

2006-2007 Graduate Calendar

The information published in this Graduate Calendar outlines the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for the 2006-2007 academic years, including the Summer Semester 2006, the Fall Semester 2006, the Winter Semester 2007 and the Summer 2007.

For your convenience the Graduate Calendar is available in PDF format.

If you wish to link to the Graduate Calendar please refer to the [Linking Guidelines](#).

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Disclaimer

The Office of Graduate Program Services has attempted to ensure the accuracy of this on-line Graduate Calendar. However, the publication of information in this document does not bind the university to the provision of courses, programs, schedules of studies, fees, or facilities as listed herein.

Limitations

The University of Guelph reserves the right to change without notice any information contained in this calendar, including any rule or regulation pertaining to the standards for admission to, the requirements for the continuation of study in, and the requirements for the granting of degrees or diplomas in any or all of its programs.

The university will not be liable for any interruption in, or cancellation of, any academic activities as set forth in this calendar and related information where such interruption is caused by fire, strike, lock-out, inability to procure materials or trades, restrictive laws or governmental regulations, actions taken by the faculty, staff or students of the university or by others, civil unrest or disobedience, or any other cause of any kind beyond the reasonable control of the university.

The University of Guelph reaffirms section 1 of the Ontario Human Rights Code, 1981, which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, age, marital status or family status.

The university encourages applications from women, aboriginal peoples, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and members of other under-represented groups.

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Geography

The Department of Geography offers programs of study leading to the degrees of MA, MSc and PhD. Students may register in this department to undertake the MA and MSc programs in Collaborative International Development Studies and shared MA and MSc programs with the University School of Rural Planning and Development

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MA and MSc Programs

The Department of Geography offers both MA and MSc degrees, with specializations in resource assessment, biophysical processes, rural studies and international development. The MA program offers a specialization in rural studies, with an emphasis on rural land use, population dynamics and settlement. The MSc program stresses an experimental approach to geomorphic, biotic and landscape processes. The resource assessment specialization, focusing on opportunities, constraints and impacts in the human use of biophysical systems, and the international development specialization are available through either the MA or the MSc degree.

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission, applicants should meet the minimum requirements of a four-year honours degree with a 73% ('B') average during the final two years of study.

Applicants must submit a statement of their research interests with their application. They are encouraged to contact potential advisors prior to submission of an application. Students are admitted in September and applications should be completed by January 30 for consideration for admission and funding.

Degree Requirements

Students may undertake an MA or an MSc program in geography by thesis or by research project (the non-thesis option). Students taking the thesis option are required to complete an acceptable thesis and the Research Methods course. In addition, students must take four courses (2.0 credits), three of which must be from the Department of Geography, and these must include courses from at least two of the biophysical processes, rural studies and resource assessment course groupings (see Courses section below). For the MA degree, students must complete at least two courses from the rural studies and the resource assessment groupings combined. For the MSc degree, students must complete at least two courses in biophysical processes, one of which may be outside the department, as approved by the student's advisory committee.

Students taking the non-thesis option must complete the Research Methods course and the Research Project course. In addition, six other courses (3.0 credits) are required, at least four of which must be from the Department of Geography, and these must include courses from at least two of the biophysical processes, rural studies and resource assessment course groupings. MA students must complete at least two courses from the rural studies and the resource assessment groupings combined. MSc students must complete at least two courses in biophysical processes, one of which may be outside the Department, as approved by the student's advisory committee.

PhD Program

The objective of the PhD program is to offer opportunities for advanced research in the fields of rural resource evaluation and environmental analysis. These fields are part of a broader domain which encompasses theoretical and empirical investigations of the dynamic interrelationships between land, water and biological processes and the social and economic contexts in which these processes occur. These socio-environmental relationships can be addressed at various geographic scales, from the local to the global. The unifying theme is the focus on integration and evaluation.

The fields of rural resource evaluation and environmental analysis include three overlapping areas of specialization:

- **Biophysical Processes** encompasses the analysis of geomorphic and biotic phenomena and processes.
- **Rural Studies** embraces the spatial organization of human activity in the rural milieu.
- **Resource Assessment** centres on the evaluation of constraints, opportunities and impacts in the human use of biophysical systems.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for the PhD program should have a recognized master's degree with an 80% ('A-') average in their postgraduate studies. Applicants must submit a statement of their research interests including some evidence of experience in their chosen research area. They are encouraged to contact potential advisors in the department prior to submission of an application. Students are admitted in September and applications should be completed by January 30 for consideration for admission and funding.

Degree Requirements

All students in the PhD program are required to complete the Geographic Scholarship and Research course during the first two semesters of study. The advisory committee may prescribe additional courses to help the student prepare for the qualifying examination and thesis research. All students in the PhD program must complete a qualifying examination and submit a satisfactory research proposal by the end of the fourth semester of study.

The qualifying examination has written and oral components and evaluates the student's knowledge of the broader scholarly field as well as the specific theoretical and empirical content of the intended research area. The broader scholarly field must embrace the resource assessment area of specialization and at least one other specialization. Submission and defence of an acceptable thesis on an approved topic complete the requirements of the PhD.

Interdepartmental Programs

Collaborative International Development Studies MA and MSc Programs

The Department of Geography participates in the MA and MSc programs in Collaborative International Development Studies (CIDS). Both thesis and non-thesis options are available. Students selecting the thesis option are expected to complete an acceptable thesis, the five 'core' courses in CIDS, the Research Methods course offered by the Department of Geography, and one other geography course (0.5 credits) approved by the student's advisory committee. Students selecting the non-thesis option are expected to complete the five 'core' courses in CIDS, the Research Methods course and Research Project course in the Department of Geography, and two other geography courses (1.0 credits) approved by the student's advisory committee. Please consult the International Development Studies listing for a detailed description of the MA/MSc collaborative program.

Rural Studies PhD Program

The Department of Geography participates in the PhD program in rural studies in the field of sustainable rural communities. Those faculty members whose research and teaching expertise includes aspects of rural studies may serve as advisors for PhD students.

Courses

Biophysical Processes

GEOG*6330 Biotic Processes and Biophysical Systems U [0.50]

Investigation of biotic processes influencing the composition, structure and distribution of plant and animal communities and of approaches to biophysical systems analysis, focusing on environmental system interaction at the landscape scale.

GEOG*6500 Sedimentary Processes in Geomorphology W [0.50]

An integrated study of fluid flow and sedimentary processes in water and air, setting key elements of sediment erosion, transport and deposition within a global context.

GEOG*6610 Global Hydrology F [0.50]

An examination of global environmental hydrology including precipitation, evaporation, subsurface water and runoff. Physical processes, measurement, analytical techniques and modelling strategies will be considered in the context of global change.

Rural Studies

GEOG*6200 Land Use and Agricultural Systems F,W [0.50]

Rural land uses and processes, particularly agricultural systems, their dynamics and interactions with the resource base and competing activities. Theoretical models and analytical methods related to applied questions in agricultural decision making and land use planning.

GEOG*6270 Rural Community Systems W [0.50]

Characterization and delineation of rural community systems in Canada with attention to the impact of processes of centralization and diffusion on rural economy, society and settlement. Credit may not be obtained for both GEOG*6270 and RPD*6020.

Resource Assessment

GEOG*6281 Environmental Resource Evaluation F [0.50]

Analysis, evaluation and management of environmental resources. Emphasis is on biophysical and socio-economic concepts and methods which offer a more comprehensive and integrative basis for environmental decisions.

GEOG*6340 Human-Environment Systems Analysis F [0.50]

A critical review of philosophies, concepts and analytical methods for analysis and management of systems involving the interaction of environmental processes and human spatial activity.

International Development Studies

GEOG*6400 Urbanization and Development (alternate years) U [0.50]

Analysis of the evolution of urban form and pattern in the developing world within the context of the global urban system. Examines national urban systems and implications for dispersed development and rural change.

GEOG*6450 Political Identities, Territory and Territoriality(alternate years) U [0.50]

Group identities at various scales in relation to concepts of territory and territoriality, and their changing impact on the world's political map.

General

GEOG*6060 Special Topics in Geography F [0.50]

A course on some specific topic not covered by the regular graduate courses for which there are both available faculty and sufficient interest among students.

GEOG*6090 Research Methods F-W [0.50]

A review of philosophies and research methods in geography. The development and presentation of a context paper and proposal for the thesis or research project. This course extends over two semesters (fall and winter)

GEOG*6100 Geographic Scholarship and Research F-W [0.50]

A review of geographic scholarship including conceptual, theoretical and methodological issues in resource assessment, biophysical resources and rural socio-economic resources. The course extends over two semesters (fall and winter).

GEOG*6180 Research Project in Geography F,W,S [1.00]

The preparation and presentation of a report on the research project approved in GEOG*6090.