The Environmental Science and Policy Program is an umbrella organization for environmental science and policy research and graduate education at Michigan State University.

**GOALS**

- Offer graduate education programs that are innovative, interdisciplinary and campus wide
- Facilitate interdisciplinary environmental research at MSU and, in particular, link MSU research with national and global research priorities
- Make MSU’s areas of excellence better connected and more visible in national and global efforts

**ACTIONS**

- Offering Doctoral Specialization in Environmental Science and Policy, which includes courses designed to teach how different disciplines conceptualize environmental issues and how scientific information can be brought to bear on environmental decision-making and environmental policy.
- Recruiting top interdisciplinary students to MSU through program design and doctoral fellowships.
- Instituting Distinguished Lecture Series that features world class researchers and practitioners engaging with the MSU community on cutting-edge environmental topics.
- Establishing the tradition of an annual Environmental Research Conference on MSU campus as a student-organized forum that brings together early career researchers, highlights interdisciplinary environmental research at MSU, fosters interactions with stakeholders and policy makers, and provides professional development opportunities.
- Providing funding for student research and organizing regular Environmental Research colloquia series.
- Supporting faculty research via targeted funding initiatives such as the ESPP Visiting Scholars to Advance Science (VISTAS) grants.
- Maintaining environment.msu.edu to serve as an evolving hub for communications and resources related to environmental work at MSU.
The Environmental Science and Policy Program celebrated 10 years of interdisciplinary graduate scholarship in 2013. The 2013-2014 university calendar was packed with new programs, increased funding opportunities and distinguished events and symposia.

2013-2014 EVENTS

ESPP Workshop: National Science Foundation Funding, Fall 2013
Fate of the Earth Endowment Reception, Fall 2013
United Nations Conference: Water, Food Security and the Developing Global Crisis, Fall 2013
ESPP Student Research Symposium: Water for a Sustainable World, Fall 2013
Fate of the Earth Inaugural Symposium: Human Well-Being and the Environment, Spring 2014

NEW AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS

ESPP Research Colloquia Series
Collaboration Laboratory
Graduate Certificate: Modeling Environmental and Social Systems
Graduate Certificate: Water and Global Commerce: Engineering Sustainable Solutions

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Visiting Scholars to Advance Science grants (VISTAS)
Interdisciplinary Team Building Initiative

“ESPP was an excellent experience for me in several ways...I gained tools for integrating research across disciplines - for example - frameworks like coupled human-natural systems and risk analysis have enabled me to participate in several grant proposals with multiple disciplines such as engineering and watershed ecologists. Maybe most importantly it allowed me to have a cohort of interdisciplinary peers - graduate students and professors.”

— Rachael Shwom ESPP Alumnus and Assistant Professor of Climate and Society, Rutgers University
September 2013

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
FUNDING WORKSHOP

ESPP presented a discussion panel on the most recent National Science Foundation Grants Conference. MSU faculty who attended shared their experience and advice on the best methods for securing NSF funding.

October 2013

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
WATER, FOOD & THE DEVELOPING GLOBAL CRISIS

ESPP, Michigan State University, the Greater Lansing Chapter of United Nations Association and experts in the fields of water and food security held a conference in the celebration of the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation.

November 2013

STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
WATER FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

The inaugural student research symposium “Water for a Sustainable World,” where undergraduate and graduate students presented on topics in four different categories: Water Quality and Health, Detection, Treatment and Modeling Technologies, Freshwater Resources and Security, and Sustainability, Policy and Governance.
September 2013

FATE OF THE EARTH ENDOWMENT RECEPTION

ESPP and MSU President Simon and Social Science Dean Baba celebrated the Fate of the Earth Endowment donated by Barbara Sawyer-Koch and Don Koch. Their donation allows ESPP to continue its role as the umbrella organization for environmental studies for Michigan State University and create a new signature symposia series. This reception also celebrated the 10-year anniversary of ESPP and welcomed new faculty and students to our community.

April 2014

FATE OF THE EARTH INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM
HUMAN WELL-BEING & THE ENVIRONMENT

ESPP launched a symposium series to explore the challenges and opportunities we face in enhancing human well-being while protecting the environment. This symposium brought distinguished thinkers from around the world to explore what we know, what we need to know and what we must do as we move into a century of unprecedented environmental change, technological advancement and scale of human activity.

The event included research-focused seminars and discussion but also emphasized events and presentations that spoke to the broader MSU and Michigan community. In addition to live events and webcasts, the Inaugural Symposium generated educational materials that can be used in classes and non-traditional education in the spring and beyond. Recorded videos of the entire symposium are now posted on the ESPP website: environment.msu.edu.
STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

DOCTORAL EDUCATION

While pursuing a Ph.D. in one of MSU’s many existing doctoral programs that have an environmental focus, students complete the coursework for the Specialization in Environmental Science and Policy. The Specialization provides students with an understanding of the diverse disciplines brought to bear on contemporary environmental problems. It is designed to provide an understanding of how various disciplines conceptualize environmental issues and how scientific information can be brought to bear on environmental decision-making and environmental policy. ESPP is also creating two doctoral certificates: Modeling Environmental and Social Systems and Water and Global Commerce: Engineering Sustainable Solutions.

STUDENT FUNDING

ESPP offers two main funding opportunities for students. The competitive Doctoral Recruiting Fellowship provides one-year fellowships for several students each fall. The goal of these fellowships is to attract the strongest possible cohort of students to pursue doctoral education focused on the environment at MSU. ESPP also provides travel funding for MSU doctoral students to present at interdisciplinary conferences around the globe.

RESEARCH COLLOQUIA SERIES

ESPP students, faculty, visiting scholars and others will come together on a monthly basis to present research updates, discuss relevant topics in a round-table format or host formal debates on the current questions of environmental science and policy. This new initiative begins fall 2014.

STUDENT BREAKDOWN

- College of Social Sciences
- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- College of Natural Sciences
- College of Engineering
- College of Communication Arts and Sciences
- College of Arts and Letters

IMPACTS

- Specialization students from 6 colleges (4+CAL+CAS)
- Student travel supports: 66 over past 4 years
- ESPP Research Conference: 60+ presentations over past year
- Placement (first job): 12 AP among 29 graduates. (Purdue, Rutgers, etc.)
- Numerous awards (e.g., NSF Fellowships, AAAS award, etc.)
ESPP affiliated faculty and researchers come from 12 colleges and 40 departments. All Michigan State University faculty members are welcome to join. We offer two funding mechanisms for faculty.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM BUILDING INITIATIVE**

The Environmental Science and Policy Program at Michigan State University is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity: Visiting Scholars to Advance Science (VISTAS) grants, designed to increase networking opportunities for MSU faculty, bring world-class experts to MSU, and facilitate development of multi-University research proposals in the areas of environmental science, technology, and policy.

The VISTAS grants aim to provide support for scholars from other universities and institutions to visit MSU to develop externally funded research proposals jointly with MSU researchers. The grants will cover transportation, housing and per diems for the visiting faculty, allowing them to spend quality time to work with MSU colleagues. VISTAS funding is different from typical seminar support programs and feature longer visiting periods, more intensive interactions with MSU researchers, and explicit goals toward grant proposals.

“ESPP provided a rare interdisciplinary approach to the connection between science and policy, which was very helpful in placing my research in policy context.”

—Stephen Aldrich, ESPP Alumnus and Assistant Professor of Geography, Indiana State University