

McGill University-United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Collaborating Centre on Environmental Assessment

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Introduction

As the only entity of its kind in North America, the McGill-UNEP Collaborating Centre on Environmental Assessment (EA) is committed to sustainability-related environmental education and scholarship, training, research, and capacity-building initiatives.

The approach of the McGill-UNEP Collaborating Centre towards integrated policy design and sustainable development implementation follows from the university's mission of teaching, scholarship and service to society, and the involvement of our staff and graduate students through research and fieldwork in areas relevant to the Millennium Development Goals. Such activities embrace both policy and practice, taking place at the university and globally through work in developing countries. Networks of specialists and experts from outside the university and from affiliated institutions in Canada and internationally engage with the Centre to facilitate this.

Our Vision

Integrating sustainability science, economics and policy for global resource management.

Background

McGill University, located in the bilingual and multicultural setting of Montreal, Quebec, is one of Canada's leading research-intensive universities and has a worldwide reputation for scholarly achievement and scientific discovery.

In recognition of its proven capacities for forging links between agriculture, environment, human health and wellbeing and economics, McGill's Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) designating it a UNEP Collaborating Centre on Environmental Assessment.

The McGill-UNEP Collaborating Centre positions itself as a catalyst for meaningful knowledge sharing and co-learning between scholars and professionals by providing a vehicle for collaborative partnerships in teaching and research. The Centre is dedicated to the promotion of international best practice in integrated and environmental assessment for sustainability, and enabling the development of human capital in forms that meaningfully enhance the positive elements of environmental governance.

Objectives

The McGill-UNEP Collaborating Centre on Environmental Assessment is committed to fulfilling the following objectives:

- Undertaking policy-relevant environmental education and scholarship, training, graduate research and fieldwork in concert with our partners;
- Promoting best practices, objectives, and benefits of environmental and integrated assessment via advanced seminars, workshops and colloquia in conjunction with UNEP;
- Supporting the ongoing improvement of UNEP learning materials and approaches in support of the Millennium Development Goals and the Green Economy Initiative;
- Ensuring relevancy in the context of the priority agendas, new developments, trends, and approaches of the key actors in environmental assessment and sustainable development;
- Developing integrated environmental assessment knowledge evaluation criteria, models, indices, and insights pertinent to economic development, public policy frameworks, and environmental management challenges;
- Actively supporting capacity-building for sustainable development initiatives and integrated policy design, particularly in developing countries through partnerships with other public institutions, civil society organizations, and via McGill University's established international network of specialists and experts.



Research & Capacity-Building

Sustainable development requires long-term, comprehensive assessments of international and national policy programmes against sustainability targets and criteria. Due to the complex and value-laden process of accurately analysing policy issues, insights from emerging research need to be incorporated into strategic decision-making at a range of scales.

The staff and associates of the McGill-UNEP centre have expertise in environmental and social policy development and implementation, in particular with reference to government agencies and the accountability requirements of multilateral banks and financial intermediaries.

We welcome inquiries about potential PhD research across a wide range of sustainability issues. For more information on our research and contact details, <http://unep.mcgill.ca>



Master of Science (Environmental Assessment Option) Program

McGill's Department of Natural Resource Sciences offers a one year non-thesis Master of Science degree focused on the transdisciplinary field of Environmental Assessment at McGill's Macdonald Campus, located in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue , QC. The program concentrates on areas of fundamental importance in integrated environmental assessment and sustainable development, providing qualified candidates with exposure to the concepts and techniques used internationally.

Students enrolled in the Master of Science, Environmental Assessment are provided with an outstanding educational experience that will enable them to effectively address the challenges of working in this stimulating field. The program has been designed to provide participants with comprehensive coverage through an intensive program of graduate courses, internships and other activities, in cooperation with public and private sector partners.

"The internship that is embedded in the program was a very important part of my career development... [A]nd this was a crucial step for me to gain hands on experience in the international development field. This internship, backed with the knowledge I had gained through the classes, allowed me to get hired as an environmental consultant for an international organization in Geneva."

– Catherine Sullivan, MSc. EA '08

Structure

Structured in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Canadian International Development Agency, the Masters program is based at McGill's Macdonald Campus. The program duration is one year (January- December) and comprises three inter-related elements: 1) graduate level courses, 2) an internship, and 3) a project related research paper.

Prerequisites

Candidates are required to have a Bachelor's degree in a relevant subject, with an equivalent cumulative grade point average of 3.0/4.0 (second class-upper division) or 3.2/4.0 during the last two years of full-time university study. High grades are expected in courses considered by the Environmental Assessment Office to be preparatory to this graduate program. Applicants should also have at least four years of professional experience in a relevant discipline.

*For further details on our Master of Science in Environmental Assessment, please visit:
<http://unep.mcgill.ca>*