



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

## Circumpolar Studies Program



### **Advanced Emphasis Title:** Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

**Institution:** [University of Saskatchewan](http://www.usask.ca)

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**Start Date:** Courses to be taken over a one-year period, subject to availability

**Delivery Method:** Onsite and online delivery, subject to availability

**Application deadline:**

**Credits:** 15 credit units (30 ECTS)

**Requirements:** GEOG 280, 381, 385, 386; 3 c.u. selected from EVSC 430; GEOG 485, 486; NS 462. This is a social sciences based undergraduate programme.

To enter the advanced emphasis stream students must have completed 6 credit units from GEOG 120, 125 and GEOG 130; or 3 credit units from GEOG 120, 125, 130 and receive permission. Students will have to be attentive in the selection of senior electives within their programs. Both EVSC 430 and NS 462 have embedded prerequisites that are not included in the core of the Northern Studies program: i.e. EVSC 220 is a prerequisite for EVSC 430; NS 260 and NS 350 are prerequisites for NS 462.

### **Advanced Emphasis Description:**

In the past decade the circumpolar region has faced unprecedented pressures from southern incited development proposals. As the climate and social economy of northern regions change, it is necessary to ensure that northerners have the knowledge and capacity to effectively coordinate and engage in the processes designed to assess and manage the impacts of such development. Consistent with the University of the Arctic's mission to empower the residents of the Circumpolar North, the Advanced Emphasis in Environmental Impact Assessment prepares students for the practice of environmental impact assessment and introduces the theory and principles of resource management. This program draws on expertise from the University of



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Saskatchewan's rich scholarly base in environmental assessment and resource management. Students are provided also with the opportunity to explore northern environmental issues from multiple perspectives in the natural and social sciences, as well as from aboriginal traditional knowledge. The program will prove attractive to northerners seeking employment opportunities in the management of natural resources, and in preparation for advance study in environmental impact assessment.

### Courses:

#### ***GEOG 280.3 (6 ECTS): Environmental Geography (online availability)***

An introduction to the geographic perspectives on resources and the environment. This course introduces environmental geography as an integrative science to explore the relationships between human and physical systems. *Prerequisite(s): 6 credit units from GEOG 120, 125 and GEOG 130; or 3 credit units from GEOG 120, 125, 130 and permission.*

#### ***GEOG 381.3 (6 ECTS): Geography of Northern Development (online availability)***

Explores the question of development in northern Canada. The framework for this geographical analysis is provided by the Core/Hinterland Theory. Within this theoretical framework, major resource development will be examined and the regional impact analyzed. Special attention will be placed upon resource development conflicts. *Prerequisite(s): GEOG 280 or NS 365; or permission.*

#### ***GEOG 385.3 (6 ECTS): Analysis of Environmental Management and Policy Making***

An examination of various approaches to environmental management. Emphasis is placed on environmental policy making, management strategies pertinent in a western context. Analytical frameworks used to understand how policies are developed and implemented are also introduced. *Prerequisite(s): GEOG 280 or equivalent; or permission.*

#### ***GEOG 386.3 (6 ECTS): Environmental Impact Assessment***

A practical and theoretical introduction to environmental and socioeconomic impact assessment. Emphasis is placed on the principles and characteristics of the impact assessment as set out under Canadian and Saskatchewan guidelines and legislation, and on the lessons learned from selected case studies. *Prerequisite(s): GEOG 280 or equivalent; or instructor's permission.*

#### ***EVSC 430.3 (6 ECTS): Agroforestry for Environmental Management***

An introduction to agroforestry systems and their benefits to sustainable environmental management. Growth factors such as soil type, water, light, nutrient availability and pest management are discussed for an array of agroforestry systems in both tropical and temperate settings. Case studies from around the world are used to demonstrate that agroforestry systems can successfully raise trees and crops for commercial harvesting while conserving land and biodiversity. *Prerequisite(s): One of BIOL 253 (or 228), PLSC 213 or GEOG 280; SLSC 220, 240 or ABE 212 or permission.*



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

***NS 462.3 (6 ECTS): Aboriginal People and Northern Development***

Research seminar on northern development, including the socio-cultural and economic impacts of large-scale development projects, land claims, and other development issues as they affect northern Aboriginal Peoples. *Prerequisite(s): NS 350 or permission of instructor.* Note: Students with credit for NS 401 may not take NS 462 for credit.

***GEOG 485.3 (6 ECTS): Critical Issues in Environmental Management***

Focuses on the institutional and social aspects of environmental management. Emphasis is placed on the challenges of public policy-making and the influence of stakeholders in shaping the purposes and outcomes of management efforts. Each year may feature specific concepts and issues. Critical assessment of research is also undertaken. *Prerequisite(s): GEOG 280 and 3 credit units of a field methods course; or instructor's permission.* Note: Students with credit for GEOG 480 may not take this course for credit.

***GEOG 486.3 (6 ECTS): Research Seminar in Environmental Impact Assessment***

A project-based course focusing on emerging concepts and broader applications of environmental assessment principles and practices. Course topics vary from year to year following developments in the field, and may include such topics as cumulative effects assessment, strategic environmental assessment, project scoping, assessment methods and techniques, monitoring and follow-up. *Prerequisite(s): GEOG 386 or instructor's permission.*