

Conservation Leadership: MCL

The professional practice of environmental conservation has undergone rapid transformation over the past 20 years. Ongoing environmental and climate change, alongside a shift in conservation governance methods, means that the conservation of our biodiversity has never been more complex, nor more urgent. The Master of Conservation Leadership program has been carefully designed to meet the needs of the conservation sector with an emphasis on innovative conservation practice including Indigenous-led conservation governance and private and working lands conservation.

geg.uoguelph.ca/master-conservation-leadership

PROGRAM

This 24-month program has been expressly created to allow working conservation professionals the flexibility to complete course work while at the same time continuing to work in the field with their organization. Flexibility is provided through a hybrid teaching format, combining in-class and online learning.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Two short, intense residencies that combine field-based learning with access to thought leaders and change makers in conservation.
- Online interactive learning modules with virtual collaborative learning spaces
- A final project as part of your Final Learning Portfolio that helps address a real-world conservation challenge
- Opportunities to develop your leadership abilities, helping you to tackle complex conservation challenges

Application Deadline:

January 11, 2026

Entry: Spring (May)



"This program is rooted in experiential learning, with a flexible format that allows me to study while working, engage in land-based learning through residencies, and intentionally focus on leadership and professional development. The University of Guelph is well-known for its environmental programs, and as the only university in Canada offering this type of Master's, it felt like the perfect next step in my learning journey"

– Megan Lalli, MCL '25

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- 3 years working experience in the field of conservation post Bachelor's Degree
- The minimum admissible average for this program is a B- (70%) in the last completed degree
- A strong letter of recommendation from current or recent employer emphasizing the applicant's leadership potential.
- A statement of interest from the applicant

Applicants with substantial related work experience, five years or more, but who do not meet the minimum admission requirements (i.e. a B- average) may be considered by the Department for admission under the University's Alternate Admissions Criteria.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- Leadership
- Indigenous-led Conservation
- Public communication
- Private lands conservation
- Strategic Planning
- Evidence-Based Decision-Making
- Partnership Development

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Senior leadership roles within the conservation sector.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Graduate Program Coordinator:

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