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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC Vancouver

ACADEMIC

CALENDAR

2019/20

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The School of Community and Regional Planning

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Introduction

A School within the Faculty of Applied Science

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Community and Regional Planning Website (<http://www.scarp.ubc.ca>)

The School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) seeks to advance the transition to sustainability through excellence in integrated policy and planning research, professional education and community service. The School offers a two-year professionally oriented master's degree program and a research-oriented doctoral program.

The School graduated its first students in 1953 and has continuously offered a two-year Master's Degree in Planning, longer than any other Canadian school. Our graduates are employed throughout Canada and abroad in a wide variety of teaching, research, planning, policy analysis, and administrative positions in universities, municipal, provincial and federal governments, public and private corporations, consulting practices, and non-governmental organizations. Many graduates are employed as generalists, particularly in municipal and regional planning agencies, but an increasing number are found in more specialized fields such as housing; parks; transportation; social planning; urban design; urban planning; environmental protection; water and land management; northern and First Nations planning; regional development; and natural resources planning; and in international development planning at all levels.

SCARP is one of Canada's largest and oldest graduate planning schools, with a 65-year tradition in education, capacity building, research, and service. The School is focused on participatory planning for environmental, social, and economic sustainability. SCARP has the equivalent of 12 full-time faculty members and offers Ph.D., M.A.P., M.Sc.P, and M.C.R.P. teaching program with over 100 students registered each year.

Master's Degrees

Master's Degrees > Introduction

The Master of Arts (Planning) and Master of Science (Planning) programs are not accepting applications for admission to the 2015 Winter Session (September 2015).

The master's degree will be either a Master of Arts (Planning) or a Master of Science (Planning), whichever best describes the undergraduate program the candidate has received.

For information on all SCARP master's programs, including the Master of Community and Regional Planning (M.C.R.P.) see the [Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#) section of the Calendar.

SCARP's master's program is one of only two programs in Canada accredited by both Canadian and American professional planning associations. The program emphasizes both breadth and depth. Breadth is reflected in required courses from four key



dimensions of planning knowledge. Depth is present in our six focus areas: community development and social planning, ecological and natural resources planning, comparative development, disaster and risk management planning, transportation planning, and urban development planning; and in two specializations: urban design and indigenous community planning. There are core courses in law, research methods, and an introduction to planning history, methods, and theory as well as elective courses in cross-cultural planning, multimedia and planning and participatory planning, among others. All students complete a final project or thesis on a topic of their own choosing.

Master's Degrees > Admission

How to Apply

Applications for admission to the Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) Program open in September/October and close December 1st of every year.

A complete application for admission includes:

A completed Faculty of Graduate and Postgraduate Studies online application form (<http://www.grad.ubc.ca/apply/online/>).

Application fee. Please see the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' website for up-to-date information about application fees.

Three official confidential letters of reference.

Transcripts for all past post-secondary study.

A 600-word statement of interest.

A resumé detailing educational background, work and/or volunteer experience, publications (if any), and any academic or professional awards earned.

Evidence of English language proficiency (TOEFL or IELTS), if required.

Graduate Record Exam (GRE): highly recommended but not mandatory.

Record of Landing form (Canadian permanent residents).

Please refer to the SCARP website for up-to-date information on application requirements.

Application Review Process and Timeframe

The School accepts applications once a year for programs commencing in September. We have a firm application deadline of December 1 to ensure that all applicants' files are reviewed together using a three-step process.

- The first step involves compiling the applications and evaluating the transcripts to make sure they meet the minimum academic requirements set by UBC's Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The information is entered into the School's database.
- The second step involves reviewing the applications based on the applicant's stated program preferences. A committee of appropriate faculty members and students is formed to review applications.
- The third step involves the admissions committee reviewing the recommended applications and deciding who will be admitted. The acceptance letters are sent by mid-March to late May. Each year we receive up to 200 master's applications with only 40 spaces to fill. In order to give as many applicants the best possible chance at admission, we also compile a wait list. We usually make our final decisions by the end of May.

For more information, visit the School (<http://www.scarp.ubc.ca>).



Contact Information:

Graduate Administrator

Tel: 604.822.4422

Email: grad.scarp@ubc.ca

Web: www.scarp.ubc.ca (<http://www.scarp.ubc.ca>)

Send correspondence and application documents to:

School of Community & Regional Planning
The University of British Columbia
433-6333 Memorial Road
Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z2

Prerequisites for Admission

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies has minimum requirements for all applicants to graduate studies. The minimum requirement for applicants with Canadian or US credentials is a four-year bachelor's degree with an overall average of B+ in all courses at the third- and fourth-year level. International students should visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies website (<http://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/application-admission/minimum-academic-requirements-international-credentials>) to review admission requirements by country.

Admission to SCARP is very competitive. Each year the number of applicants far exceeds the number of spaces available. Meeting the basic entrance requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

Students are accepted from both the social sciences and the natural sciences, the humanities, and such fields as commerce, architecture, law, engineering, agriculture, and forestry.

Prospective students are encouraged to follow an honours or major program in their own discipline and develop some breadth of knowledge during their undergraduate program by selecting from courses in ecology, economics, geography, political science, history, sociology, and organizational development and behaviour.

A candidate who has taken graduate courses equivalent to those described for the master's degree may be given credit not to exceed 12 credits for courses completed in the year prior to commencing their program in the School.

Approximately 35-40 students are admitted annually. The School seeks highly motivated applicants who can communicate effectively, who are challenged by a field marked by complexity, who are creative, and have the potential to provide leadership.

Orientation

All entering students are required to attend orientation sessions at the commencement of Term 1 of Winter Session to become acquainted with faculty members and fellow students and to examine typical urban, regional and resource planning problems in BC and abroad.

Master's Degrees > Academic Regulations

Students who do not make satisfactory progress in the program may be asked to withdraw at any time, and the status of all students who have not completed the program within the prescribed two-year period will be reviewed annually thereafter.



Master's Degrees > Degree Requirements

The Masters in Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) degree is awarded upon satisfactory completion of a program consisting of 48 credits, including a project, over two academic years. Those students who wish to develop a specialization may satisfy a significant proportion (up to 9 credits) of this requirement through courses in other departments.

The professional project is valued at 3-6 credits.

The School takes an integrated approach to planning for development. Students may concentrate their studies in community development and social planning, comparative development planning, disaster and risk management planning, ecological and natural resources planning, urban design and physical planning, transport and infrastructure planning, urban development planning, or a combination of these. Students may also take courses in other departments and at other universities.

A program of studies will normally be comprised as shown below:

- Foundation courses. These courses provide a breadth of knowledge covering: the social, economic, and ecological context for urbanization, regional development, and resource planning; the institutional arrangements for planning; and theories of the planning process.
- Methods courses. Planners have a major responsibility for generating, analyzing, and presenting information for the decision-making process. All students require basic skills in planning analysis. Appropriate courses outside the School may be substituted.
- Substantive courses. These courses provide depth of knowledge within the concentrations offered by the School. Courses taken in other departments should be complementary and choices should be related to thesis research interests.
- Workshops. These courses provide an opportunity for students to apply their knowledge and skills to planning problems under circumstances that simulate professional practice.
- Project research. Students are required to prepare a professional project in their second year on a subject of their choice. The fullest benefit of this research is derived by those students who relate their overall program of studies to their research subject area.

Teaching, Learning and Research

The School's program of teaching and research strikes a balance between developing the competence required to enter professional practice today, and the intellectual preparation needed to continue to function adequately in increasingly responsible positions in a rapidly changing world. The program covers the substance and methods of urban, community, environmental and natural resources planning, as well as the process and institutional arrangements for planning, its ideological basis, and the role and ethical responsibility of the planner. The School is interested in the solutions to today's problems as well as in anticipating and shaping the future through policy-relevant scholarly research. From the student's point of view, the program has the following salient characteristics:

- opportunities for students with narrow disciplinary training to broaden their knowledge, the better to assume responsibilities in planning and management;
- opportunities for students with a generalist background to acquire greater disciplinary rigour in a planning-related field of their choice;
- flexibility within a structured format to design a program of studies to satisfy individual needs;
- an emphasis on formal coursework, balanced with directed studies, an internship, and original project research; and
- opportunities for joint student-faculty research and publication.



Students are encouraged to become involved in the activities of the University's several research institutes and to enrol in relevant graduate courses in other departments. For example, in resource management there is the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (Calendar page: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=10,319,0,0#24218>); and in developing countries' issues, the Institute of Asian Research (Calendar page: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=10,319,0,0#24171>).

The School's Centre for Human Settlements (CHS) (Calendar page: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=10,318,0,0#24093>), designated a "Centre for Excellence" in 1991/92 by the Canadian International Development Agency, further strengthens the School's research capability in urban and regional development, housing, urban governance, and community development planning in both the developed and developing world. The Centre also houses the Disaster Preparedness Resources Centre and the Eco-Risk Research Unit.

Doctor of Philosophy

The School offers a Doctor of Philosophy program for advanced study and research in the areas of its competence. The Ph.D. is primarily a research degree, so students should enter with a good background in their field of study. After two years of coursework and examinations, candidates devote their efforts toward thesis research.

Applicants for admission must have a Master's Degree in Planning, or its equivalent, with high academic standing. To ascertain the School's ability to fulfil potential candidates' objectives, a statement of about 1000 words is required describing their research interests and objectives which should be submitted at least one month before the application deadline.

For more information, go to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies section of the Calendar

Advisory Committees

Committees consist of a prospective research supervisor and at least two other faculty members to advise students and approve their programs of study. Usually, at least one member of each committee is from a discipline other than planning. Membership in the committee may change as the student's program evolves, but it is formalized on final approval of the thesis proposal.

Program

Each doctoral candidate's program is designed by the candidate's advisory committee in consultation with the student to reflect individual requirements. The program of studies will normally include:

1. coursework,
2. qualifying examination in the form of two research essays,
3. language requirement, at the discretion of the faculty, appropriate to the student's objectives,
4. approval of thesis prospectus,
5. research and preparation of thesis, and
6. oral presentation of thesis and final examination of the candidate.

The first year of the Ph.D. program usually involves coursework in preparation for the qualifying examination and development of the research prospectus. Additional courses may be necessary in the second year, in support of the proposed thesis research. Specific requirements are left to the discretion of the candidate's committee in consultation with the candidate.

Ph.D. candidates normally write their qualifying essays in the second year. These essays focus on planning theory, and issues and methods in the student's area of specialization. Course requirements should be completed by this time.



Students who successfully complete their qualifying essays will then finalize their thesis research prospectus in consultation with their advisory committee. After the prospectus has been approved the candidate's efforts are devoted to research and preparation of the thesis.

Dissertation Requirements

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies requires the thesis to be submitted to an external examiner or examiners approved by the Dean and at the completion of the research the candidate must take an oral examination in defence of the dissertation.

Centres

Centres > Centre for Human Settlements

The Centre for Human Settlements (Calendar page: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=10,318,0,0#24093>) (CHS) was established in 1976 immediately following the UN Conference on Human Settlement in Vancouver, HABITAT '76. Since then, it has engaged in continuing research and development linked to the evolving UN Human Settlement Agenda and Canada's substantive involvement. The Centre today leads international capacity-building and research programs focused on community-based planning for poverty reduction and democratic development. It also has a suite of sustainability collaboratories: research laboratories focusing on information and communication technologies, transportation, urban design, and disaster preparedness planning. CHS is housed in the School of Community and Regional Planning.

Academic Staff

Professors

H. J. Campbell, B.A. (Durham), M.A., Ph.D. (Sheffield)
S. E. Chang, B.S.E. (Prin.), M.S., Ph.D. (C'nell.); joint appointment with Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability
L. D. Frank, B.L.A (Arizona), M.Sc.E., Ph.D. (Wash.); joint appointment with School of Population and Public Health
P. C. Gurstein, B.A. (York), B.Arch. (Br.Col.), M. Arch., Ph.D. (Calif., Berkeley)
T. Hutton, B.A. (Br.Col.), Ph.D. (Oxf.)
L. Sandercock, B.A. (Adel.), Ph.D. (Aust.), M.F.A. (Calif., L.A.)

Professors Emeriti

P. D. Boothroyd, B.A. (Tor.), M.A. (Alta.)
A. H. J. Dorcey, M.A. (Aberd.), M.S. (Wis.)
T. McDaniels, B.A. (Minn.), M.A. (S.Fraser), Ph.D. (Carnegie Mellon)
V.S. Pendakur
W. E. Rees, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Tor.), FRSC
M.Y. Seelig, Dip.Arch., M.C.P. (E.H.W.L.C.), Ph.D. (Penn.)

Associate Professors

L. C. Angeles, B.A. (Philippines), Dip.Women and Development Planning (Nott.), M.A. (Philippines), Ph.D. (Qu.); joint appointment with Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality, & Social Justice (Arts)
M. Leaf, B.Sc. (M.I.T.), M.Arch., M.C.P., Ph.D. (Calif., Berkeley)
M. Senbel, B.Arch. (Oregon), M.Arch. (McG.), M.Sc.P., Ph.D. (Br.Col.)
M. Stevens, B.A., M.C.R.P. (Oregon), Ph.D. (N.Carolina)

Assistant Professors



A. Bigazzi, B.Mus. (Miami), M.Sc., Ph.D. (Penn.State); joint appointment with Civil Engineering
J. Honey-Rosés, B.A. (Calif. Berkeley), M.P.P. (Harv.), Ph.D. (Ill.)
M. Tran, B.A., (Vic.(B.C.)), M.Sc. (Lund), Ph.D. (Oxf.)

Lecturers

E. Villagomez, B.Arch.Sc. (Ryerson), M.Arch. (Br.Col.)