

MASTERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE (MESC)

Co-Chairs: Ryan Bullock and Nora Casson

DEGREES/PROGRAMS OFFERED:

Master of Science (MSc)
Master of Environment (MEnv)
Master of Arts (MA)

Introduction

The Master of Environmental and Social Change (MESC) is an interdisciplinary program focusing on training related to human roles in the environment. It offers a unique graduate training experience, blending applied analytical techniques, critical thinking, and best practices for sustainable ecosystems, policies and societies. Students specialize in and work at the nexus of three related fields: human geography, environmental sciences, and environmental studies, where they develop customized knowledge, skills, and professional abilities needed to address complex human-environmental issues. Designed for options, the program offers (1) specialized training opportunities that build problem-focused and disciplinary knowledge and research skills, (2) interdisciplinary curriculum to develop common contextual knowledge and professional competencies that are essential for addressing current and future complex problem settings, and (3) a cohesive scholarly community that encourages students to work together and provides access to diverse faculty and areas of specialization. Research in this program includes asking fundamental questions about human-environmental linkages and dynamics, as well as applied work designed to solve existing local, regional and global problems.

ADMISSION

Students must hold, or reasonably expect to hold by September, an undergraduate degree suited to their desired credential (MA, MEnv, MSc) with a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0 out of a possible 4.0. Examples of relevant undergraduate degrees may include Environmental Sciences or Studies; Geography; Planning; History; Natural Resource Management; or Indigenous Studies, or a degree from a related field)

English Requirement (if applicant's first language is not English): Minimum TOEFL score 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), 86 (internet-based) or IELTS score 6.5. The test should have been taken within two years of the date a completed application is filed. For more information, please read: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/future-student/docs/English-language-requirements-policy.pdf>

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN M.SC. IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Students enrol in the Masters program for a minimum of two years and take a minimum of 12 credit hours of courses. A major research project culminating in a thesis must be completed and successfully defended to graduate from the program. As a condition of admission, each student must have a supervisor who is a member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Winnipeg and a member of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Geography, or a related department as approved on a case by case basis by the MESC Graduate Program Committee. Adjunct professors in the Environmental Studies and Sciences or Geography at the University of Winnipeg who are also eligible members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies may supervise with approval from the GPC. The supervisor provides direction to the student on the program of study, directs research, and supervises thesis work. The student must also have a thesis committee, which is comprised of the thesis supervisor and normally two other faculty members to help guide and review thesis research.

Course work includes two elements: required course work in Interdisciplinary Research Foundations and Interdisciplinary Seminars in Environmental and Social Change, plus elective courses chosen from MESC natural science courses. With permission from the GPC Chair, students may also bring forward alternative natural science courses offered through other UW programs. Students are required to obtain a minimum average GPA of 3.0 and no grade less than B in all required coursework.

Courses:

Students must complete a minimum combination of required courses and elective courses. In exceptional circumstances, the Graduate Program Committee and thesis supervisor may assign more than the minimum 12 credit hours for a student's degree program, normally at the time of program admission. With the exception of core courses, and at the discretion of Graduate Program Chair, students may be allowed to substitute courses taken from a different institution.

Required:

- GESC 7101 – Graduate Thesis (no credits, continuing throughout registration period)
- GESC 7102 - Interdisciplinary Seminars in Environmental and Social Change (3 credits)
- GESC 7103 - Interdisciplinary Research Foundations (3 credits)

Electives:

Minimum of 6 credits from the list of MESC natural science courses (or equivalent)

- GESC 7611 - Environmental Science & Physical Geography: Approaches & Methods
- GESC 7621 - Topics in Environmental Science & Physical Geography
- GESC 7632 - Directed Studies in Environmental Science & Physical Geography

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN M.ENV. IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Students are enrolled in the Masters program for a minimum of two years and take a minimum of 12 credit hours of courses. A major research project culminating in a thesis must be completed and successfully defended to graduate from the program. As a condition of admission, each student must have a supervisor who is a member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Winnipeg and a member of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Geography, or a related department as approved on a case by case basis by the MESC Graduate Program Committee. Adjunct professors in the Environmental Studies and Sciences or Geography at the University of Winnipeg who are also eligible members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies may supervise with approval from the GPC. The supervisor provides direction to the student on the program of study, directs research, and supervises thesis work. The student must also have a thesis committee, which is comprised of the thesis supervisor and normally two other faculty members to help guide and review thesis research.

Course work includes two elements: required course work in Interdisciplinary Research Foundations and Interdisciplinary Seminars in Environmental and Social Change, plus elective courses chosen from MESC natural science, social science and humanities courses. With permission from the GPC Chair, students may also bring forward alternative natural science, social science and humanities courses offered through other UW programs. Students are required to obtain a minimum average GPA of 3.0 and no grade less than B in all required coursework.

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Required:

- GESC 7101 - Graduate Thesis (continuing throughout registration period)
- GESC 7102 - Interdisciplinary Seminars in Environmental and Social Change (3 credits)
- GESC 7103 - Interdisciplinary Research Foundations (3 credits)

Electives:

Minimum of 3 credits from the list of natural science courses (or equivalent)

- GESC 7611 - Environmental Science & Physical Geography: Approaches & Methods
- GESC 7621 - Topics in Environmental Science & Physical Geography
- GESC 7632 - Directed Studies in Environmental Science & Physical Geography

Minimum of 3 credits from the list of social science and humanities courses (or equivalent)

- GESC 7511 - Environmental Studies & Human Geography: Approaches & Methods
- GESC 7521 - Topics in Environmental Studies & Human Geography
- GESC 7532 - Directed Studies in Environmental Studies & Human Geography

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN M.A. IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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Course work includes two elements: required course work in Interdisciplinary Research Foundations and Interdisciplinary Seminars in Environmental and Social Change, plus elective courses chosen from MESC social science and humanities courses. With permission from the GPC Chair, students may also bring forward alternative social science and humanities courses offered through other UW programs. Students are required to obtain a minimum average GPA of 3.0 and no grade less than B in all required coursework.

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Electives:

Minimum of 6 credits from the list of social science and humanities courses (or equivalent)

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- GESC 7532 – Directed Studies in Environmental Studies & Human Geography

Other Relevant Courses Taught by MESC Faculty:

- GDP 7750 Managing for Environmental Sustainability
- GBIO 7202 Geographic Information Analysis

Students are encouraged to explore additional courses from other graduate programs at The University of Winnipeg or other institutions, where necessary, to fulfill their degree requirements