



FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

## INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE (MA)

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**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 both North American and international contexts.**

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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 and governance from an indigenous perspective, and to promote the visibility and recognition of sovereign Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada and abroad.

In the two-year program, students complete coursework (24 credit hours), and then choose from these two streams to complete the requirements of the degree: 1. write a thesis, which is defended orally and assessed by a committee; 2. complete a practicum assignment with a relevant indigenous organization, community or government.

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### 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.

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**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**

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### **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). The test should have been taken within two years of the date a completed application is filed. For details see: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/future-student/docs/English-language-requirements-policy.pdf>

### **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, 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**

Dr. Gabriel Nemogá, Chair  
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### **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.)