

# MASTER OF ARTS INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES (IS)

May 2024

**Note:** The department/program code IS replaces the former codes AG & 80. Students cannot hold credit in IS-xxxx and the former AG.xxxx & 80.xxxx having the same course number (e.g., IS-7020(3) and AG-7020(3) or 80.7020(3)).

**Graduate Program Committee Chair:** Professor M.F. Ruml (Religion & Culture). Professors: G. Nemogá (Indigenous Studies).  
**Associate Professors:** R. Bohr (History), C. Fiola (Urban and Inner-City Studies), S. MacKinnon (Urban and Inner-City Studies), J. Pelletier (Anthropology), S. Penner (Indigenous Studies), J. Romanow (Indigenous Studies), S. Shukla (Indigenous Studies), S. Tulloch (Anthropology).

To contact the Indigenous Studies Department, please call 204-786-9305

## Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance

The Department of Indigenous Studies is grounded in the intellectual and cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the globe. Students from all backgrounds and disciplines develop critical thinking skills through interdisciplinary coursework. The relationship of the Department with Indigenous peoples in Canada and abroad is one of reciprocity and support. The preparation of students includes the introduction of alternative world views involving interrelated themes of land, self-determination, cultural preservation and revitalization, indigenous knowledge and natural resources, historical agency, and representations of Indigenous peoples.

The Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance is a multidisciplinary program grounded in an understanding of Indigenous peoples' values, principles, and philosophies. The approach we foster is one that combines a supportive environment for students of all backgrounds while modeling and fostering the highest standards of excellence inside and outside of the classroom. We recognize and honor 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, for example, Ojibwe or Cree. An international focus will prepare students to take leadership positions in the private and public sectors, to create and influence policy, to creatively approach development from an indigenous perspective, and to promote the visibility and recognition of sovereign Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada and abroad.

The program's specific objectives are to:

- Provide studies in matters of good governance grounded in indigenous thought and values.
- Provide an in-depth understanding of the human, environmental and financial issues and processes relevant to indigenous self-determination.
- Promote leadership and skills in areas of policy development and professional practice relevant to indigenous governance and public service organizations working with Indigenous peoples.
- Create a new intellectual space to engage indigenous and non-indigenous scholars in the gathering, application and evolution of indigenous knowledge, philosophies, and governance models.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR AN MA IN INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE

Annual deadline for applications: 1 February. **Applications may be accepted after the deadline; please contact the department**

### 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.

A relevant degree may include but is not restricted to the following disciplines: Indigenous/Native/First Nation/American Indian Studies, Environmental Studies, Natural sciences, Political Science, Economics, Law, Anthropology, Sociology, Conflict Resolution Studies, Justice Studies, or History.

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

## HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete and submit On-Line Application available in Graduate Studies website:  
<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/graduate-studies/>
2. Submit two official transcripts of academic work completed to date, sent directly from the issuing institution.
3. Submit two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic work.
4. Submit an academic writing sample, preferably a recent peer-reviewed publication or an essay from a recent course.
5. Submit the General Bursary Program Application along with your graduate program application directly to the Office of Graduate Studies, **not** to the Office of Awards and Financial Aid. Up-to-date application form is available in Awards and Financial Aid website: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awards>
6. Encouraged to submit The University of Winnipeg Graduate Scholarship for Master's Students. Up-to-date application form is available in Internal Awards, Graduate Studies website:  
<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awds-current-continuing>

### English language requirement (where applicable)

Applicants for whom English is not their mother language must show that they have met the English requirement. Please refer to the University of Winnipeg International Office webpage <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/international-engprofqrmts>  
The test must be taken within a year of the date a completed application is submitted.

**Completed application forms** should be submitted to:

Graduate Studies Admissions Office  
Graduate Studies Enrolment and Budget Officer  
The University of Winnipeg  
1BC10A-515 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9 Canada  
Telephone: 204.786.9309  
Fax: 204.774.4134  
Email: [d.habtemariam@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:d.habtemariam@uwinnipeg.ca)

### CONTACT US

Inquiries may also be directed to:  
Crystal Moore  
Department Assistant  
Department of Indigenous Studies  
Telephone: 204.786.9305  
Email: [cg.moore@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:cg.moore@uwinnipeg.ca)

## MA DEGREE PROGRAM

### Course Work and Graduation Streams

This is a two-year Master of Arts Program that offers the students the choice of completing the degree requirements via three streams. Students can choose to write a thesis, which is defended orally and assessed by a committee. Students may choose to complete a practicum assignment with a relevant Indigenous organization, community or government. Alternatively, students may choose to take a comprehensive examination that includes a written and an oral component. Students are required to take a total of 30 credit hours of work including 21 credit hours of required courses and 3 credit hours of elective courses. The remaining 6 credits are earned through the thesis, the practicum, or the comprehensive examination stream, depending on the stream chosen.

### Required Courses

**GIS-7021(6)** Pathways to Indigenous Wisdom

**GIS-7022(6)** Indigenous Research Methodologies and Ethics

**GIS-7020(3)** Indigenous Self Determination

**Six credit hours in an Indigenous language\* (GIS-1101, GIS-1201, GIS-2101, or GIS-2201)**

**Three credit hours in an elective course (GIS-7023, GIS-7024, GIS-7025, GIS-7026, GIS-7028, GIS 7703, GIS-7030, GIS-7200)**

**GIS-7101(6)** Master's Thesis

**OR**

**GIS-7102(6)** Practicum

**OR**

**GIS-7103(6)** Comprehensive Examination

\*Indigenous Studies department will accept proof of proficiency or study in another indigenous language to waive language requirement.

**Elective Courses\*\***

- GIS-7023(3)** Indigenous Peoples, Globalization and Development (experimental course)
- GIS-7024(3)** Biocultural Diversity Conservation: Balancing scientific and indigenous knowledge practices.
- GIS-7025(3)** Indigenous Language Rights
- GIS-7026(3)** Community Food Security: Indigenous and International Perspectives
- GIS-7028 (6)** Human and Indigenous Rights in Latin America
- GIS 7703 (3)** Indigenous Education in an Era of Globalization
- GIS-7030(3/6)** Directed Readings
- GIS-7200(3/6)** Seminar in Selected Topics

\*\* Please note that not all elective courses are offered every year. In addition, in consultation with their advisor, students may take relevant courses in other Departments and Master programs. With the approval of the Chair Department Graduate Committee, students could also take graduate course offered in other universities through the Western Dean Agreement.