



MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES/STUDIES

2026 SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Nipissing's Master of Environmental Science (MESc)/Master of Environmental Studies (MES) programs take a unique interdisciplinary approach by integrating ideas and methodologies from the humanities, social sciences, indigenous studies, and natural sciences. Both the MES and MESc programs consist of either i) **coursework plus a Major Research Paper** (offered on a full-time or flex-time basis) or ii) **coursework plus a thesis** (offered on a full-time or flex-time basis).

Thesis Route (four three-credit courses + thesis)

Time to completion full-time: 2 years/24 months

Time to completion flex-time: 2 years/24 months + 6 flex terms/24 months (total: 4 years)

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

Major Research Paper Route (six three-credit courses + MRP)

Time to completion full-time: 1 year/12 months

Time to completion flex-time: 1 year/12 months + 6 flex terms/24 months (total: 3 years)

The Major Research Paper (MRP) route offers students 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.

The MES and MESc programs offer additional training for both working professionals or recent graduates who wish to expand upon their academic and disciplinary training while further developing their research skills and are appropriate preparation for further graduate studies at the doctoral level or for a career in research, consulting, or government. Students should consult with their prospective supervisor to determine which degree path is right for them.

Students are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to contact faculty to discuss potential supervision/research interests and degree paths prior to submitting their applications to the program. Availability of faculty supervision is a requirement of admission to the program.

DEGREES OFFERED: Master of Environmental Science
Master of Environmental Studies

For further information regarding the Master of Environmental Sciences/Studies program, please visit www.nipissingu.ca/mesc.

Program related questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Coordinator at gradenviro@nipissingu.ca.

APPLICATION AND FEE DEADLINE:

- For January 2026 start: October 24, 2025
- For September 2026 start: January 15, 2026*

SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION DEADLINE:

- For January 2026 start: October 24, 2025
- For September 2026 start: January 22, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. EST

Applications received after the application deadline date will not be considered for scholarships. Flex-time and January applicants are not eligible for funding consideration. For questions pertaining to scholarship criteria, please contact sgs@nipissingu.ca.

Late applications will continue to be accepted after the above deadline dates. Late applications will be considered if room remains in the program; funding consideration is not available for late applications or late documentation. Contact internationaladmiss@nipissingu.ca or at 705-474-3450 ext. 4600 to verify if late applications are still being accepted.*

*** Unless otherwise specified, late applications, application fees and documentation must be submitted no later than May 15, 2026, for the September intake and November 1, 2025, for the January intake.*

DOCUMENT SUBMISSION:

All supplemental documents will be uploaded to your application on the Nipissing International Admissions portal. Included with the description of each document requirement below will be information on what to select under **Program Specific Document Requirements** when uploading your documents.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must hold a four-year undergraduate degree or equivalent as recognized by Nipissing University in any discipline from an accredited university and at least a 75% average on the last ten full (20 semester) courses completed at the time of application, or equivalent qualifications to be considered for admission.

NOTE: Non-Academic course grades (e.g. Bachelor of Education, Practical courses, clinical courses, Co-op courses, Placements, etc.) are not used in the calculation of admission averages.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: (Due January 22, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. EST)

Please submit transcripts, letters of reference and other supporting documentation after you have submitted your online application.

1. Online application and fee

The online application can be accessed from our website: www.nipissingu.ca/applyintl. The application fee will be paid online through the application.

2. Transcripts

Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from all institutions attended, including those attended on a Letter of Permission or exchange program. High School or College (diploma programs) transcripts are not required. Transcripts and other appropriate academic documents should be uploaded in the Nipissing International Admissions portal under each institution declared on your application.

3. Confidential Recommendations

Two (2) confidential academic recommendations from professors **OR** other appropriate professionals who can speak to their level of preparation and readiness for graduate studies. The references must be from someone qualified to address the academic ability and competence of the applicant to undertake graduate studies. References cannot be completed by anyone who is personally related to the applicant. Recommendations are to be confidential; therefore, **they must be mailed in sealed envelopes with the referee's signature over the seal or emailed by the referee using their professional email address and sent directly to internationaladmiss@nipissingu.ca**. The Confidential Recommendation forms are included in this package. **Please indicate to your referee that a current comprehensive letter (written specifically for the purposes of the application to Graduate Studies at Nipissing) included with the recommendation form will be most beneficial in determining your eligibility for admission.**

4. Resume

A **comprehensive** résumé detailing your educational and professional experience. Please include scholarships and awards, significant academic accomplishments, internships, research projects, involvement in student organizations, volunteer work and publications and presentations. **Select Resume/CV under Program Specific Document Requirements when uploading your document.**

5. Statement of Interest

A typed Statement of Interest providing the following information:

- Intent to pursue either the Major Research Paper (MRP) or the Thesis research option.
- A description of your study and/or research interests (you might choose to identify four or five key words or phrases that relate to your proposed study).
- **Identification of which faculty member(s) you would like to complete your MRP/Thesis research with.**
- An explanation of how/why you became interested in the specified field(s) of study.
- Awareness of peer reviewed research (minimum of 2-3 articles) in your intended field of study.
- Reasons for seeking admission into this particular program (MES/MES program at Nipissing University).

Applicants are STRONGLY encouraged to contact faculty to discuss potential supervision/research and interests and degree path prior to submitting their applications to the program.

The final admission decision will be based on the availability of an appropriate supervisor.

Select Statement of Interest under Program Specific Document Requirements when uploading your document.

6. Supervisors

The program admissions committee considers whether there is a faculty member who can supervise your research as part of their decision-making process. Prior to submitting your application, you should review the [list of the MES/MESc faculty members](#). It is strongly encouraged that you contact your top choices for supervisor(s) in advance of submitting your application to inquire whether they are accepting new graduate students for the next academic year and to discuss your specific research interests. To submit an application with a stronger chance of being considered for admissions, please provide information in your statement of interest about what specific area or topic(s) you would like to focus on in your research and identify potential supervisor(s).

7. English Language Proficiency

Proof of Proficiency in English for internationally educated applicants whose first language is not English, also due by the application deadline. Nipissing University accepts the following tests as proof of proficiency in English:

English Proficiency Test	Minimum Scores
IELTS	6.5 – No bands less than 6.5
TOEFL iBT	93 with a minimum score of 20 in reading and listening and a minimum score of 22 in writing and speaking
PTE – Pearson Test of Academic English	63 with a minimum score of 60 in each section
CAE – Cambridge Assessment English	C1 minimum overall score of 176 with a minimum score of 169
CAEL/CAEL Online – Canadian Academic English Language	70 with no band less than 60

The required minimum scores must be submitted before the candidate can be considered for admission. Duolingo is not accepted.

You will upload your results under the Test Score section of your application in the Nipissing International Admissions portal.

8. Scholarship and Funding Opportunities

Ontario Graduate Scholarship

- Applications for the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) can be found at www.nipissingu.ca/ogs.
- The OGS application is due January 15, 2026, and is to be submitted electronically to the Graduate Studies Department at sgs@nipissingu.ca.
- The OGS application requires two Academic Assessment Reports with an academic reference for each. The reference forms in the OGS application are different than the references required for the admission application. Should you choose the same academic referees for both the OGS application and the admission application, your referees will be required to fill out both the admission reference form and the OGS academic reference and attach a separate letter to each form. Your referees should make note of what is to be addressed for each reference.
- For questions pertaining to scholarship criteria, please contact sgs@nipissingu.ca or 705-474-3450 ext. 4292.

Other Funding Opportunities

- Visit www.nipissingu.ca/gradfunding to learn more about internal and external funding opportunities, Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Graduate Research Assistantship, and other potential funding/award sources. Please note that some may have earlier deadlines.

Applicant: Please complete this section before presenting to referee

Name of Applicant:

Surname	First	Middle	Student # or OUAC Ref. #
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Referee: We would appreciate your appraisal of the above applicant for a Master's degree in the field of Environmental Science/Studies. The information in the report will be considered confidential.

1. How long have you known the applicant? (MM/YY) From: _____ to _____
2. In what capacity? _____
3. Indicate with an 'X' your evaluation of this applicant with respect to their ability to complete a graduate program in the field of Environmental Science/Studies:

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	No Basis for Comment
Intellectual Capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Scholarly Potential	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Originality	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Critical Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Oral Expression	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Written Expression	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Work Habits	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Perseverance	<input type="checkbox"/>					

4. In comparison with other students at the applicant's level, indicate where you would place this applicant.

Among the top 5% 10% 25% 50% lower than 50%

5. Please attach a current letter of reference which speaks to the candidate's strengths, or any concerns you may have with their ability to succeed at the Masters level. This letter will be used for admission purposes and scholarship consideration. A comprehensive letter will be most beneficial in determining the applicant's eligibility.

To the Referee:

This Recommendation is confidential. Please enclose this form and supporting letter in a sealed envelope and write your signature over the seal. You can either return the envelope to the applicant to submit with their application or email the documents directly to the International Admissions Office, sent from your professional email account to internationaladmiss@nipissingu.ca.

Name: _____

Faculty: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

Email address: _____

