Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation

The Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation is an innovative partnership between the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) and George Mason University that answers the emerging need to provide hands-on, integrated, skill-based learning experiences for students interested in environmental conservation.

The SCBI is located in Front Royal, VA. Scholarships for participating ESP students are available.
The Department of Environmental Science and Policy

The Department of Environmental Science and Policy (ESP) is and will continue to be a major academic and professional force. This department focuses on understanding the science and implementing policy of biodiversity conservation, water and watershed ecosystem sustainability, and the application of the one-health approach.

Our graduates are highly qualified and sought-after individuals who make important contributions to solving complex environmental issues.

BS in Environmental Science

The BS in Environmental Science provides students with rigorous training in the foundations of environmental science and the analysis of environmental processes and problems. This program introduces approaches to environmental science, improvement of environmental quality, environmental policy, and public and private decision-making processes. To focus their training, students select one of the following concentrations:

- Aquatic Ecology
- Conservation
- Ecological Science
- Environmental Health
- Human & ecosystem response to climate change
- Wildlife

The Potomac Science Center

The Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC) focuses on Potomac River restoration and local sustainability practices, so that the local ecosystems will be healthy for years to come. PEREC’s research at the new Potomac Science Center - a 45,000 sqf environmental research and education facility located near the mouth of the Occoquan River – involves numerous ESP students as well as K-12 students and the larger community.