

# MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE (MDP)

Apr. 17, 2024

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**General Contact Information**

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Guided by an understanding of Indigenous principles, experience, knowledge, and rights, **The University of Winnipeg's Master's in Development Practice: Indigenous Development (MDP)** provides you with the range of skills, knowledge, and understanding required to effectively practice sustainable development. Culture, identity, and the right to self-determination infuse the comprehensive curriculum that includes environmental and social sciences, and health, economic, and management disciplines. The 24-month program is eminently practical and experiential learning is prevalent throughout. With two 3-month field placements, students have the opportunity to put their learning into practice, gain important applied experience, and establish important connections with organizations engaged in Indigenous development around the world. MDP graduates are trained integrators, sought after by employers in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors.

MDP students join a prestigious global network linked together by the MDP Secretariat. By centring Indigenous knowledge and experiences in its curriculum for sustainable development, UWinnipeg's MDP is unique among the more than 35 institutions on 6 continents who offer an MDP.

Students choosing the MDP in Indigenous Development should consider the following points:

1. The 2-Year MDP is designed to serve students with a professional interest in Indigenous development, in Canada and abroad.
2. The program requirements are set in part by the network of MDP programs world-wide with the additional emphasis on Indigenous development unique to the University of Winnipeg program.
3. Students complete two field placements of 3 months' duration, generally during spring/ summer terms. Students are supported financially during placement with MDP field placement bursaries.
4. Students have 6 credit-hours of electives and the possibility of pursuing independent primary research via the MDP Major Research Paper stream.
5. It is possible to complete the MDP on a part-time basis.

## Faculty

The MDP is an inter-disciplinary program situated within Global College. Faculty include professional development practitioners, traditional knowledge keepers and regular academic faculty from a range of departments across campus including: Anthropology, Business, Economics, Environmental Sciences/Studies, Conflict Resolution, Human Rights, Indigenous Studies, International Development Studies, Geography, Religion and Culture, and Sociology.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

### Program Features

- 54 credit-hours total;
- For-credit, mandatory Program Orientation;
- 42 credit hours of required core courses;
- 6 credit-hours of electives;
- 6 credit-hours total for two Field Placements: in Canada and/or abroad;
- Option to pursue a major research project;
- Cohort model.

**NOTE: Mandatory program orientation begins in August, prior to the start of classes.**

### Required Courses

<b>GDP-7700(1.5)</b>	Orientation to Master's in Development Practice
<b>GDP-7707(3)</b>	Indigenous Economic Development
<b>GDP-7709(6)</b>	Indigenous Thought and Worldviews: Sustainable Understandings
<b>GDP-7714(3)</b>	Canadian Field Placement in Development Practice
<b>GDP-7721(3)</b>	Strategic Planning and Project Management
<b>GDP-7722(3)</b>	Indigenous Research Methods
<b>GDP-7750(3)/GEOG-4450</b>	Managing for Environmental Sustainability

<b>GDP-7780/GDP-7785(3)</b>	Seminar in Development Practice (Year 1 & 2)
<b>GDP-7716/GIS-7023(3)</b>	Indigenous Peoples, Globalization and Development
<b>GDP-7704(3)</b>	Health and Sustainable Development
<b>GDP-7715(3)</b>	International Field Placement in Development Practice
<b>GDP- 7717/ GIS-7020(3)</b>	Indigenous Self-Determination and Self-Government
<b>GDP-7723(3)</b>	Quantitative Research Methods
<b>GDP- 7724/ GPOL-7341(3)</b>	Indigenous Approaches to Program Evaluation: Theory and Practice
<b>GDP- 7794(4.5)</b>	Indigenous Development in Practice: Capstone

**ELECTIVES:**

*Option 1: Course work only.* 6 credit-hours of courses chosen from a list of approved MDP electives. Other electives may be approved by the MDP Director.

**OR**

*Option 2: Major Research Project GDP-7793(6)* with faculty supervision. Prior permission is required from the Director of MDP and requires a confirmed faculty supervisor.

**NOTE:** MDP electives (GDP course numbers) are not all offered annually. For more details, please contact the Program Coordinator.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission is open to university graduates holding a relevant, recognized 4-Year General or Honours Bachelor 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 University of Winnipeg designed pre-Master's program which consists of a set of upper-level undergraduate courses. It is considered an asset to have a second language.

A relevant degree may include but is not restricted to the following: Aboriginal/Indigenous/Native Governance or Studies, Business or Public Administration, Conflict/Dispute Resolution, International/Development Studies, Economics, Gender/Women's Studies, History, Law, Philosophy, Politics, Religious Studies, Sociology, Geography, Medicine, and Agriculture.

In addition to meeting the criteria for entrance to Graduate School, student admission is based upon:

- experience and/or research achievement in the broad field of development practice,
- some familiarity with Indigenous cultures and understanding of issues relating to Indigenous development,
- applied research design and project planning and management, and
- some familiarity with policy design and implementation.

## HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete the online application form: <https://oa2.uwinnipeg.ca/OnlineAdmissions/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fOnlineAdmissions>

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 to your 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) Supply two letters of recommendation and reference forms from individuals familiar with your academic work.
- 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 3,000-4500 words in length. This may include a paper written during a previous degree program or a document from your professional work experience. Submissions must be properly academically referenced.
- e) Letter of Intent: In 500 words or less, concisely state the rationale for your interest in this program. Clearly indicate your motivation for learning about Indigenous development in particular.
- f) Other supporting documents include: scanned copies of name change (if applicable), 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 Fall, generally the last week of August.

**Deadline** to submit a complete application package, including all supporting documents is February 1.

**Contact Us:**

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W: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/mdp/index.html>

Graduate Studies Admissions Office

P: 204.786.9309

E: [gradstudies@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:gradstudies@uwinnipeg.ca)