

RURAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Rural Planning and Development offers two graduate degrees: a Master of Science in Rural Planning and Development (MSc) and Master of Planning (MPlan). Both programs provide the opportunity for graduate study, research and professional development in:

1. Canadian rural planning and development; or
2. International rural planning and development.

Administrative Staff

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Graduate Faculty

This list may include Regular Graduate Faculty, Associated Graduate Faculty and/or Graduate Faculty from other universities.

Nicolas Brunet

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Graduate Faculty

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BES Waterloo, BEd Brock, MA, PhD Wilfrid Laurier - Associate Professor

Graduate Faculty

Silvia Sarapura

B.Sc. Central Peru, M.Sc., PhD Guelph - Assistant Professor

Graduate Faculty

MSc (Planning) Program

Admission Requirements

The program is open to qualified graduates from all disciplines including geography, international development, sociology, agriculture, environmental studies, landscape architecture, economics and planning. Applicants are required to demonstrate their specific interest in the program and relevant work experience in rural planning and development. A four-year honours degree with a B- average is considered the normal basis for admission.

Program Requirements

The MSc (Planning) degree is a professionally accredited (Canadian Institute of Planners) program that requires substantial commitment to professional performance and ethics.

Graduate students in the MSc (Planning) program find employment in rural planning departments, governments, non-governmental organizations, and private consulting firms in Canada and overseas. Graduates are prepared for both local development and planning as well as regional, provincial and national-level research and policy planning in international and Canadian contexts.

The program goal is to ensure that students have the knowledge and skill to conduct interdisciplinary research and, in a professional capacity, guide processes of change in rural planning and development.

Where appropriate, faculty from other academic units participate in an advisory capacity in students' research programs.

Students enrol in one of two study options:

1. thesis or
2. course work or course work and major research paper.

Canadian Rural Planning and Development

This field offers an all course work option; major research paper (MRP) option and a thesis option. All three are aimed at providing substantive professional, contextual and specialized knowledge and skill in the domestic rural planning and development context.

All students enrolled in this field are required to complete a set of core courses that provide a foundation for rural planning and development research and practice in the Canadian context.

Thesis

Students must complete:

Code	Title	Credits
RPD*6170	Rural Research Methods	0.50
RPD*6380	Application of Quantitative Techniques in Rural Planning and Development	0.50
RPD*6240	Planning and Development Theory	0.50
RPD*6260	Land Use Planning Law	0.50
RPD*6250	Foundations in Rural Planning Practice	0.50

In addition the student is required to complete an additional five (5) 0.5 credit elective courses in consultation with their advisory committee.

Course Work and Major Research Paper (MRP)

Students must complete:

Code	Title	Credits
RPD*6170	Rural Research Methods	0.50
RPD*6380	Application of Quantitative Techniques in Rural Planning and Development	0.50
RPD*6240	Planning and Development Theory	0.50
RPD*6260	Land Use Planning Law	0.50
RPD*6250	Foundations in Rural Planning Practice	0.50
RPD*6360	Major Research Paper	1.00

In addition the student is required to complete an additional seven (7) 0.5 credit elective courses in consultation with their advisory committee.

Course Work

Students must complete:

Code	Title	Credits
RPD*6170	Rural Research Methods	0.50
RPD*6380	Application of Quantitative Techniques in Rural Planning and Development	0.50
RPD*6240	Planning and Development Theory	0.50
RPD*6260	Land Use Planning Law	0.50
RPD*6250	Foundations in Rural Planning Practice	0.50

In addition the student is required to complete an additional nine (9) 0.5 credit elective courses in consultation with their advisory committee.

Students may develop an area of specialization with their advisory committees through course work, selection of elective courses, and student research leading to the major research paper or thesis. Students are strongly encouraged to arrange their own internship during the summer semester, though this is not a requirement. The program makes available a set of options to assist in developing the area of emphasis.

In the delivery of the Canadian rural planning and development field, the program draws on courses and faculty from other units on campus as well as on the resources of the school. The field of rural planning and development (Canadian) is formally recognized by the Canadian Institute of Planners, and four faculty within the program along with one faculty from other programs within the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development are Registered Professional Planners.

International Rural Development Planning

This field prepares students for research and practice in international rural planning and development. Students may choose the course work option; major research paper (MRP) option or the thesis option.

All students enrolled in this field are required to complete a set of core courses and electives that provide a foundation for international rural planning and development research and practice.

Thesis

Students must complete:

Code	Title	Credits
RPD*6170	Rural Research Methods	0.50
RPD*6380	Application of Quantitative Techniques in Rural Planning and Development	0.50
RPD*6240	Planning and Development Theory	0.50
RPD*6030	International Rural Development Planning: Principles and Practices	0.50
RPD*6291	Rural Development Administration	0.50

In addition the student is required to completed an additional five (5) 0.5 credit elective courses in consultation with their advisory committee.

Course Work and Major Research Paper (MRP)

Students must complete:

Code	Title	Credits
RPD*6170	Rural Research Methods	0.50
RPD*6380	Application of Quantitative Techniques in Rural Planning and Development	0.50
RPD*6240	Planning and Development Theory	0.50
RPD*6030	International Rural Development Planning: Principles and Practices	0.50
RPD*6291	Rural Development Administration	0.50
RPD*6360	Major Research Paper	1.00

In addition the student is required to complete an additional seven (7) 0.5 credit elective courses in consultation with their advisory committee.

Course Work

Students must complete:

Code	Title	Credits
RPD*6170	Rural Research Methods	0.50
RPD*6380	Application of Quantitative Techniques in Rural Planning and Development	0.50
RPD*6240	Planning and Development Theory	0.50
RPD*6260	Land Use Planning Law	0.50
RPD*6250	Foundations in Rural Planning Practice	0.50

In addition the student is required to complete an additional nine (9) 0.5 credit elective courses in consultation with their advisory committee.

Students may develop an area of specialization with their advisory committees through course work, selection of elective courses, student research. The program makes available a set of options to assist in developing the area of emphasis.

In the delivery of the International rural planning and development field, the program draws on courses and faculty from other units on campus as well as on the resources of the School. The field of rural planning and development (International) is formally recognized by the Canadian Institute of Planners, and four faculty within the program along with one faculty from other programs within the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development are Registered Professional Planners.

MPLAN Program

Admission Requirements

The program is open to either:

1. Qualified graduates from relevant disciplines (minimum B- average) with 2-3 years of relevant experience or permission of the admissions committee. Relevant experience is determined by the admissions committee.
2. Graduates from a related professional program, such as but not limited to, in Planning, Landscape Architecture, Architecture or Engineering (minimum B- average).

All applicants are required to demonstrate their specific interest in the program and their work and educational experience relating to rural planning and development.

Program Requirements

The Master of Planning (MPLAN) degree program is a 3-5 semester program is geared towards more experienced graduates working for an agency or non-governmental organization abroad or in Canada; or for mature Canadian planners working in a municipal planning environment, for other levels of government, in professional consulting, non-governmental organizations or other contexts or for graduates of related professional programs. It is explicitly designed for individuals wishing to upgrade their professional training to the Masters level without necessarily withdrawing from the work force for an extended period of time.

This degree may also be completed at a distance. Please consult with the program's Graduate Program Coordinator for more details.

The MPlan program requires completion of 4.00 credits, as follows:

- EDRD*6630 Regional Planning
- 3.50 credits, chosen in consultation with the Graduate Program Coordinator. Courses will normally be selected from the Rural Planning and Development course list.

Course selection will emphasize either the International or Canadian field.

Collaborative Specializations

International Development Studies

Rural Planning and Development participates in the International Development Studies (IDS) collaborative specialization. The MSc degree for students in this program will have the specialist designation rural planning and development: international development studies. Please consult the International Development Studies (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/collaborative-specializations/international-development-studies/) listing for a detailed description of the collaborative specialization including the special additional requirements for each of the participating departments.

One Health

Rural Planning and Development participates in the collaborative specialization in One Health. Master's and Doctoral students wishing to undertake thesis research or their major research paper/project with an emphasis on one health are eligible to apply to register concurrently in Rural Planning and Development and the collaborative specialization. Students should consult the One Health (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/collaborative-specializations/one-health/) listing for more information.

Courses

RPD*6030 International Rural Development Planning: Principles and Practices Unspecified [0.50]

This course presents the scope and nature of international development planning and alternative roles for development planners; has a rural emphasis; reviews the evolution of development planning from macroeconomic beginnings to more integrated local planning approaches; examines the development planning process and its organizational and spatial dimensions; compares policy, program, project, sectoral and integrated area planning; and compares rural development planning in market, mixed and state-driven societies.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6050 Professional Practice in Development and Planning Unspecified [0.50]

This course offers a planned but flexible program for developing skills that are relevant to professional practice in the rural planning and development field. It also fills the skill knowledge gaps for students who cannot take full courses. Students, in consultation with their Academic Advisor, assess their knowledge and skills need and acquire them through selected 'modules'.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6070 Project Development: Principles, Procedures, and Selected Methods Methods Unspecified [0.50]

This course introduces students to the principles, procedures and methods in developing a project. It examines the project cycle: identification, preparation, appraisal, implementation/supervision, monitoring and evaluation. It gives an understanding of the major methods involved and teaches selected methods. The focus is on the international, rural context and on small non-farm projects: small industries, small physical infrastructure and social projects.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6080 Environment and Development: Biophysical Resources and Sustainable Development in Rural Environments Unspecified [0.50]

This course will examine the problems and potential for ecologically sustainable development in the context of rural development planning particularly in the Third World environments. The course critically examines the strategic planning approaches and methods which involve the interaction between social systems and natural ecosystems in the context of planned intervention and change in rural environments.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6170 Rural Research Methods Unspecified [0.50]

The course provides rural planning and development professionals with a number of theoretical frameworks and practical approaches to problem solving in rural Canadian and international contexts. The course content provides an introduction to hypothesis development, data collection, analytical frameworks, research management, and information synthesis and presentation methodologies that are appropriate to the practicing rural planner and developer. It views the roles of the researcher and research as interventionist and intervention in the rural community. Research methods are discussed as an integral and supporting part of the planning and development process.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6220 Planning and Development Policy**Analysis Unspecified [0.50]**

Planning and development policy has experienced a significant evolution. This course examines the history of policy, and the theory, methods and processes of policy development and governance in planning and management of environment and resources.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6240 Planning and Development Theory Unspecified [0.50]

Examines basic concepts, theories and perspectives in rural planning and development. A conceptual examination of 'rural', 'planning' and 'development' precedes an examination of how rural planning and development is viewed from alternative, often conflicting theories of rural change and planned intervention. The implications for practice are discussed.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6250 Foundations in Rural Planning Practice Fall Only [0.50]

This course provides an introduction to rural planning practice. This includes: i) Concepts in Public Administration - The structure, responsibility and functions of public sector administration and government. ii) The workings of local government. iii) Rural Planning Practice - An introduction to planning and development in rural regions and small municipalities.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6260 Land Use Planning Law Unspecified [0.50]

An introduction to the legal tools used to regulate the use of land and other resources. Zoning, subdivision controls, development control, land banking, expropriation, planning appeals, official maps, etc. An intensive study of the Ontario Planning Act and related legislation.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6280 Advanced Planning Practice Winter Only [0.50]

This course explores current issues, techniques, legislation and processes that are relevant to rural planning practice. A number of specific municipal (local and regional) rural planning examples will be presented. Comparisons between different jurisdictions will be reviewed. Students will be engaged in project-based learning.

Prerequisite(s): RPD*6250

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6290 Special Topics in Rural Planning and Development Unspecified [0.50]

Selected study topics focus on the nature of rural planning and development issues and/or practices in Canadian and/or International small communities and rural environments. Among the topics which may be addressed are: rural land use planning, ecological restoration, gender analysis in development planning, GIS in agricultural development, micro-credit, physical/site planning and design, project management.

Restriction(s): Instructor consent required.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6291 Rural Development Administration Unspecified [0.50]

This course explores the administration of rural development by considering the main organizational types delivering rural programs. The structure and behaviour of these organizations, their interactions, and their respective sectors will be considered. Students will also be introduced to administrative planning tools.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6310 Environmental Impact Assessment Unspecified [0.50]

This course deals with the role of environmental impact assessments and statements in the planning, development and operation of resource projects. Topics discussed include the philosophical and institutional basis for environmental impact assessments, methods used and the effects of such assessments on resource development projects.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Landscape Architecture, Capacity Development & Extension, Rural Planning and Rural Studies students.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6320 Water Resource Management Unspecified [0.50]

The course provides an assessment of the processes and principles which underlie comprehensive water resource planning and integrated basin management. It also undertakes to evaluate current practice in the context of integrated planning. There is extensive use of Canadian and international practice.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Landscape Architecture, Capacity Development & Extension, Rural Planning and Rural Studies students.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6360 Major Research Paper Unspecified [1.00]

Students not pursuing the thesis route must satisfactorily complete a Major Research Paper. The paper will be supervised by a faculty committee. Content of the paper will generally focus on the placement of a problem in rural planning and development practice using appropriate methodological and analytical procedures. Note: This is a one semester course and must be completed in the semester of registration.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Rural Planning Development course-work/ MRP students.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6370 Economic Development Planning and Management for Rural Communities Unspecified [0.50]

Theories and perspectives of local economic development, particularly community-based planning for rural economic development. Economic development within a community development framework, and challenges of sustainable development. Interdisciplinary perspectives and alternative approaches to professional planning practice, strategic planning, management and organizational design/development issues. Alternative economic concepts and perspectives are critically examined. Includes international case studies.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6380 Application of Quantitative Techniques in Rural Planning and Development Unspecified [0.50]

Analysis and application of standard quantitative, statistical and computer-based techniques utilized in rural planning and development. Problems of data collection, analysis and interpretation.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6390 Rural Social Planning Unspecified [0.50]

This course will provide students who have an interest in social development with an avenue for linking that interest to the policy, planning and intervention process.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

EDRD*6630	Regional Planning	0.50
EDRD*6690	Program Evaluation	0.50

RPD*6410 Readings in Rural Planning Development Unspecified [0.50]

A program of supervised independent study related to the student's area of concentration. Nature and content of the readings course are agreed upon between the student and the instructor, and are subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee and graduate committee.

Restriction(s): Instructor consent required.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

RPD*6450 Recreation and Tourism Planning and Development Unspecified [0.50]

This course is intended to instruct the student in the principles of planning for recreation and tourism development. Emphasis is placed on the economic and social benefits and costs that accrue from tourism and recreation development. Planning principles are applied to this context.

Department(s): School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Location(s): Guelph

Elective Courses

Students are to select their electives from the following list of RPD and EDRD knowledge and skills courses. This list of electives is modified from time to time by the RPD Graduate Program Committee, and the student should contact the Graduate Program Committee for the current list of available electives. An RPD core course from outside your field can also be taken as an elective. Two electives may be selected from other courses offered within SEDRD (e.g. CDE or LARC) or by other University departments which are not included below.

Code	Title	Credits
RPD*6070	Project Development: Principles, Procedures, and Selected Methods Methods	0.50
RPD*6080	Environment and Development: Biophysical Resources and Sustainable Development in Rural Environments	0.50
RPD*6220	Planning and Development Policy Analysis	0.50
RPD*6280	Advanced Planning Practice	0.50
RPD*6290	Special Topics in Rural Planning and Development	0.50
RPD*6310	Environmental Impact Assessment	0.50
RPD*6320	Water Resource Management	0.50
RPD*6370	Economic Development Planning and Management for Rural Communities	0.50
RPD*6390	Rural Social Planning	0.50
RPD*6410	Readings in Rural Planning Development	0.50
RPD*6450	Recreation and Tourism Planning and Development	0.50
EDRD*6000	Qualitative Analysis in Rural Development	0.50
EDRD*6050	Farming Systems Analysis and Development	0.50
EDRD*6100	Disaster Planning and Management	0.50