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Tourism, Recreation and Hospitality Programs

Master of Arts in Sustainable Leisure Management

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Master Degree

Program Length:

2 Years

The Program

This program places graduates at the intersection of two growing, exciting, and globally significant areas of theory and practice: leisure and sustainability. The program prepares emerging leaders to examine and create solutions which ensure that residents and travelers alike can enjoy recreational experiences, natural and cultural amenities, heritage resources, and adventure as part of their life experiences on a sustainable basis. Students will engage in coursework delivered in a non-traditional, international educational setting where the instructional approach draws upon field experience, classroom instruction, and experiential styles of learning. Two integrated instructional streams are central to the program focus: 1) a set of principles and practices underlying leisure and sustainability; and, 2) an integrated set of research capabilities, innovation, and knowledge mobilization skills necessary to ensure that new knowledge can be effectively transformed into impact. There is also a required thesis component wherein students will demonstrate a mastery of knowledge mobilization approaches (including, but not limited to, research skills).

During completion of the program, students will:

- acquire a broad interdisciplinary knowledge of concepts, models and issues relating to the field of leisure services;
- analyze sustainability issues by integrating social, environmental and economic perspectives;
- develop and critique policies and practices that advance sustainability goals;
- apply strategies to influence change and innovation at the community, regional, national and international levels;
- conduct applied research on specific leisure, innovation, and sustainability topics;
- develop the capacity to actively engage in a variety of knowledge creation and mobilization approaches and strategies;
- engage with diverse stakeholders on complex leisure and sustainability issues; and,
- formulate a personal and professional commitment to strategic and innovative leadership practices in sustainable leisure services.

Program Outline

Year 1 - Fall Semester	Credits
SLM 601 - (Leisure & Sustainability: Principles & Paradigms)	3
SLM 602 - (Case Studies in Sustainability & Innovation)	3
SLM 604 - (Influencing Change towards Sustainability)	3
Total Credits	9

Year 1 - Spring Semester	Credits
SLM 603 - (Knowledge Creation & Mobilization I)	3
SLM 605 - (Knowledge Creation & Mobilization II)	3
SLM 606 - (Field Experience)	9
Total Credits	15

Year 2 - Fall and Spring Semesters	Credits
SLM 607 - (Thesis)	9
Total Credits	9

Year 2 - Intersession	Credits
EXTN 500 - (Extended Research)	0
Total Credits	0

Continuing Requirements/Minimum Grade Point Average

Students must achieve an average GPA of 3.0 (B) with a minimum "C" grade in any individual course in order to qualify for SLM 607.

Students who fail to maintain these standards but who have an overall GPA of 2.0 (C) will be provided one opportunity to write a qualifying exam to be eligible for SLM 607. Students who do not meet the academic standard may also have one opportunity to repeat SLM course at an additional cost.

Students with an overall GPA less than 2.0 will be asked to leave the program.

Completion Requirements

The expected, normal time required to complete the degree program will be two years for full-time students. The maximum time allowed to complete the degree will be three years.

Failure to complete the program in this timeline will result in removal from the program.

Note: Students requiring extra time must maintain continuous enrolment in EXTN 500 at additional cost.

Admission Requirements

- An undergraduate degree from an appropriately accredited university.
- A minimum average of "B" calculated in the last two years of the undergraduate degree, with a review of the entire degree.
- Applicants whose previous degree was obtained in a country where English is not the primary/official language and from a university where English was not the language of instruction must meet one of VIU's English Language requirements for Graduate Programs.
- Acceptance and satisfactory review of the following items by the Faculty Admissions Committee:
 - Resume;
 - Three letters of reference accompanied by three completed referee forms (preferably two academic referees and one professional (Domestic applicants, International applicants)).
 - A comprehensive statement addressing each of the following areas:
 - Areas of research interest (i.e. parks, festivals, resorts, tourism, etc.);
 - Statement of career interest; and
 - Summary of relevant preparation (i.e. career and academic).
 - Interview. Applicants may be interviewed either in person or by remote teleconferencing.

Notes on Admission

- This is a competitive admission process with limited seats in the program. Applicants who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.

Career Opportunities

Graduates can pursue careers in government, private sector, non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, regulatory agencies, higher education, and consultancies. The position titles for the careers in this field include sustainability officers, analysts, managers, coordinators, and directors. Graduates will have strong communication skills, analytical ability, critical thinking and problem-solving ability, along with a customer orientation. The curriculum strongly supports individuals involved in planning, policy development, research, administration, and the teaching of those subjects in post-secondary institutions.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in early September. Applications are accepted until March 31 for international students and May 15 for domestic students.

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