

# Rural Planning and Development: MSc (Planning)

Planning and Development are processes that permeate most human activities. Practitioners may be found working in a wide range of contexts – public and private sectors as well as not-for-profit organizations. Our program emphasizes planning for resilient rural, Indigenous and remote communities in Canada and Internationally. Our graduates are highly successful in securing employment in the field.

[uoguelph.ca/sedrd](http://uoguelph.ca/sedrd)

## Program

This MSc program is available as a thesis option, major paper option, or course work option. The intensive (6 semester) program is accredited by the Canadian Institute of Planners.

## Research Fields

The Master of Science in Planning program offers students the ability to specialize in either Canadian or international context. Further, students are able to complete research in:

- (i) community and social development,
- (ii) land use planning, (iii) resource and environment planning, (iv) rural policy, and (v) Indigenous planning.

## Admission Requirements

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

## Application Deadlines:

The deadline for domestic applicants is July 15, 2025

The deadline for international applicants is April 22, 2025.

## Entry:

Fall



## Faculty

For 40 years, U of G has developed leaders in rural planning and development that build the resilience of small towns, Indigenous, and remote communities. Our programs focus on agri-food systems, climate changes, economic development, international planning, and natural resources management. Our faculty are nationally and internationally recognized for their scholarship, leadership, and contributions to rural planning and development.

## Scholarships and Funding

Scholarship and research assistantships are available annually to incoming students. The program also provides travel and research support to MSc students.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- Agriculture and agri-food systems
- Evaluation and program design
- Economic and social development
- Environmental planning and impact assessment
- Indigenous community planning and development
- International planning and development
- Policy and land use planning
- Project management and development

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Planners with all levels of government
- Policy and program analysts
- Consultants with Canadian and international companies
- International development agencies
- Community and economic development
- Community advocates
- Environmental/conservation planning

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Graduate Program Coordinator:

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### Graduate Program Assistant:

Lorena Barker  
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## Core Rural Planning and Development Faculty

### Nicolas Brunet

Natural resource governance; role of community and local expertise in environmental science; environmental decision-making; remote, northern, Indigenous communities; wildlife and plants of cultural and economic significance.

### Leith Deacon

Sustainable development; resiliency; rural governance; resource-based communities; innovation and innovation policy; qualitative methodologies; environmental impact assessment; environmental justice.

### Sara Epp

Agriculture and food system planning; local food; community engaged research; migration; social planning; land use planning; northern Ontario; resilience.

### Ryan Gibson

Rural economic development; governance and multi-community collaboration; comparative rural policy, immigration, and wealth.

### Dave Guyadeen

Program evaluation; plan evaluation (plans, implementation, and outcomes); plan making and plan quality theory; and rural climate change planning (as it relates to plan quality).

### Silvia Sarapura

Agri-food systems and rural planning; gender transformative change planning, innovation systems and community development; youth in rural development; community engaged and farmer led research; intersectionality in land use planning; applied research – research in development.



Photo: Wayne Caldwell

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