



FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

# ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL CHANGE

## (MA, MEnv, MSc)

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The new Master in Environmental and Social Change (MESC) program is an interdisciplinary research-intensive program focusing on training related to human roles in the environment. It offers a unique graduate training experience, blending applied analytical techniques, critical thinking, and best practices for sustainable ecosystems, policies and societies.

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Students specialize in and work at the nexus of three related fields: human geography, environmental sciences, and environmental studies, to develop customized knowledge, skills, and professional abilities needed to address complex human-environmental issues. Designed for options, the program offers (1) specialized training opportunities that build problem-focused and disciplinary knowledge and research skills, (2) interdisciplinary curriculum to develop common contextual knowledge and professional competencies that are essential for addressing complex problem settings, and (3) a cohesive scholarly community that encourages students to collaborate across disciplinary boundaries and provides access to diverse faculty and areas of specialization.

A major research project, culminating in a thesis, forms the core of the MESC program. In addition, students must complete 12 credit hours to graduate. This includes two required interdisciplinary core courses (6 credit hours) and two elective courses (6 credit hours) suited to their degree path and area of specialization.

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### SAMPLE CAREERS

Graduates obtain managerial, policy development and/or technical positions in natural and social sciences occupations, or continue on to doctoral programs across Canada and abroad. Probable employers include environmental departments/agencies in federal, provincial, and municipal government such as: Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Manitoba Agriculture, Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations, Manitoba Sustainable Development, and Winnipeg Water & Waste Department. Our graduates are also strong candidates to seek employment with Crown corporations such as Manitoba Hydro, or with other non-profit organizations such as the International Institute for Sustainable Development and Nature Conservancy of Canada.

### SAMPLE COURSES

**INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINARS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE** exposes students to the current state of research, knowledge and practice focused on environmental and social change. Through student- and faculty-led discussions, seminars presented by upper-year graduate students, postdoctoral

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fellows, faculty, and invited speakers and a series of oral presentations, students investigate advanced concepts and methods used in environmental studies and sciences and human and physical geography.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH FOUNDATIONS** uses a co-taught format to investigate environmental and geographical research from an interdisciplinary perspective. This course focusses on the history and philosophy of research; research, society, and policy; interdisciplinary research methods; professional development for team-based collaborative research; types of research designs and proposal development.

**TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY** introduces students to a topical area within Physical Geography and Environmental Science. Situated within the broader context of environmental and social change, focus may be defined by a thematic area of study, geographic focus, or applications of research to current environmental issues, for example. Students become familiar with major literature, questions and debates, theory, practical applications, and current directions within the topical field.

### **MORE SAMPLE COURSES**

- **Geographic Information Analysis**
- **Managing for Environmental Sustainability**
- **Topics in Environmental Studies & Human Geography**

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### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Students must hold, or reasonably expect to hold by September, an undergraduate degree suited to their desired credential (MA, MEnv, MSc) with a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0. Examples of relevant undergraduate degrees may include Environmental Sciences or Studies; Geography; Planning; History; Natural Resource Management; or Indigenous Studies.

English Requirement (if applicant's first language is not English): Minimum TOEFL score 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), 86 (internet-based) or IELTS score 6.5. The test should have been taken within two years of the date a completed application is filed. For more information, please read: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/future-student/docs/English-language-requirements-policy.pdf>

### **HOW TO APPLY**

1. Complete the online application <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/graduate-studies/future-students/online-application-form.html>
2. The following must also be included with the application:
  - a. Transcripts from ALL recognized, post-secondary institutions attended, whether or not a degree has been awarded. For initial assessment purposes, copies of unofficial transcripts (uploaded to your application) are acceptable. Official transcripts will only be required if you are recommended for admission. All official transcripts are to be sent directly from the post-secondary institution. If the final transcript does not show a completed degree has been conferred, an official/notarized copy of your diploma is also required.
  - b. Two letters of recommendation and reference forms from individuals familiar with your academic work.
  - c. Evidence of English language proficiency (where applicable). Official test scores must be forwarded directly to the Graduate Studies Admissions Office from the testing agency. For initial assessment purposes only, copies of test scores (uploaded to your application) are acceptable.
  - d. Other supporting documents: CV/resumé and proof of permanent residency (if applicable).

**Start date: September 2021**

**Deadline:** Complete the online application, including all supporting documents, by **February 1**.

### **CONTACT US**

**Master in Environmental and Social Change**  
E: [mesc@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:mesc@uwinnipeg.ca)  
W: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/mesc>

**Graduate Studies Admissions Office**  
P: 204.786.9309  
E: [gradstudies@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:gradstudies@uwinnipeg.ca)

(In any case where the University's Academic Calendar and this fact sheet differ, the current Calendar takes precedence).