



**Oregon State
University**



Graduate Information Guide

Water Cooperation & Diplomacy Joint
Educational Programme»

Water Resources Policy and
Management Track

Welcome to Oregon State University! The faculty and staff of the Water Resources Graduate Program are looking forward to your arrival at OSU. Here is where you'll actually be getting your feet wet in real water.

Our alumni have helped prepare this guide so that their experience can make your experience better. Read this guide carefully and you'll be ready for success at OSU.



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Welcome to Oregon State University (OSU)
Beaver Nation (Go Beavs)!



Introduction

This handbook was developed to provide information to graduate students in the Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Program – Water Resources Policy and Management Track at Oregon State University.

Please familiarize yourself with this information. Most of the policies and procedures that govern graduate students are posted online, and this document provides a summary of the most important ones. Updates will be distributed via email. If you have questions, please contact WRGP Administration Office. We look forward to assisting you throughout your time here; however, you are responsible for being informed and utilizing these resources. Often the answer you are looking for is on a webpage, and this guide helps reduce the time it takes to locate this information.

Contacts

Please feel free to contact us at the following address:

Water Resources Graduate Program

116 Gilmore Hall | 124 SW 26th Street Oregon State University | Corvallis,
OR 97331 Office: + 1 (541) 737-2041 | Fax: + 1 (541) 737-2082

E-mail: gradwater.support@oregonstate.edu Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Stephen Good, Director of Water Resources Graduate Program 116 200
Gilmore Hall| Email: Stephen.Good@oregonstate.edu

Lynette de Silva, Director of Certificate Program in Water Conflict
Management and Transformation
256 Wilkinson Hall | Email: desilval@oregonstate.edu

Catherine Mullins, WRGP Administrative Program Assistant 116 Gilmore
Hall | Email: cat.mullins@oregonstate.edu

The faculty and staff of the Water Resources Graduate Program are
looking forward to your arrival at OSU!

Checklist

Please make sure you have completed everything on this checklist before you leave IHE-Delft.

Passport and Visa:

Confirm your passport will not expire within six months after the date you enter the US. Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee, then schedule your appointment at a US Embassy and submit your visa application.

Airport Transfer and Housing:

Send your arrival information to [Fatima Taha](#). Arrange an airport shuttle to Corvallis and plan your accommodation.

Immunization and Health Forms:

Submit your required immunization and health forms via the OSU Patient Portal: studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/new-students/ Be sure to complete your immunizations before coming to Oregon!

Open Your OSU Email Account:

Go to onid.oregonstate.edu and follow the instructions to sign up for your ONID (OSU Network ID) email.

Confirm Your On-Campus Housing *on-campus students only*:

For students living on campus, you must pay your deposit, complete and submit your OSU Housing Application via www.myuhds.oregonstate.edu, and submit your arrival details in order to receive your room confirmation. Watch your email for housing details. Students who confirm earlier are more likely to receive their requested room type.

Register for Summer Classes

Check the general catalog and schedule of classes website for subject descriptions before you register for classes.

TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES

OSU Application Fees

The instructions to waive your application fee at OSU are as follows:

Step 1: Click on the [link](#) to the application.

Step 2: Create an account using your email address and a password of your choice. Once you have created an account you may login to the system.

Step 3: Prior to beginning the application you will enter a code. Choose “Have a code?” from the initial drop-down menu. Input the code “WATERCOOP&DIPLOM2023” and submit (the code is not case sensitive). The application will open to be completed.

Admissions Toolkit

Start a new application ▾

Undergraduate application

Graduate application

Non-degree application

Have a code?

The last day to submit a Summer 2024 application is May 24. However, for the international applicants, its suggested to submit the applications before January 5 in order to have plenty of time to complete the visa application process. U.S. citizens are also encouraged to start the process early in order to be eligible for as many financial aid opportunities as possible.

English Requirements

Since coursework will be conducted in the English language, applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving either a score of 90 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or a score of 7.0 on the International English Language Test (IELTS).

U.S. Visa Application *For international Students Only*

Make sure your passport is valid. Your passport must be valid for at least six months into the future at all times while you are studying in the US. Carefully read the instructions on the I-20 Certificate of Eligibility issued to you for your studies at OSU.

Pay the SEVIS Fee: Visit www.fmjfee.com and complete the I-901.

SEVIS ID number is above the barcode on the top left of the I-20 or on the top right-hand side of your DS-2023 for J-1 visas. Pay the fee at least three days before applying for your visa. Print your receipt.

Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement		I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status OMB NO. 1651-0055	
SEVIS ID: 80004705512			
STUDENT NAME (Print Name)	DATE OF BIRTH (DD-MMM-YYYY)	COUNTRY OF BIRTH (Print Country)	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP (Print Country)
PASSPORT NAME (Print Name)	ADMISSION NUMBER	CLASS F-1	
FORM ISSUE REASON (Print Reason)	LEGACY NAME (Print Name)	ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE	
SCHOOL INFORMATION			

Schedule a visa interview: The Consulate General in Amsterdam is responsible for providing visa services to those seeking to enter the United States for a temporary period in the United States. Address: Museumplein 19, 1071 DJ Amsterdam, Netherlands.

To learn more about nonimmigration visa applications process, visit: <https://nl.usembassy.gov/visas/nonimmigrant-visas/>

Go to your visa interview: Bring your SEVIS fee payment receipt and your financial documents certifying the amounts and sources of financial support with you to the interview.

Flight Booking *For international Students Only*

As an international student, you are allowed to enter the US no earlier than 30 days before the program start date listed on your I-20. We recommend flying into Portland International Airport (PDX).

Submit Arrival Details

After you book your travel plans, please submit your arrival information to **Stephen Good**. You will need to provide the following information when reserving your shuttle:

- Personal contact details

- Flight number
- Arrival date and time



What to Bring

Passport

Visa

SEVIS I-901 fee payment receipt

I-20

Oregon State University Offer Letter and Admission Letter

Documentation of finances

Health forms, test scores, transcripts, and all other important paperwork

A warm jacket or sweater for arrival at Portland Airport!

Wallet with US Dollars

Medication with prescription written in English

Phone, computer, and other high value electronics

You will be given a customs form to complete on the plane. Keep this form to present to immigration and at customs. You will need to show the following documents at Immigration: original I-20, passport, visa, SEVIS I-901 fee payment receipt, documentation of finances. An immigration officer may ask you some questions. Be prepared to answer: Why are you coming to the US? Where and what course are you studying? Where will you live

during your studies? How are you going to pay for your studies?

Weather

Summer and fall are generally sunny and warm; students can be seen wearing shorts, dresses, jeans and T-shirts. The winter season brings lots of rain. Occasionally, it will snow in the winter. You will need a good coat and shoes for the rain and other warm clothes like sweaters, scarves and gloves.

How to Get to Corvallis

[HUT shuttle](#) - Many students, faculty and staff use the HUT Shuttle to get from Portland airport to Corvallis. The HUT operates 24/7. There is no HUT office in the airport, plan ahead to buy your online ticket!

[Oregon Express Shuttle](#) - Private shuttle service from Portland airport to Reser Stadium. Runs 24/7.

Housing and Dining

In Corvallis, restaurant and take-out meals are \$15-\$25. Do not forget to tip to reward good customer service! Americans tip between 15-20% in addition to the total bill price. This is required in restaurants and expected for most services like nail and hair salons, taxis, etc.

There are various housing options:

On-campus housing: Living on campus offers a variety of benefits, including better academic performance and more opportunities to share your culture with US students. Students living in residence halls have access to student lounges, free cable and Wi-Fi, laundry and kitchen facilities. All residence halls are open to graduate students and have a team of 24-hour live-in staff to support students and create community. Resident hall rooms include a desk, chair, bed, drawers, linen package (mattress sheets, blanket, pillow, pillowcase, towel and washcloth) and Welcome Bag (snacks, water, laundry soap, etc.). Single gender floors are available as well as prayer and spiritual spaces. Learn more at: [University Housing & Dining Services](#).

In order to receive confirmation of your room type, students need to complete the following steps:

Pay your deposit

Complete and submit your OSU Housing. Application via:
myuhds.oregonstate.edu

After you have completed these steps, UHDS will confirm which room type you have received.

Your move-in date will be emailed to you with confirmation of your housing reservation. The move-in date is usually 1-2 days before your program start date. If you arrive before your assigned move-in date, you will need to make arrangements to stay in a hotel at your expense.

Meal plans are automatically included for all students with on-campus housing. The cash value of your meal plan will be added onto your OSU ID card. You will then use your OSU ID card as a debit card to pay for meals. OSU has three main dining centers, as well as many convenience stores, coffee shops and other cafés on campus. Dietary needs, such as Halal food, are accommodated in all dining centers. There is also a marketplace on-campus where you can purchase fresh produce and groceries, including international spices. For more information on dining on campus: uhds.oregonstate.edu/dining

[Students with families](#): Please note that due to the demand for family housing (Orchard Court) the wait list can be more than 1 year at a time, so be sure to apply as early as possible!

[Off-campus housing](#): University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS) offers valuable information when considering off-campus housing. The earlier the better for housing reservations. It is the student responsibility to arrange for their own housing. Make sure to plan accordingly!

Useful tips:

A cell phone plan is around \$60-\$80 per month.

US electrical outlets are 110 volts AC and use a NEMA electrical socket.

You may need an adapter to use electronics from home.

A used bike costs about \$50, and a good bike lock costs \$50.



Registering for Classes

OSU has telephone and web registration so you can register for classes before arriving. You can check the [general catalog and schedule of classes website](#) for subject descriptions before you register for classes. To know when registration starts for each term go to [OSU Academic Calendar](#). Graduate students will be able to register at the beginning of priority registration. Check the academic calendar for more information.

Using the online schedule of classes, you can search course listings in several ways: Step 1: Login to [MyOSU](#).

Step 2: Click on “Traditional Online Services Login” under “Quick links” in the main menu. Step 3: Click on “Registrations”.

Step 4: Click on “Select Term”.

Step 5: Select the term you want to enroll for. Click “submit”. Step 6: Click on “Registration/Add/Drop Classes”.

Step 7: Find “Add Class Worksheet”. Click on “Class Search” to search for your classes. Step 8: Select the courses you want to enroll and click “add to worksheet”.

Step 9: Then select “submit” under the worksheet section to register for classes.

Another way to register for classes is by entering Course Reference Number (CRN) for each class in the worksheet. CRN can be located in the general catalog and schedule of classes website.

Repeat step 1 – 6 above

Step 7: Find “Add Class Worksheet”. Enter CRN for each class.

Step 8: Then select “submit” under the worksheet section to register for classes.

Schedule of Classes

Many students ask us what courses they should register for each term. The Program of Study (PoS) includes our core curriculum courses:

Summer Term

- Climate-Resilient Resource Management (WRP 544)
- Fundamentals of Hydrology (WRS 536)
- Applied Field Problems (WRS 532)
- Writing in Water Resources (WRP 517)
- Conduct Collaborative Projects (WRP 548)
- Thesis (WRP 503 - 10 credits) – pick the section that lists your advisor as instructor

Fall Term

- Sociotechnical Aspects of Water Resources (WRP 524)
- Field Geography of Oregon II (GEOG 595)
- Water Resources Issues Seminar (WRP 507)
- Reading and Conference: Fall Seminar Journal Club (WRP 505) –
- Thesis (WRP 503- 3 credits) – Instructor: your advisor

Registration Holds

When you attempt to register, the registration system will inform you of any registration holds that you have. Students with registration holds are not permitted to register until holds are cleared. Contact the appropriate departments and offices to remove holds. The registration system will provide you this information.

Textbooks

After you register for classes, log in to MyOSU/ Student/ My Student Stuff/ My Textbooks

Check the textbooks required for each class. Textbooks can be purchased online or through the [OSU Beaver Store](#) on-campus. You can also submit a request to rent the book from [OSU Valley Library](#) with no fees.

Online Accounts

OSU Network Identification (ONID) is a universal computer account available to all OSU students. Your ONID username and password gives you access to university technology services, [the wireless network](#), [ResNet](#), [IS computer labs](#), and [the Interlibrary Loan](#). ONID also gives you an OSU Gmail account. OSU requires you communicate via your ONID email. [Sign up for your ONID account](#). You need your OSU ID number to sign up for your ONID account.

OSU Google Account

Students' ONID mailboxes are hosted at Google Apps for OSU, and all email sent to your ONID email address (username@oregonstate.edu) is delivered to Google Mail. [Use Google Apps for OSU login portal to access your ONID email and other Google services like Google Drive.](#)

Tuition and Other Mandatory Fees

To maintain your registration ability for each term, you must keep your finance account in good standing. View your bills under the online services using MyOSU or visit <http://mybill.oregonstate.edu>. You can pay your tuition and bills electronically by using your student ID. For more information, please visit [OSU Student Billing](#).

Immunizations

All students entering OSU are required to have official documentation for all vaccines. Students should complete and submit these forms at least two

weeks before their program start date to avoid possible delays in class registration and late fees. Learn more at the [Student Health Services \(SHS\) website](#).

ON-CAMPUS ARRIVAL

How to Get Around on Campus

Once you have arrived in Corvallis (see page 10, How to Get to Corvallis), there are many transportation options to get to the OSU Corvallis campus. The main source of transportation in the U.S. is the car. However, biking is very popular to get around the town of Corvallis and around campus. There is a public bus system as well as a campus bus free of charge.

City of Corvallis bus - The Corvallis Transit System (CTS) operates the bus system to help you commute in Corvallis. The bus is free to ride and runs from Monday - Saturday. [Check the bus schedules](#) or download their mobile app. A barcode is present at every bus-stop in Corvallis. Scan the barcode with your mobile device to know the estimated time of arrival for that stop.

Uber, Lyft, and other ride-sharing firms are operating in Corvallis.

While on campus, you can choose to travel by Beaver Bus, bike, walk or skateboard. [OSU Beaver Bus](#) is a free campus shuttle to transport students, employees and visitors from outer parking areas to and around the Corvallis campus. Download their mobile app.

Driving your own car - Driving is expensive, as you must buy a car, car insurance, registration, gas and a parking permit. Visit the [transportation website](#) to learn about parking policies.

Be sure to come to the Water Resources Graduate Program office (Gilmore Hall 116) when you arrive in Corvallis and let us know you are here! Please keep us up to date with a mailing address, phone number and email address so you can be kept current on any new departmental or university information. Call or email the WRGP Office if there is a change in your plans to attend OSU this summer.

Water Resources Graduate Program Orientation

Orientation is required for all students and is an opportunity to meet other students, learn your way around the OSU campus and Corvallis and learn about your visa regulations. You will also receive your ID card and have all your questions answered. The orientation start time and location will be emailed to you. Make sure not to be late!

Orientation sessions include:

Campus Tour • Canvas Tour •Registration
Document Checks (with Admissions Finance and Immigration Teams)
Student Health Clinic •Meet your advisor

Make sure to bring to the orientation your passport, I-20, health and immunization forms, payment (for ID, Bank account, etc.), and any official documents.

Student ID card

On campus, the student ID card is used for meal plans, [Orange Cash](#) (save 10% on food purchases), copy card, printing, getting into the gym and more. Off campus, many businesses give discounts to students with an ID card.



Go to [the Student ID Center](#) in the Memorial Union Room 103, or [upload a photo online](#) (requires your ONID account) and have your card waiting for you. You will need photo ID (valid driver's license, state ID card, military ID, passport or resident alien card) to pick up your OSU ID card. Your first ID card is \$20, charged to your student account; replacement cards are \$25.

Office Assignments

Come to Gilmore Hall 116 to obtain a key-permit. Then, take your permit and your OSU ID to [OSU facilities services access, lock & key shop office](#) to collect your Strand Hall office key. The key shop is open from 11 am to 3 pm. Make sure to return the keys after finishing the program. Reach out to Catherine Mullins if you decide that you want to use a locker and she will

assign you a key.

Bank Account

There are different banking options in the U.S. The two most popular banks are Wells Fargo and Bank of America. Look for a bank with a good exchange rate and low transfer fees. There are ATMs on campus for all the major banks in Corvallis. The ATMs are open 24 hours, but you can usually only take out \$500 per day maximum.

For international students, Oregon State Credit Union (OSCU) would be a reliable option (interest fees = zero). OSCU has an Oregon University branch on-campus.

Student Health Services (SHS)

[Student Health Services](#) provides fee-paying students a health clinic, nutrition counseling, psychiatric services, prevention information, health insurance and more.

Health Insurance

Students with a graduate assistantship of 0.3 to 0.49 FTE are required to enroll in PacificSource insurance or file a waiver form with comparable insurance coverage to the Student Health Services Insurance Office. Check their [website](#) for deadlines and more information.

U.S. Federal Regulations and Oregon State University require all international students and their dependents to have health insurance coverage while in the U.S. International students are required to enroll in the OSU insurance plan. Learn more on the [SHS website](#).

IP Connect *For international Students Only*

As an international student you need to make sure you are maintaining your immigration status at all times by registering full time every term.

Employment is only allowed on campus. Make sure to keep all your immigration documents and required personal information current. Visit ipconnect to update your U.S. address, phone number, personal email, any new or updated immigration documents (ex. Passport, U.S. visa, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), dependent documents, I-901 fee receipt etc.). As an international student you may be targeted and vulnerable to [scams](#).

If you have questions, please contact [the Office of International Services \(OIS\)](#) at: 541-737- 6310 or email OIS.Student@oregonstate.edu

U.S. Tax-Filing

If you were employed in the United States, you may be required to pay income tax. Tax Filing due April 15th each year. OIS offers access to [Sprintax](#), a tax-filing software that can assist you. All students, even if not employed, need to complete the Form 8843 and submit to U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS).



Student Profile

Look through the WRGP student directory (<https://gradwater.oregonstate.edu/directory-graduate-student>) to see examples of photos and profiles. You can have as much or little personal information in your profile as you want. Email Catherine Mullins to update your profile information

Water Resources Graduate Program Listservs

Keep in touch with current and future activities by adding you to our WRGP listserv(s). You can unsubscribe at any time.

[WRGP WRPM](#) - Water Resources Policy Students listserv

[WRGP Jobs](#) – Water Resources Jobs, Funding & Research Postings listserv

Hydrophiles

Hydrophiles is a water-focused student group at Oregon State University. If you are interested in water, community, and professional development, join [Hydrophiles!](#)



Flow Chart for Master Degree Completion

Please [download](#) and refer to the graduate degree flowchart, which outline the journey you will take to earn a graduate degree at OSU.

Grade Requirement

A grade point average of 3.0 (a B average) is required for all courses taken as a graduate student, and for courses included in a graduate program. Neither grades below C nor S/U grades are accepted on a graduate program.

Deficient Student Status

Graduate students are required to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA and a 3.0 program GPA. If a student earns more than any grade below “B” in any course included on the program of study, the student’s academic

performance will be examined by the major professor and the WRPM curriculum committee to determine if the student may continue in the program or be dropped for academic deficiency. Two consecutive quarters of less than 3.0 GPA will result in immediate termination from the program, regardless of cumulative GPA.

Assistantships

University regulations require all students with an assistantship to register for a minimum of 12 hours each term while employed as a Teaching Assistant (TA) or Research Assistant (RA). Graduate assistants may register for a maximum of 16 hours but are advised to confer with their major professors or program director when registering for more than 12 credits to avoid potential overload. Students on an assistantship can maintain their full-time status and avoid overloading their schedules by signing up for Thesis hours with their major professor to “top up” their load to the 12 credit minimum.

Exceptions to Policy

A student may request in writing an exception to policy by petitioning the WRPM Curriculum Committee through his or her major professor or the WRGP Program Director. A copy of the request must be filed with the program office.

Grievance Procedure

The program requires that professional relationships be maintained between faculty and students. When situations arise that cause concern, the student is encouraged to discuss the problem with his or her instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the instructor’s response, the student is encouraged to make written appeal through the following chain of academic administrators until a conclusion is reached:

Associate Director – WRPM

WRGP Director

Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Dean of the Graduate School

Provost

Program of Study (PoS)

The [program of study](#) helps you defines the courses you plan on taking as a graduate student and who is on your graduate committee. The Graduate School uses your program of study to determine your eligibility for exams and to complete the final audit of your course work prior to awarding your degree. You should refer to the program’s handbook to understand the

requirements for your degree. It is also important to read and understand the Graduate School policies shown on the program of study form. Submit your program of study form before completing 18 graduate credits and no later than 15 weeks prior to the defense. Please submit a paper copy of the signed program to the Graduate School office or email a scanned copy to the Graduate School at graduate.school@oregonstate.edu. Examples of a completed program of study for WCD students can be obtained online or from program assistant Catherine Mullins.

Meeting with your Committee and Filing your Program of Study

A Master's Program of Study – a list of proposed courses you will take – must be filed by all graduate students with the Graduate School. The MS Program must consist of a minimum of 50% graduate “stand-alone” courses (not 400/500 “slash courses”). The Program of Study form is available on the Graduate School website.

[Program meetings and defenses](#) may be held during any period when school is in session. This excludes the periods between regularly scheduled quarters and during official vacation periods. Students should be aware that most faculty are on nine-month appointments and may not be available during the three-month summer period.

Students are strongly encouraged to prepare a program of study, in consultation with their committee, before the end of their second term in the program.

The program of study is worked out under the guidance of the student's committee and is signed by members of the committee and the Director of the Water Resources program before filing with the Graduate School. Each candidate's graduate program should include a substantial amount of work with at least four faculty members offering graduate instruction (e.g., teaching stand-alone courses).

The Major Professor shall chair the program meeting and the examination portion of the defense. The Graduate Council Representative chairs the portion of the meetings that involve the evaluation of the student's performance on a thesis oral defense.

The Certificate Program in Water Conflict and Management Transformation (WCMT)

To learn more about the WCMT, contact Lynette de Silva (at desilval@oregonstate.edu).

Once you have decided to join the program, fill in the online form to indicate that you are concurrently working on both a master's degree and the certificate. Follow these steps to fill out the online form:

Step 1: Go to

http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/phpforms/change_degree.php

Step 2: Fill out the "Student Information" Section

Step 3: Fill out the "Local Address" Section

Step 4: Go to the "Current Status" Section, then select "Master of Science (MS)" under "Degree/Certificate"

Step 5: Select "Water Resources Policy and Management" under "Primary Major (MAIS Area 1)"

Step 6: Select "Yes" for "International Student"

Step 7: Under the CHANGE REQUESTED Section, jump down to the "Work on Concurrent Degree/Certificate" area.

Step 8: Under "New Degree/Certificate" select "Certificate"

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Activity	When
1. Identify at least two faculty members you are interested in working with. You may wish to contact them prior to or during the application process.	Beginning of the program.
Confirm major advisor.	Beginning of OSU portion of the program (2nd year - summer term).
Select two additional committee members and arrange for a Graduate Representative through the Graduate School; convene committee to discuss program of courses and research direction; file graduate program with Graduate School.	Beginning of OSU portion of the program (2nd year - summer term) (The Graduate School requires submission of the program before completion of the first 18 credits of graduate coursework).
Prepare research proposal in consultation with major professor; after approval, circulate proposal to all committee members and revise proposal based on comments.	End of summer term, you should present your project proposal at your advisor and research committee.
Submit draft of thesis to major professor; revise as necessary.	At least three weeks before oral examination.
Submit Transfer Credits Form requesting transfer of credits from IHE and UPEACE in addition to the Program of Study.	At least three weeks prior to oral examination.
Submit copies of complete thesis to committee members.	At least two weeks before oral examination.
Schedule final defense with Graduate School and submit pretext pages to Graduate School for editing.	At least two weeks prior to oral examination.
2. Oral examination.	End of the fall term.
3. Submit one electronic PDF copy of the final, revised thesis to the advisor, and one electronic PDF copy	Within six weeks of oral examination, shorter deadlines may apply at end of term to avoid having to register for

to the OSU ScholarsArchive with the signed ETD form.	the following term, check with Graduate School.
4.Exit interview.	

Step 9: Under “New Major” select “Water Conflict Management and Transformation (Certificate)”.

Step 10: At the bottom of the page, fill in the year “2023.”

Once admitted to the WCMT, you will have access to the (virtual) Canvas-based, Water Conflict Management Studio, where you can learn more about transferring credits and meeting the requirements to earn a Certificate in Water Conflict Management and Transformation.

Thesis Schedule for M.S. Students

RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS



Graduate students are required to demonstrate the ability to define researchable problems, design research approaches, analyze relevant data, synthesize results, and report research findings in a succinct and logical manner. The thesis requires original research that makes a contribution to an academic discipline via a publication or publications that are judged to be of sufficient quality to appear in a peer reviewed journal. Publication in a journal as lead or co- author is expected (although not required) after the defense of the thesis.

Student's Graduate Committee

The makeup of the graduate committees is governed by the policies of the Graduate School and the Water Resources Graduate Program. The minimum committee sizes are as follows:

Degree	Major Prof	Minor/Other	Grad Rep	Total
Thesis	1	2	1	4

No committee is official until approved by program and Graduate School administrators. Administrative review will use the following guidelines:

All committee members must be Graduate Faculty. Adjunct members from other universities or organizations, may also serve if approved by the

WRGP and the Graduate School. Several IHE and U Peace faculty members are already on the WRGP Graduate Faculty.

The committee must be appropriate to represent the proposed course of study and the relevant degree authority. At least two members of the committee must be members of the Water Resources Policy and Management graduate faculty.

The student will assume the major responsibility for his/her graduate program, follow program and university requirements, meet all deadlines, and initiate all steps involved in obtaining the degree. The student should meet regularly with the major advisor to discuss progress or difficulties in research, course work, or other matters. If experiencing major difficulties with the major professor, the student should discuss the matter with the Associate Director of their sub-field or the Director of the Water Resources Graduate Program.

The Major Professor will advise and guide students in their graduate programs, be informed of student progress and difficulties, edit research proposals and theses before they are given to committee members, encourage active participation in seminars, regional and national scientific meetings, and include students in other professional activities as appropriate. The Major Professor assumes principal responsibility for directing research activities. When the Major Professor is on a courtesy faculty appointment, a member of the Water Resources regular faculty must serve as co-chair of the thesis committee and must sign the approved thesis.

It is the responsibility of the student to seek acceptance by a member of the Water Resources faculty as the major professor. The decision is made upon mutual agreement between the student and the professor concerned and should be reported to the Water Resources Graduate Program Director to initiate the final stage of the degree completion process.

Members of the student's graduate committee will serve as experts in certain specialized fields, as interested editorial critics of the student's writing (especially the thesis), and as participants in the various meetings and examinations held during the student's program.

Graduate Council Representative is chosen from a list provided by the Graduate School and is a full voting member of the committee who attends all meetings, exams, and the final thesis defense. Please refer to the

[committee composition requirements.](#)

The Associate Director of the Water Resources Policy and Management degree is involved in admission of graduate students, the development and review of required courses, provides oversight of WRPM program, and will advise and guide students as necessary.

The Director of the Water Resources Graduate Program is involved in admission of graduate students, provides general orientation to the WRGP, ensures that the graduate program is implemented, and standards are maintained, and assists in the solution of any major problems that may arise during a student's programs.

Proposal Structure

After consultation with the major professor, the student prepares a proposal, which includes a statement of the problem and the research design. The proposal lays out the problem, tells the reader what is already known (and not known) about the problem, and describes in careful detail what you are going to do to answer the questions. A thesis proposal can include a number of sections, described below. These are just examples. Of course, the content and subheads under each section will vary depending on the problem you are researching, your theoretical framework and the methodology you envision. The student meets with the program committee to review the proposal and revise as necessary.

Introduction. This should consist of a brief summary of the problem you are proposing to investigate, what questions or hypotheses you intend to address, and how you plan to do it.

Review of Literature. Here you review relevant literature that will enable you to make a case for the significance of your research. This is an interdisciplinary field. It is likely you will review more than one area of literature. Following this review, you should summarize the rationale for your research questions or hypotheses drawn from all the areas of literature you have reviewed. Finally, you should clearly state your main research questions or hypotheses.

Methodology. Here you describe your plans for collecting data as specifically as you can. Of course, the considerations you discuss here will vary depending on the nature of your research, e.g., whether quantitative or qualitative. The following are considerations you may need to discuss in a quantitative thesis: unit of analysis; population; sampling procedures; research instruments (questionnaire, coding categories); and reliability and

validity of the methodology you plan to use. Some discussion of the limitations of your chosen approaches may be appropriate.

After obtaining approval, the student carries out the research and prepares a finished draft of the thesis.

The Thesis

The Thesis work is a substantial original contribution to the body of knowledge in the student's field. Supervision of the thesis research is by a four-member committee, including a person chosen from a list of Graduate Council representatives;

The thesis style is determined by the Graduate School document, Preparation of the Thesis, available from the [Graduate School website](#). The Graduate School examines every thesis to ensure compliance with style requirements.

Students can also choose to write their thesis as “publishable papers.” This option is usually two publishable papers, which must be related in their overall research theme. A publishable paper is one that is targeted to a specific journal and is deemed publishable to the student's graduate committee. Student's using this style option must also include an introduction, literature review, and conclusion that tie the paper together into a common theme, all of which are bound together and submitted to the program as a thesis. The student's graduate committee and major professor must agree to this option before the student proceeds.

A copy of the pretext pages of the Master's Thesis must be presented to the Graduate School for editing when scheduling the final oral examination at least one week prior to the examination. Additional copies of the thesis are distributed to the student's committee.

The Graduate School [thesis online guide](#) provides essential information for proper formatting of your thesis, electronic submission, and what must be submitted to the Graduate School prior to taking your final exam.

All students will develop an “applied thesis” that will include group work focused on a common geographic location, which will take place at OSU as the collaborative project. Students will extend the work into individual theses that students will develop with advisors from any of the three participating universities.

During the summer term, students will focus on revision to each student chapter from the initial draft of group collaborative project, in which students conduct additional research, collect data and relevant documents to use as the basis of their individual thesis, and share their progress with their colleagues on the collaborative group project.

In the fall term, students build on their individual chapter from the collaborative report and develop a second chapter that builds on the first guided by a major advisor. These two chapter then form the thesis. For example, a student might write their individual chapter for the collaborative report on Water Markets in the Deschutes Basin, OR and use that as the first chapter of their thesis. The second chapter might then explore how water markets could be useful in other semi-arid regions. Students will work closely with the major advisor in preparing the second chapter of the thesis. In the final three weeks of the term, students submit their thesis to the major advisor and committee members and defend the thesis.

Since the thesis must meet the approval of a four-member committee, the major professor will insist on a high- quality product. If the work does not meet this standard, it will be redone or revised as often as necessary to meet the professor's expectation for a defensible thesis. When the major professor is satisfied with the thesis, the defense is scheduled, and copies of the thesis are distributed to the committee for review at least one week prior to the scheduled defense. The student schedules a meeting for the committee to come together to hear a defense of the paper and an examination to test the student's ability to integrate and interpret material learned in the program with emphasis on the work presented in the paper. Forms for scheduling the defense are available at the Graduate School website.

All degrees require a [final examination](#), which must be scheduled with the Graduate School. You must have completed all course work before this exam is taken. Please also review the [academic deadline](#). A successful defense is determined by a vote of the committee. Even at the defense, committee members may insist on further revisions of the thesis before it is accepted. The Graduate School rules provide for a maximum of six weeks for revisions after the thesis defense. If more than six weeks elapse, a re-examination of the student may be required.

The oral defense focuses on the thesis, although questions pertaining to coursework are allowed. Thesis presentations are open to the public, although the examination is closed. Defenses typically take about 2 hours to complete.

Typical Agenda for Oral Defense

- i. Call to order and introductions
- ii. Purpose and format of meeting
- iii. Public presentation by student (approximately 20-30 minutes)
- iv. Open question and answer (approximately 15 minutes)
- v. Visitors asked to leave and committee break (if necessary)
- vi. Review and questioning of student by committee (this can include questions about both the research and the coursework)
- vii. Student excused
- viii. Committee discusses student's performance
- ix. Committee votes on performance of student

It is the responsibility of each student to arrange the meeting and defense times and places, notify the Graduate School of scheduled defenses, and remind each committee member of the scheduled meeting or defense. At the time you schedule your thesis defense with the Graduate Schools, you should also apply for graduation if you have not already done so. Check the Graduate School web site for graduation deadlines.

After a successful defense, a revised electronic (i.e., a pdf file) copy of the thesis is submitted to OSU Library ScholarsArchive (in the Water Resources community). An Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Submission Approval form (ETD) must be signed by the major advisor and the Director of the Water Resources Graduate Program and submitted to the Graduate School. See the Graduate School website for more information about electronic submittal of the thesis. The ETD form is submitted to the Graduate School along with a copy of the title page once the final thesis/dissertation is approved and uploaded to ScholarsArchive.

Final Steps

After you have finished, remember these important [final steps](#), including the Graduate School Exit Survey, Degree Certification, and Commencement. The student's achievement of the Graduate Learning Outcomes for the program will be assessed at the final examination.

Graduate Learning Outcomes and Their Assessment

The Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Program - Water Resources Policy and Management Track Assessment Plan describes the following overarching learning outcomes for students in the graduate program:

“Through participation in and successful completion of the Master of Science in the Water Resources Policy and Management (WRPM) degree program, students will gain an advanced understanding of water resources policy, methods, and sustainable management of water resources. Students will be sufficiently trained through disciplinary coursework and research experience to bring policy expertise to a water resources issue and will have sufficient breadth of knowledge in water resources science and environmental issues to communicate with professionals from a broad range of specialties involved in water resources management and research and the public interested in water resources policy and management.”

Scholarship: Program graduates demonstrated mastery and application of critical thinking that extends knowledge in water resources policy and management by designing and conducting their thesis or project research and presenting results of this research at their final examination.

Knowledge: By successfully completing the coursework required for the degree program, designing, conducting and presenting the results of a research project, and completing their thesis or project paper, program graduates demonstrated in-depth disciplinary knowledge and the capacity to apply that knowledge to a water resource issue. Coursework required for the WRPM degree program trains students in theory and methods, and how to integrate water resources concepts across multiple disciplines at multiple scales.

Communication & Service: Program graduates demonstrate the ability to present the results of their research by completion of assignments in the core course WRP 524, at the Water Resources Research Symposium held at OSU in May, and at professional meetings.

Ethics and Diversity: Graduates of the WRPM degree program receive training in ethics through research methods courses, the core course WRP 524, and online training in ethics through OSU Office of Research Integrity. Students are encouraged to participate in activities honoring diversity and multiculturalism such as the annual MLK Birthday Celebration.

Achievement of these learning outcomes is assessed at the final defense by the committee.

Travel After Program Completion *For international Students Only*
Once your program has ended, you cannot re-enter the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status. If you plan to do Optional Practical Training (OPT), it must be authorized by OIS before you leave the U.S. You must request a travel signature at least two weeks before you travel. Please speak with an International Student Advisor if you plan to travel outside the US after you have completed your program. Plan ahead!

Resources for Student Support

[OSU Campus map](#)

[SafeRide](#) - SafeRide is a service dedicated to providing safe rides home or to campus. SafeRide operates throughout the Corvallis and Philomath communities. It is open to all OSU students on the Corvallis campus. Open seven days a week 7:00 pm – 2:00 am, with an exception of major United State holidays, and OSU holiday breaks.

OSU alerts and Emergency Management: to receive OSU alert notifications, login to your RAVE account and update how you want to receive your alerts. OSU encourages you to add a text capable device to receive an urgent message if an incident is under way. [Sign up for OSU alerts.](#)

[The OSU Service Desk](#) provides computer and device support to OSU faculty, staff, and students for free. If they can't resolve an issue, they can direct you to the correct support group. The Service Desk provides students and employees with quick and completely free inperson help with your software, laptop, and mobile device issues. The staff are also able to do non-invasive computer troubleshooting and minor hardware replacement (hard drives, memory, and optical drives).

[Coalition of Graduate Employees \(CGE\)](#) - CGE represents the interests and rights of Oregon State University's graduate employees (Graduate Teaching and Research Assistants) through the bargaining and maintenance of a fair working contract. CGE strives to create a community of graduate employees empowered to advocate for collective issues. This is a democratically run, member-driven organization that values collective action, self or collective advocacy and social justice and equity.

[Basic Needs Center](#): provides supportive resources for homeless and food-insecure students. The HSRC list of resources are Food Pantry and Food Assistance Programs like Mealbux and Full Plate Funds, Textbook Lending Program, Travel Support, and Housing Security. Info about the pantry and other resources can be found at <http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/hsrc>. If you'd like to stay updated about the HSRC, sign up for HSRC newsletter at <https://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/webform/join-our-email-list>.

Basic Needs Navigator at HSRC: for students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, the Basic Needs Navigator, [Miguel Arellano Sanchez](#), provides student-centered case management for those navigating challenging financial barriers.

[Free Food at OSU@eatfreeOSU](#): The student's guide to free food events on and off campus.

[Mindful @ Oregon State University](#): A weekly e-newsletter features a guided meditation, learn-more section, mindfulness challenge, OSU mindfulness event calendar and crowd-sourced knowledge and recommendations. [Subscribe!](#)

OSU Grad resources spotlight: Stay healthy and well with [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#), [Recreational Sports](#), [Student Health Services \(SHS\)](#), and even more resources on their [website](#).

[Graduate Student Success](#): You will find useful information to be a successful graduate student. You can download the “New Graduate Student Guide” and sign up for the Gradsuccess newsletter.

[Corvallis Services Consortium \(CSC\)](#): The CSC offers a number of services in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties. These services are food assistance, rental assistance, utility assistance, weatherization and housing assistance.

[OSUsed Store](#) Public Sales: The OSUsed Store is open for its weekly public sales Tuesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Friday noon to 3 p.m. at 644 S.W. 13th.

[CAPS Single Session Clinic at the Memorial Union](#): Meet with a CAPS counselor for a one-time only session to discuss a current problem or concern. During the 45-minute session, a counselor will help you clarify your problem and work with you to develop skills and strategies to create a

personalized action plan.

[LGBT Grad Group](#): Join a weekly grad student LGBT group with the goal of fostering community. The group meets 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays at the [Pride Center](#).

US Driver's License - Make an appointment for a knowledge test and driving test with the [Department of Motor Vehicles \(DMV\)](#). Study the Oregon Driver's Manual to become familiar with Oregon driving laws. For the knowledge test, you will answer a series of questions on road laws and safety. For the driving test, you must provide a vehicle.

Religious and Cultural Support - There are a variety of multipath, quiet, and prayer rooms on campus (ILLC Multifaith Room, ILLC 448, Student Experience Center (SEC) Multifaith Room, SEC 323, Quiet spaces are also available in most residence halls, and additional space is available in several of the Cultural Resource Centers). There are also many religious student organizations.

There are a number of other churches and religious groups in Corvallis. Please search for your preferred religious organization.

[Cultural Resource Centers](#) - OSU's Diversity and Cultural Engagement office provides seven centers to support students from different cultural backgrounds and identities. Events and activities at the centers include national history and heritage month programs, social justice workshops, cultural holiday celebrations, cooking demonstrations, craft nights and many other programs.

[OSU Cultural Associations](#) - OSU has many active student organizations focused around countries or culture. These clubs are a great first stop for getting involved on campus, sharing your culture and making friends.