



FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

# DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE (MDP): INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

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The Master's in Development Practice (MDP): Indigenous Development teaches the skills required to be a successful practitioner of sustainable development in Canada and abroad. Indigenous knowledge and experience are at the core of the innovative curriculum that cuts across health, management, natural and social sciences.

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This unique inter-disciplinary program is eminently practical. Problem-solving, case studies, group projects and critical self-reflection are emphasized and in-class assignments are designed to build the skills needed to be an effective development practitioner. With two three-month field placements - one in Canada and one outside of Canada - students have the opportunity to put their learning into practice, gain important development experience and establish important connections with organizations engaged in development around the world.

Students in the program complete several required courses and two field placements; they choose additional coursework from a list of approved electives or opt to complete a major research project. The expected time to graduate is 24 months (full-time) or 48 months (part-time).

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## SAMPLE CAREERS

MDP graduates are sought after in all sectors of sustainable development, including international, government, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and the private sector. Potential career paths include development planner, program officer, community development consultant, NGO program coordinator, policy advisor/ analyst, researcher and a development evaluation specialist.

## SAMPLE COURSES

### **GLOBAL CLASSROOM: INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE**

This course provides students with the basic core competencies and practical skills required of a "generalist" or "integrative" development practitioner and serves as the foundation course for the Master's in Development Practice curriculum. The course is offered concurrently at several universities around the world, and each week students have the opportunity to learn from expert practitioners and engage in discussion with each other. Course topics are grounded in a practical, multi-disciplinary approach that focuses on the inter-relationship of each of the following core fields of study: Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Management.

**INDIGENOUS RESEARCH METHODS** This course 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

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colonial practices as well as their potential usefulness in indigenous community-based development research and applications. The unique issues and principles involving ethical research in Indigenous communities are explored. The course also includes an overview of indigenous control of their own research and ethical review processes related to development issues, programs, and implementation.

### **MORE SAMPLE COURSES**

- **Indigenous Thought & Worldviews: Sustainable Understandings**
  - **Indigenous Economic Development**
  - **Managing for Environmental Sustainability**
  - **Seminar in Development Practice**
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### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants should have a relevant Honours or 4-year BA with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in the last 60 credit hours of coursework. Examples of relevant degrees: Aboriginal/Indigenous/Native Governance or Studies; Conflict/Dispute Resolution; International Development Studies; History; Politics.

English Requirement (if applicant's first language is not English): Minimum TOEFL score 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), (80) internet-based OR International English Language Testing System IELTS (6.5). The test should have been taken within two years of the date a completed application is filed.

### **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 4500-6500 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 in September.

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

### **CONTACT US**

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W: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/mdp-home>

### **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.