

College of Arts and Science

DEPARTMENT of Geography and Planning

MASTERS IN GEOGRAPHY

THE SCIENCE OF PLACE AND SPACE

“Geography is the science of place and space. Geographers ask where things are located on the surface of the earth, why they are located where they are, how places differ from one another, and how people interact with the environment.”

www.aag.org/cs/jobs_and_careers/what_geographers_do/overview

Our Masters program prepares students for a career in industry, government, education or perhaps a non-profit organization. Having the ability to answer these key questions makes the geography graduate a flexible and valuable employee who comes to the workforce with an already abundant skill set.



Hydrology Lab



GIS Lab

Our Masters program supports training in **physical** and **human** geography, geographical tools and **techniques**, as well as urban planning. The range of themes explored by our faculty is wide, however among our strengths are hydrology, urban planning, remote sensing, and natural resource management. Opportunities for conducting research are found across the globe, from Canada and the Czech Republic, to China and New Zealand. More information can be found at our website artsandscience.usask.ca/geography/

Students are encouraged to complete the M.A. or M.Sc. program in two years (College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies policy sets a five year maximum for a Masters program).

Students are required to take a minimum of 12 credit units of graduate coursework, must attend a graduate seminar throughout the program, fulfill a residency requirement of one year and write and defend a thesis based on an original piece of research.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All Geography graduate students are required to take the following:

- GEOG 803.3 - Research Methods in Geography
The purpose of this course is to introduce graduate students to theoretical and practical issues in geographical research.
- GEOG 990 - Departmental Seminar (no credit)
Students will attend a conference and provide proof of registration and will do a presentation at their defense.
- GEOG 994 - Research (no credit)
- GPS 960 - Introduction to Ethics and Integrity (no credit)
- GPS 961 - Ethics and Integrity in Human Research (for students using human subjects; no credit)
- 9 additional credits

OUR ENVIRONMENT

The diverse research interests of our faculty contribute to a rich learning environment for graduate students. Unique within the College, we have had success in securing grants from all three of Canada's Tri-Council funding agencies, SSHRC, NSERC and CIHR. We have labs that allow graduate students to study water chemistry, the physical properties of sediments, to expand their GIS skills, and even to explore the history of Aboriginal health. We also offer students the chance to do field work in places as diverse as the Canadian North, the Rocky Mountains and Prague, Czechoslovakia.



What really stuck for me about the department of Geography and Planning is that the people involved are truly enthusiastic and passionate about their disciplines and their work. There is also a strong focus on students, and the support and direction I received throughout my program, from faculty and fellow students, contributed greatly towards my professional growth and success.

NICOLE SEITZ, MSc.
RESEARCH TECHNICIAN,
CENTRE FOR HYDROLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Several types of financial support are available through the Department of Geography and Planning and the University of Saskatchewan. To be eligible for scholarship funding, students must obtain at least 80% in the last two years of undergraduate study.

University of Saskatchewan Graduate Scholarships, Department of Geography and Planning Scholarships with Service, or Graduate Teaching Fellowships are granted annually to candidates who have a strong academic record. The present value of these awards is approximately \$15,500 per year for Masters students.

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies offers a Dean's Scholarship valued \$18,000 for Masters students. Students must have a minimum of an 85% average in each of the last 2 years of study.

Graduate students are also encouraged to apply for external scholarships and awards, including those provided by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

NORTHERN RESEARCH

Students interested in pursuing research topics with a northern or circumpolar focus are encouraged to apply for external scholarships provided by the Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST) through the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS). Several Geography graduate students have been awarded CNST scholarships over the past decade. Most recently, a M.Sc. student in hydrology, was awarded a \$15,000 Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research in 2010.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

MASTERS

To be admitted as a fully qualified Masters student, you must have the equivalent of a University of Saskatchewan four-year B.A. or B.Sc. degree, with a grade point average of at least 70% over the last two years of your undergraduate program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline for September admission is **February 1** each year, but it is a good idea to apply as early as possible, to ensure that your letters of recommendation and official transcripts arrive on time.

Applications submitted after this date may still be approved, however opportunities for funding will likely be far fewer.

Applications for graduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan are now submitted online. You can find the link on the main USask webpage www.usask.ca

CONTACT

Graduate Chair

DR. PAUL HACKETT
paul.hackett@usask.ca

Graduate Secretary

MS. PHYLLIS BAYNES
phyllis.baynes@usask.ca
(306) 966-5654

artsandscience.usask.ca/geography