

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES/STUDIES

2026 SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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 a 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 scholarship/funding. Flex-time and January start applicants are not eligible for scholarship/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 admissions@nipissingu.ca or at 705-474-3450 ext. 4600 to verify if late applications are still being accepted.*

***Late applications, application fees, and late documentation must be submitted no later than August 1, 2026, for the September start and November 1, 2025, for the January start.*

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:

(January 2026 Deadline: October 18, 2024)

(September 2026 Deadline: 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. Nipissing University cannot verify receipt of transcripts and supporting documents if we have not received your application. You may paperclip your documents. No staples or folders please. Do not bind documents in any other manner.

1. Online application and fee

Online application can be accessed from our website: www.nipissingu.ca/registrarforms. The base application fee will be paid online through the application. Additional transcript fees may apply.

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/certificate programs) transcripts are not required. A copy of the transcript from an exchange program can be sent directly by your host institution to Nipissing University if they are willing to do so, otherwise an official transcript must be sent directly from the university where the exchange program was held. See the Transcript section for further information.

3. Confidential Recommendations

Two (2) confidential academic recommendations from professors **OR** other appropriate professionals who can speak to the candidate's level of preparation and readiness for graduate studies. 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 admissions@nipissingu.ca**. The Confidential Recommendation forms are included in this package. **Please indicate to your referee that a comprehensive letter included with the recommendation form will be most beneficial in determining your eligibility for admission.**

4. Résumé

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, language skills, and publications and presentations.

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 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.

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.

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.

DOCUMENT SUBMISSION:

Transcripts and supporting documentation can be submitted in the following ways:

- **Email:** admissions@nipissingu.ca - All documentation can be sent to this email address. As for official transcripts, emailed transcripts will only be accepted when we can verify that they come directly from the issuing institution. Recommendations must be sent directly by the referees and not by the applicant.
- **Third-Party Companies (e.g., MyCreds, Parchment):** Please contact your institution directly for assistance with these platforms. Send to admissions@nipissingu.ca.
- **OUAC:** Official transcripts from Ontario universities and colleges should be ordered through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) as part of the application process. You must contact your institution directly for all transcripts from outside Ontario.
- **Mail:**
Nipissing University
Office of the Registrar – Admissions
100 College Drive, Box 5002
North Bay ON P1B 8L7

TRANSCRIPTS:

Current and Former Nipissing Students

- Current Nipissing students and Nipissing former students and/or graduates do not need to order or send Nipissing transcripts. However, if you attended Nipissing prior to 1992, you are considered a Laurentian University student and must request that transcript.

Applicants with Canadian Credentials

- **Ontario:** The fastest and most effective way to send your official transcripts is by ordering them through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) when you apply. Otherwise, you will need to contact the institution(s) directly to request your transcript(s) and have them sent to Nipissing University by one of the methods listed in the Document Submission section above.
- **All Other Provinces:** You will need to contact the institution(s) directly to request your transcript(s) and have them sent directly to Nipissing University by one of the methods listed in the Document Submission section above.

Applicants with International Credentials

- If you have completed post-secondary courses at the undergraduate or graduate level outside of Canada or the U.S. (apart from Exchange studies), you **MUST** have all your foreign transcripts evaluated by World Education Service (WES): www.wes.org/ca. A WES Credential Evaluation Report, including a Course-By-Course Analysis, must be sent directly to Nipissing University by the required supplemental documentation deadline as listed on the supplemental forms. This requirement cannot be waived. No exceptions.

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	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scholarly Potential	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Originality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Critical Judgment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Oral Expression	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Written Expression	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Initiative	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Work Habits	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Perseverance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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 Admissions Office, sent from your professional email account to admissions@nipissingu.ca.

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Faculty: _____

Address: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Name of Applicant:

Surname	First	Middle	Student # or OUAC Ref. #
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1. Professional Relationship to applicant _____
2. Period of relationship upon which assessment is based
From: _____ to _____
3. Indicate with an 'X' your evaluation of this applicant in comparison with others performing similar duties.

[illegible]

4. In comparison with others performing similar professional duties, how would you rank 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.

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 Admissions Office, sent from your professional email account to admissions@nipissingu.ca.

Name:	Company/School/ Organization:
Position:	Address:
Signature:	Date:
Telephone Number:	Email address:

Use the following checklist to ensure that you have completed all the necessary steps for the application process. This form does not need to be submitted. The following dates do not apply for applications submitted after the application deadline. Please refer to page 2 of the Supplemental Package for information about late documentation.

☐	Completed application - Winter 2026 application and application fee submitted by October 24, 2025; OR - Fall 2026 application and application fee submitted by January 15, 2026.
☐	ALL undergraduate and graduate official transcripts ordered/submitted. - See page 2 and 4 of this document for more information. - All transcripts must be received by October 24, 2025 for Winter 2026 applications and January 22, 2026 for Fall 2026 applications.
☐	Contact Faculty Applicants are STRONGLY encouraged to contact faculty to discuss potential supervision/research interests prior to submitting their application.
☐	Confidential references ☐ Reference #1 ☐ Reference #2 - See #3 under Required Supplemental Documentation for more information and further instructions. - Must be received by October 24, 2025 for Winter 2026 applications and January 22, 2026 for Fall 2026 applications.
☐	Comprehensive Resume - See #4 under Required Supplemental Documentation for more information and further instructions. - Must be received by October 24, 2025 for Winter 2026 applications and January 22, 2026 for Fall 2026 applications.
☐	Statement of Interest ☐ I have included which faculty member(s) I would like to complete my research paper/thesis with. - See #5 under Required Supplemental Documentation for more information and further instructions. - Must be received by October 24, 2025 for Winter 2026 applications and January 22, 2026 for Fall 2026 applications.
☐	WES evaluation assessment submitted by October 24, 2025 for Winter 2026 applications and January 22, 2026 for Fall 2026 applications (if required). See #2 under Required Supplemental Documentation for more information and further instructions.

☐	Official English proficiency test scores submitted October 24, 2025 for Winter 2026 applications and January 22, 2026 for Fall 2026 applications (if required). • See #6 under Required Supplemental Documentation for more information and further instructions.
☐	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) funding application (Fall 2026 applicants ONLY) • See #7 under Required Supplemental Documentation for more information and further instructions. Must be received by January 15, 2026 firm. • Consideration of other funding opportunities go to www.nipissingu.ca/gradfunding.
☐	Additional Graduate Scholarship applications (Fall 2026 applicants ONLY) • Students should consider applying for additional external graduate scholarships for which they may be eligible (e.g. Canada Graduate Scholarship – NSERC, SSHRC, & CIHR). See #7 under Required Supplemental Documentation for more information and further instructions. Deadlines will vary by scholarship, and some may be earlier than others. Instructions on how to apply and eligibility are available through the provided weblinks.