Planning is a growing global profession. Graduates of our Rural Planning and Development program contribute to the generation of knowledge and the development of plans to advance the welfare, sustainability and integrity of rural communities. As a graduate you will be able to work globally in the public and private sectors for national and international NGOs, as planners, researchers and project managers.

The University of Guelph is internationally recognized for its high quality professional programs in rural planning and development and attracts students from all over the world, including the United States, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the European Union. Entering students come from a wide range of undergraduate programs and can expect to establish their own academic agenda for their continuing intellectual and professional development. The intensive (6 semester) program of study combines research, outreach, and ongoing interaction with faculty to create a stimulating learning environment, and affords our students a wealth of opportunities.

The program is available as a thesis option, major paper option, or course only option. The program is accredited by the Canadian Institute of Planners.

The Faculty

The School of Environmental Design and Rural Development boasts a strong faculty with a wide range of interests in both Canadian and International regions. Please visit us online or contact us for additional information.

Examples of RPD Research

- Corporate Responsibility in a Globalizing World: Exploring Stakeholder Perceptions of Mining in the Philippines
- Anaerobic Digesters in Lambton County: Current Attitudes, Barriers, and Opportunities for Development
- Producing for a Billion: An Examination of the Public Procurement of Rice and Wheat in Haryana, India
- The Effect of On-shore Windturbine Developments on Rural Communities and Local Government: A Case Study on Bruce County, Ontario
- Aftercare Services for Persons who have Survived Sex Trafficking: A Case Study in India
- Agricultural Land Preservation as Mechanism for Self-Sufficiency: The Future Outlook for Food Planning in Canada
- Is Food aid Undermining Traditional Systems of Turkana Social Relations?: An Exploration of Cultural Decline in Northern Kenya
- Exploring The Implications Of The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012 On Public Participation

Admission/Application

The minimum requirement for admission is a four year honours degree or equivalent, with an average standing of at least second class honours (B-) in the last four semesters or two years of study.

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