

# MES MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECT LEARNING CONTRACT

**(ENVS\*6500)**

Please complete and submit this Learning Contract to [sesugrad@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sesugrad@uoguelph.ca) and to the MES Program Advisor, [kbolton@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kbolton@uoguelph.ca) before beginning the project.

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| --- | --- |
| Student Name: |  |
| Project Title: | |
| Advisor1: | Co-advisor or Second Reader2(please circle): |

1 The advisor should be a regular graduate faculty member at the University of Guelph.

2 The co-advisor must be regular or associated graduate faculty. The second reader must be regular, associated, or special graduate faculty. Nomination to special graduate faculty status may not be feasible within the allotted time. Please contact kbolton@uoguelph.ca to discuss your situation.

**Marking Scheme & Deadlines (use one additional page, if necessary)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Milestones or Research Objectives3** | **% of final grade** | **Deadlines** |
| 1) |  |  |
| 2) |  |  |
| 3) |  |  |
| 4) |  |  |
| **Add more rows if necessary** |  |  |

3 **Please Note: Milestones must include submission of a Final Research Report and a Final Research Presentation.**  For each Milestone/Research Objective include the expected output, e.g. draft of literature

review, Lab or field performance, submission of lab and/or field data sets, and an anticipated deadline (if applicable). Please enlarge area as needed to accommodate additional Milestones/Research Objectives.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION (Student and Advisor should read this information carefully):**

* In this course, the student will undertake an independent research project of a practical or theoretical nature that relates to environmental sciences and is conducted under the supervision of a faculty member. The project may be undertaken in partnership with an outside organization, but the advisor must be a faculty member in the school.
* The project may include analysis of a data set (derived from lab, field, or computer simulation), or a substantial critical literature review. The data may come from a pre-existing source or from measurements performed by the student.
* The length of the final report may vary, but it should be no more than 30 double‐spaced pages including figures and tables.
* Students only register once for the course in the semester that they expect to submit their final report.
* As a **1.0 credit** course over one semester, the student will be required to do, *on average*, approx. **20-24 hours** per week of independent work with some contact with their advisor.
* *In addition to this learning contract, the faculty advisor will also fill out the advisory committee form and degree program form with the student****. The advisory committee form and degree program form should be submitted to the Graduate Program Assistant (***[***ses.gradsec@uoguelph.ca***](mailto:ses.gradsec@uoguelph.ca)***) and the MES Program Advisor (***[***kbolton@uoguelph.ca***](mailto:kbolton@uoguelph.ca)***) at the beginning of the semester that they begin their project****.*

# Important Dates and Grading Information:

* Due dates and marking scheme for all deliverables are to be determined between the student and the faculty advisor.
* The **faculty advisor is responsible for evaluating all materials submitted towards the final grade and for submitting the final grade**.
* Both the faculty advisor and co-advisor or second reader will evaluate the final report (numeric grade), which will be averaged to give a final grade for the report.
* The presentation will be graded by the advisor and one other faculty, and these marks will be averaged to provide a grade for the presentation.
* The final report will be submitted to the advisor and co-advisor or second reader at least four weeks prior to the end of the semester of submission to allow sufficient time for grading. Final presentations will be scheduled at the end of the semester by the MES Program Advisor.

# Signatures:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student: | Date: |
| Advisor: | Date: |
| Co-advisor or Second Reader: | Date: |