

Future NRES Students

Welcome to the NRES Graduate Program! All inquiries about the NRES Graduate Program can be directed to the NRES Graduate Program Chair at nresgradinfo@unbc.ca. If you are seeking a supervisor, please contact a faculty member that shares research interests similar to yours (link to faculty page).

We offer four degrees, an MA, an MSc, the interdisciplinary MNRES, and a PhD.

The NRES Graduate Program is founded upon the premise that environmental systems cannot be viewed through the isolated perspective of individual disciplines. Every species, including humans, interacts with the environment. These interactions extend to many of the natural resources and environmental problems that society faces today and will face in the future. Solutions to these environmental and natural resource issues will require interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches that address ecological constraints, scientific and technical data, and policy formation and implementation and social/ethical concerns, among others.

We define the systems we study broadly, including biophysical systems and processes, ecological systems and human social systems with their cultural and societal perspectives on both managing and interacting with ecosystems. While it is impossible to integrate all these aspects within a student's (or a faculty's) research, an awareness of how these other disciplines interact with the work we are conducting will increase both the quality and relevance of our research.

One of the strengths of the NRES Graduate Program is to challenge students to understand the broader context of their work right from the outset of their studies. We accomplish this interdisciplinary goal by introducing students to a breadth of techniques and viewpoints common to the physical, ecological and social sciences and humanities. Our objectives are to train students to become experts in their field, but also to understand the broader implications of their research outside of their discipline. The end goal of the NRES Graduate Program is to graduate students that collectively increase the knowledge of their individual disciplines while integrating novel ideas and perspectives from other fields. By doing so, the relevance of our student's work is increased and our graduates are broadly trained for future careers in research, teaching, governance and/or protection and management of natural spaces, ecosystems and resources.

At NRES our requirements to consider you for admission to one of our degrees are three:

- for the Masters, a GPA of 3.00 (B) across your last 60 credit hours, a 4 year Bachelor's degree from a recognized university AND a faculty member willing to supervise your graduate program.
- for the PhD, a GPA of 3.33 (B+) from your Masters degree from a recognized university AND a faculty member willing to supervise your graduate program.

- International students may also be expected to demonstrate English proficiency through recent TOEFL or IELTS scores (or through other tests recognized by UNBC, see the UNBC Graduate Calendar).

It is your responsibility to contact faculty to see if they are accepting new graduate students and are interested in your proposed research. This is not as scary as it sounds, as most of our faculty find new students this way and expect to hear from interested candidates. You can find advice on approaching faculty [here](#) (link to [Advice to NRES Applicants and Important Dates](#)). You will find a list of faculty who supervise within each degree here (link to [Meet Our NRES Faculty](#)). It is important not to leave this step until the last minute.

You may also decide to simply put in an application without contacting a faculty member. We do let faculty know about such students, but the success rate is much lower.

More information on what NRES offers students can be found at the links to the right. Don't hesitate to contact us with questions and we look forward to hearing from you.