



FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE (MA)

The Master of Arts (MA) in Indigenous Governance is an interdisciplinary program that provides students with theoretical and practical skills to examine and address Indigenous governance in the political, social, economic, and cultural contexts; including issues related to land claims, social justice, health, education, environment, food security, education, language, and culture. While focusing on Indigenous nations whose homeland is located in North and South America, the international context holds a significant place in the analysis and discussion of shared issues related to Indigenous governance.

We recognize and honour the central role of language as carrier of culture, conveyor of tradition and knowledge, and signifier of individual and community identity by requiring the study of an Indigenous language. An MA in Indigenous Governance will prepare students to take leadership positions in the private and public sectors, to create and influence policy, to creatively approach development and governance from an Indigenous perspective, and to promote the visibility and recognition of sovereign Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada and abroad, and, to prepare students for further education in PhD programs.

In the two-year program, students choose from three streams to complete the degree requirements: 1. thesis, which is defended orally and assessed by a committee; 2. practicum with a relevant Indigenous organization, community or government; 3. comprehensive examination, which includes a written and an oral component.

SAMPLE CAREERS

Graduates may find employment in Indigenous organizations, community or government, serving in a leadership capacity in positions such as facilitators, managers, entrepreneurs, and policy-makers.

SAMPLE COURSES

INDIGENOUS SELF DETERMINATION brings to the academy a pivotal concept for the present and future of Indigenous peoples. How Indigenous peoples face and deal with colonization, imperialism, and globalization will depend upon the critical understanding and realizations of self-determination. The legal, political, social, and cultural connotations around self-determination for Indigenous peoples are considered. The course is focused not only on theoretical considerations but is designed to bring issues of self-determination into the collective and individuals lives of those who identify themselves with the concerns of Indigenous peoples.

PATHWAYS TO INDIGENOUS WISDOM In this course, students' assumptions and world views are challenged and enriched by a deep and complex understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing. By decolonizing and indigenizing the mind, students are open to imagining and, later, implementing strategies that are embedded in indigenous teachings. The course emphasizes the importance of critical thinking through the examination and immersion into indigenous epistemologies and brings to the program the instructor's expertise in First Nation's governance, development efforts and systems.

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES AND ETHICS provides a review of the movement towards the decolonization of the Western model of research and the revitalization of Indigenous research frameworks and methodologies. The course also offers analysis of Western research methods and both their histories in colonial practices as well as their potential usefulness in Indigenous community-based research. The unique issues and principles involving ethical research in Indigenous communities are explored.

MORE SAMPLE COURSES

- **Indigenous Food Security**
- **Human Rights & Indigenous Rights in Latin America**
- **Biocultural Diversity Conservation: Balancing Scientific & Indigenous Knowledge**

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission is open to university graduates holding a relevant, recognized 4-Year General or Honours Bachelor of Arts degree with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in the last 60 credit hours of coursework.

Students holding a 3-year undergraduate degree may be admitted to the Master's program upon successful completion of a UWinnipeg-designed pre-Master's program which consists of a set of upper-level undergraduate courses.

English Requirement (if applicant's first language is not English): Minimum TOEFL score 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), 86 (internet-based) or IELTS (6.5) or Duolingo (120). The test should have been taken within two years of the date a completed application is filed. See [UWinnipeg English Language Requirements](#)

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete the online application form: uwinnipeg.ca/apply-to-grad-studies
2. In addition to the completed application form, the following must also be included with the application:
 - a. Transcripts are required from ALL recognized, post-secondary institutions attended, whether or not a degree has been awarded. For initial assessment purposes only, copies of unofficial transcripts uploaded on the online application are acceptable and preferred. Official transcripts will only be required if you are recommended for admission. All official transcripts are to be sent directly from the post-secondary institutions. If the final transcript does not show that a completed degree has been conferred, an official/notarized copy of your diploma is also required.
 - b. Provide contact information for two individuals familiar with your academic work and who will provide letters of recommendation.
 - c. Provide English language requirement (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 and preferred.
 - d. Supply an academic writing sample, preferably a recent peer-reviewed publication or an essay from a recent course.
 - e. Statement of Interests (max 500 words) explaining your interest in our graduate program, how your research interest or professional goals fit with our program, and who you would like to advise and supervise your graduate thesis or practicum.
 - f. Other supporting documents include: scanned copies of name change (if applicable), a CV/ resumé and proof of permanent residency (if applicable).
 - g. Official documents should be sent to the Graduate Studies Admissions Office, The University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB Canada R3B 2E9.

Start date for the program is in September and January.

Deadline to submit a complete application package, including all supporting documents:
Fall (September) Intake – February 1; Winter (January) Intake- July 1

CONTACT US

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Chair
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Graduate Studies Admissions Office
P: 204.786.9309
E: graduateadmissions@uwinnipeg.ca
(In any case where the University's Academic Calendar and this fact sheet differ, the current Calendar takes precedence.)