



The Campbell Centre for the
Study of Animal Welfare

Frequently Asked Questions on the Master of Science by Coursework Program in Animal Behaviour and Welfare

1. What are the Admission Requirements for the Program?

The University of Guelph requires applicants to have completed a four year Honours degree, or equivalent, from a recognized post-secondary institution with a minimum B- average over the last two years of full-time equivalent study.

The Department of Animal Biosciences requires successful applicants to have an honours bachelor's degree in the sciences or equivalent, and have achieved a minimum 73% ("B") average during the last two years or equivalent of undergraduate study. In recent years, the ABW program has grown more competitive and the average GPA of incoming students in 2018 was 85%. Applications from mature and returning students are encouraged. Previous degrees, grade point averages and related work experiences are all considered during the admission process on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants interested in applying to graduate studies at the University of Guelph are required to provide two academic references as part of their application package. If your first language is not English, you will be required to submit the results of a standardized language test (such as TOEFL or IELTS).

Further details on applying, and the link to the online application system can be found here:
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies/apply>

2. When is the application deadline?

Spaces in the program are limited by the number of projects and supervisors that are available in a given academic year. For entrance in the September cohort of the program, completed applications should be submitted online by April 30. Late applications may be acceptable under certain circumstances if projects and supervisors are available.

3. Is it possible to go part-time?

Yes, absolutely. Each year, the ABW cohort includes part-time students who are working full-time while completing their MSc, and complete the program in 1.5 to 2 years. Most courses, however, are scheduled during daytime hours, and will require some flexibility from employers.

4. Is it possible to start in January?

Yes, depending on the availability of supervisors, and major research projects. However, most full time students wishing to complete their program within a single academic year begin in September since there is a general sequence of courses and some courses in Winter may have pre-requisites. Part-time students who will take more than an academic year to complete their degree may begin in January if course scheduling allows.

5. How much is tuition for this program?

For Canadian students starting in Fall 2018, registered full-time, tuition and fees are approximately \$3600 per semester. Tuition and fees for part-time Canadian students are approximately \$2100 per semester. For International students, tuition and fees are approximately \$8000 per semester for full-time and \$5000 per semester for part-time. Please see https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/studentfinance/fees/guelph_gr for current tuition and fees for your program.

6. Are there scholarships available?

Students are encouraged to apply for scholarship and bursaries to help fund their degree program. Scholarships are competitive and require top marks. There are other avenues for assistance based on financial need. More information can be found here <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/studentfinance/aid/index>

7. What types of major projects do students do?

There have been a very wide range of projects completed by students in the program. While the majority are hypothesis-driven research projects involving live animals, some recent projects have focused on optimizing methodologies for animal use, developing and implementing surveys to veterinarians on animal care, or developing a website on animal welfare labelling. Students have worked with a very wide range of species, including: pigs, cows, horses, marmots, chickens, turkeys, cheetahs, rhinoceros, dogs, cats, elephants, mink, mice, rats, polar bears, fish, and tigers. We recommend that prospective students with specific research interests contact relevant Associated Faculty in the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/csaw/faculty/>) to determine if projects will be available, prior to applying.

8. I want to get into veterinary school. Will this increase my chances?

Previously, students have been able to apply while in-course as part of the Graduate Cohort for admission into the Ontario Veterinary College. The requirements for this cohort have changed, however, and students must now have completed the program prior to applying as a Graduate Student. That said, each year highly qualified students in the program apply to and get in to OVC and other veterinary schools within the regular admissions process. More information can be found here:

<http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/recruitment/en/applyingtodvm/graduatestudentapplicants.asp>

9. What are the career prospects for graduates of this program?

Animal welfare science is a fast-growing research field, integrating diverse disciplines from animal sciences to neuroscience. This program equips students to meet the needs of the various animal industries, and allows students to rapidly gain the knowledge and skills necessary for a scientific career in the discipline of animal welfare. The program also serves as a potential entry degree to veterinary medicine or further graduate degree programs. Graduates of the program have moved on to careers in animal advocacy, animal welfare research, livestock industries, veterinary medicine, and government agencies.

10. Who do I contact for more information?

Dr Stephanie Torrey is the Coordinator of the Program. She can be reached at storrey@uoguelph.ca. Dr Tina Widowski is Director of the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare, and she can be reached at twidowsk@uoguelph.ca. Wendy McGrattan is the Graduate Secretary for Animal Biosciences, and she can be reached at wmcgratt@uoguelph.ca.

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