

NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

North Bay • Muskoka

www.nipissingu.ca

Master of Environmental Sciences/Studies



Program Description

Nipissing's Master of Environmental Sciences (MSc)/Master of Environmental Studies (MES) programs take a unique interdisciplinary approach by integrating ideas and methodologies from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences to explore and address environmental issues. The programs consist of course work plus a Major Research Paper (one-year program) or coursework plus a Thesis (two-year program), and are offered on a full-time, flex-time or part-time basis.

Students gain a broadly-based background in the study of the environment, and develop their own original research project in the context of current and future environmental challenges. Our core courses are team-taught to provide a range of perspectives. Elective courses in the MSc program focus on topics such as environmental monitoring, forest ecology, watershed hydrology, and air and water pollutant chemistry. Elective courses in the MES program include the environmental history of land and subsistence, global environmental history, histories of environmental thought and watershed management.

Our high faculty-to-student ratio provides a collaborative and supportive environment. Graduate students are paired with supervisors from one of several academic departments (Biology and Chemistry; Geography; History) who have a keen interest in and understanding of the field in which students will carry out their research projects. Students also have the opportunity to work alongside these faculty members as teaching assistants in undergraduate courses, and as research assistants. Depending on the research topic, students may also elect to have a co-supervisor, who may be from a different discipline.

Program of Study

All students require 24 credits to complete the Master of Environmental Sciences or Master of Environmental Studies degree; however, they can choose the program structure that works best for them, depending on their career goals:

Thesis route

The thesis route provides students with the opportunity to pursue original research questions by conceiving, designing and executing a study in their area of interest. Course work provides exposure to interdisciplinary thinking and development of technical expertise in a specific area of interest.

- Four, three-credit courses
- Thesis (12 credits)
- Two years to complete
- This offers appropriate preparation for further graduate studies at the doctoral level or for a career in research, consulting, or government

Major Research Paper route

The Major Research Paper (MRP) route offers students a less extensive research experience that involves analysis and interpretation of ideas and information, while emphasizing a broad exposure to environmental systems and problem solving through additional graduate-level course work.

- Six, three-credit courses
- Major Research Paper (six credits)
- One year to complete
- This route is appropriate for providing additional training for working professionals or recent graduates who wish to expand upon their disciplinary training while further developing their research skills.



Why Nipissing?

For success in graduate school, it is important for students to have guidance from dedicated faculty, and be surrounded by a supportive community of peers who will help them focus on their research and navigate their way to academic success. Nipissing offers both: our professors regularly secure external grants and recognition for their contributions to research, and our student community is friendly and supportive.

At Nipissing, our high faculty-to-student ratio translates into more individual attention for graduate students and their research. Students are carefully matched with professors with related interests, and encouraged to pursue their passions through research. Student participation in research conferences offers the opportunity to share research with peers, and paid positions as research assistants and teaching assistants allow them to experience and assess the academic world as a potential career setting.

Our Master of Environmental Studies or Environmental Sciences will provide students with the training and development required to contribute to the study of current environmental issues and emerging problems of the future. Students will be able to understand and express both humanistic and scientific approaches to environmental issues that will make them attractive to employers in an age where complexity and multi-faceted environmental issues have become increasingly apparent. The program takes an innovative approach to graduate education by requiring all students to participate in two, team-taught, interdisciplinary core courses that simultaneously explore the ideas and methods of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities and their application to environmental problems.

With a campus located on the ancient Precambrian Shield, near the shores of Lake Nipissing and the diverse habitats of Central Ontario, students and visitors alike enjoy the advantages of observing natural systems in the context of a beautiful natural landscape. At the same time, for those interested in the harvesting of natural resources through forestry, agriculture, mining, fisheries or wildlife management, there are nearby areas where the effects of these activities, both historical and current, can be studied. There are clear advantages to being in a friendly city of 50,000.

Our Facilities

Nipissing University offers physical spaces and research equipment that facilitate productive research. Faculty research spaces are dedicated to a variety of approaches and methods of environmental inquiry, and include groups focused on aquatic behavioral ecology, forest resources, environmental history, near earth observation, environmental chemistry, water resource management and watershed hydrology.

Our graduate students study and teach in well-equipped classrooms, seminar rooms, and research labs. Our graduate student lounge and interdisciplinary office provide dedicated space where students can meet and collaborate. Graduate students also have access to specialized research facilities at Nipissing, including the central analytical facility (CAF) which includes a Transmission Electron Microscope, the plant growth facility and greenhouse complex, the Watershed Analysis Centre, the herbarium, and the Nipissing University-Alcan Environmental Research Preserve, a field station on the shores of Lake Talon.

The Harris Learning Library was completed in 2011 and provides 56,000 square feet of study space with natural light and modern design. The new library features outstanding access to electronic journal resources, federal and provincial maps, government documents and databases, expanded print collections, a learning commons, an adaptive technology area, and collaborative work spaces.

Careers

Graduates of the program may go on to doctoral programs, or enter careers in government and industry. As professionals they may work in areas such as environmental policy, planning, impact assessment, natural resource management, scientific research and education.

Application & Deadlines

Applications can be made by visiting our website at:
www.nipissingu.ca/registrarforms.

You will find requirements and deadlines on the website at
www.nipissingu.ca/graduatestudies.

**TOP
RATED**
Survey Results



Generally I'm satisfied with the quality of teaching I have received (Strongly Agree/Agree)

NIPISSING	96%
Carleton	91%
Brock	90%
Waterloo	90%
Lakehead	88%
York	88%
Ryerson	85%
Concordia	82%

OSSC survey as published in Maclean's February 2014 (Ontario Universities)



Financial Aid

Funding is available to graduate students from both internal and external sources. Internal funding includes teaching/research assistantships, faculty research grants, and Nipissing Graduate Scholarships. The value of these scholarships varies. Students are also encouraged to compete for scholarships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS), the Canada Graduate Scholarship, and the Mackenzie King Memorial Scholarship.

Contact Information

For a full description of the program please visit:

www.nipissingu.ca/academics/graduate-studies/master-of-environmental/Pages/default.aspx

Admissions - Office of the Registrar

Nipissing University

PO Box 5002

100 College Drive

North Bay, ON

P1B 8L7

Phone: 705-474-3450 ext. 4761

Email: admissions@nipissingu.ca

School of Graduate Studies

Phone: 705-474-3450 ext. 4198

Email: sgs@nipissingu.ca



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

Student Recruitment Office • 100 College Drive, Box 5002, North Bay, ON P1B 8L7
tel: (705) 474-3450 ext. 4200 • toll free (within Ontario): (800) 655-5154 • tty: (877) 688-5507
nuinfo@nipissingu.ca • www.nipissingu.ca • www.facebook.com/NipissingU • [@NipissingU](https://twitter.com/NipissingU)

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