustainability rating.

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The World as Our Lab

Work and learn in settings including the Adirondacks, international rivers and developing communities.

Defy Convention

Find new ways to create healthy world solutions.

Community Engagement Projects

Improve food access and build climate-smart communities.

High-Impact Learning

Gain a systems perspective through hands-on approaches to skill building.

Transformative Sustainable Solutions

Research across disciplines and ask the right questions to create solutions.

Open-Ended Problems

Work with local and global partners to solve real-world problems.
Clarkson makes sustainability a way of life, so it’s not surprising that we are ranked in the top 10 percent of universities recognized by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for integrating sustainability into research and curriculum.

A Home in the North Country

Located in Potsdam, New York, Clarkson’s main campus is in close proximity to the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park, as well as the Thousand Islands and greater St. Lawrence River ecosystem, which provide a living laboratory and outdoor classroom for students.

Students can also enjoy the outdoors right on our 640-acre campus, thanks to 3 miles of forest and wetland trails for hiking, biking or cross-country skiing. And with Clarkson’s canoe house right on the Raquette River, they can even go canoeing and kayaking.
Environmental Politics and Governance, MS

LOCATION: Potsdam
DELIVERY METHOD: On-site

A Systems Perspective for Today’s Environmental Challenges.

Our MS in environmental politics and governance (MSEPG) program prepares the next generation of environmental and energy policy analysts and experts to understand and impact the complex socioeconomic and political processes that create environmental outcomes.

Clarkson’s MSEPG program focuses on human dimensions within the broad context of underlying natural systems to provide a unique graduate experience in environmental management. Our graduates leave well-prepared for careers as policymakers and analysts and work nationally and internationally in government, nonprofit and private sectors.

Recent MSEPG projects range from establishing a carbon-offset program through agroforestry in Africa, to evaluating policies related to fracking in New York state, to establishing a governance structure for a municipality-scale emergency microgrid.

Your Interests, Supported by a Flexible Network.

Complete your degree in 12 to 18 months.

Start building a broad foundation with the following core courses:

- Environmental or Energy Policy.
- Environmental Economics.
- Research Methods (classes are tailored to each student’s research interests).

Add electives from a wide array of classes in the social and natural sciences. Complete a master’s thesis under the tutelage of one or more faculty members affiliated with ISE and produce scholarly work for publication.

MSEPG/MBA Double-Degree Option.

The MSEPG degree can also be combined with Clarkson’s MBA program for a two-year dual degree focusing on environmental policy and management.

There are 16 credits of overlapping coursework between the MBA and MSEPG programs, allowing for the MBA and MSEPG degree requirements to be completed in a combined 52-credit program of study spanning two years, with a master’s thesis (6 credits) supporting the EPG degree.
An Interdisciplinary Perspective With an Eye on Results.

Clarkson offers interdisciplinary master’s and doctoral degrees in environmental science and engineering (ESE). The programs span natural science and engineering fields while giving you opportunities to engage in the social sciences and policymaking. You will investigate interrelationships between the natural and human systems that affect environmental outcomes on a local and global scale.

We create leaders who apply engineering and science with an interdisciplinary perspective and understand policies necessary to solve complex environmental problems.

You will work closely with faculty across a range of disciplines to positively impact environmental outcomes. Clarkson’s world-class laboratory facilities enable research at the frontiers of human understanding.

Contribute to Research Outcomes That Make a Difference.

- Protect the great lakes and rivers of New York state.
- Create value from waste products.
- Motivate and educate about energy and water conservation.
- Manage and treat water resources to preserve healthy drinking water, healthy ecosystems and sustainable food systems.
- Design and integrate microgrids and renewable energy resources into today’s businesses and society for a resilient power supply.
- Develop new materials to capture contaminants.
- Understand, monitor and reduce air pollutants to benefit public health.
- Conserve regional natural habitats for biodiversity.

Design Your Program.

Create a theme area to customize your curriculum with selections from the following required courses:

- Risk Analysis.
- Environmental Systems or Industrial Ecology.
- Environmental Policy, Energy Policy or Environmental Economics.
Admission

Admission Requirements:
The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required of all applicants without a previous graduate degree.

Admission is based on your drive, academics, references, test performance and fit with the program.

Some undergraduate prerequisite coursework is expected before enrollment. For program specific information, visit clarkson.edu/academics/graduate.

For more information about the ISE, visit clarkson.edu/academics/ise.

Application Procedures:
To apply, please submit the following:

- Online application, which can be completed at: gradapp.clarkson.edu/apply.
- Transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended.
- GRE/GMAT scores (may not be needed for applicants with work experience, graduate degrees or other practical or applied skill sets).
- Resume/CV.
- Statement of purpose.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- TOEFL score of 550 minimum (CBT score of 213 or IBT score of 80), IELTS score of 6.5 minimum, Pearson Test of English (PTE) score of 56 minimum or Duolingo score of 61 minimum (international students).
- Certificate of finance to receive an I-20 (international students).

For further information on admissions requirements, prerequisites and deadlines, please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions at 518-631-9831 or graduate@clarkson.edu.

Use the code CUGradAdmissions when filling out the online application to receive an application fee waiver.

Scholarships

All students applying will automatically be considered for merit-based scholarships and financial aid. They do not need to fill out a separate scholarship form. Tuition or course waivers may also be awarded based on previous academic record. Exceptional students are also automatically considered for research or teaching assistantships. These assistantships offer a tuition waiver plus a stipend in exchange for 20 hours/week of work assisting faculty with research or teaching.

All admitted students are matched with academic advisors before the program starts. We assist students in finding faculty research advisors to make sure they are on a solid path toward academic and research success from day one.
Tell me more about CLARKSON'S Graduate Programs

NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

Would you like to receive texts?  ○ YES  ○ NO

STREET

CITY

STATE   ZIP

Anticipated start date:

COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED

PROGRAM OF INTEREST