

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/programs/msc-in-rural-planning-development/

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

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

Application Deadlines:

The deadline for domestic applicants is July 15, 2025

The deadline for international applicants is May 31, 2025.

Entry: Fall 2025

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:

Nicolas Brunet
519-824-4120 x54414
nicolas.brunet@uoguelph.ca

Graduate Program Assistant:

Lorena Barker
519-824-4120 x56780
rpd@uoguelph.ca



**UNIVERSITY OF
GUELPH**

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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