MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SYSTEMS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SPECIALIZATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Overview

Summary

• Degree offered: Master of Science (MSc)
• Registration status options: Full-time; Part-time
• Language of instruction:
  • English
• Primary program: MSc Systems Science and Engineering
• Collaborative specialization: Environmental Sustainability
• Program option (expected duration of the program):
  • within two years of full-time study
• Academic units: Faculty of Engineering (https://engineering.uottawa.ca/), Telfer School of Management (http://www.telfer.uottawa.ca/en/prospective-students/interdisciplinary-programs/), Department of Mathematics and Statistics (http://science.uottawa.ca/mathstat/en/), Department of Economics. (https://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/economics/)

Program Description

The Systems Science and Engineering program provides qualified students with the opportunity for master’s-level study in a broad range of areas that emphasize transdisciplinary work in the context of general systems analysis. The emphasis in Systems Science and Engineering is on the development of analytical and integration skills for use in the resolution of complex applied problems that require a broad-based perspective.

Many professors in Information Technology and Engineering, Mathematics and Statistics, Administration, Economics, and other disciplines are active in the Systems Science and Engineering program as instructors, student advisers and thesis directors. Others are interested in ongoing Systems Science and Engineering activities including the seminar series, and Systems Science and Engineering applications days.

The graduate program in Systems Science and Engineering is an interdisciplinary program specially designed for those who are interested in the analysis and modelling (mathematical and computer) of natural and man-made systems. It provides the professional with skills and knowledge required to understand, control, predict and optimize behaviour in a variety of fields from engineering and computer science to management and applied economics. The program is supervised by a Committee composed of representatives from the Department of Economics, the School of Information Technology and Engineering, the Telfer School of Management, and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

To accommodate part-time students, the core courses are usually offered in the late afternoon or evening.

Collaborative Specialization Description

The Institute of the Environment offers a master’s level collaborative specialization in Environmental Sustainability and an interdisciplinary Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Sustainability. The master’s level collaborative specialization in Environmental Sustainability allows students enrolled in one of the participating master’s programs to specialize in environmental sustainability.

The guiding objective of the collaborative specialization is to provide graduate students with the knowledge and skills needed to identify and analyze the economic, legal, policy and scientific dimensions of environmental problems, and to employ an evidence-based approach to develop rational policy options for addressing those problems.

The degree awarded specifies the primary program and indicates “Specialization in Environmental Sustainability.”

Main Areas of Research

Their areas of research, both theoretical and applied, span a wide variety of fields:

• Operations research
• Deterministic and probabilistic modelling
• Optimization
• Computer science
• Information systems
• Control
• Economic modelling

Other Programs Offered Within the Same Discipline or in a Related Area

• Graduate Diploma Systems Science and Engineering
• Master of Science Systems Science and Engineering (MSc)
• Master of Systems Science and Engineering (MSysScEng)

Fees and Funding

• Program fees:
  The estimated amount for university fees (https://www.uottawa.ca/university-fees/) associated with this program are available under the section Finance your studies (http://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/programs-admission/finance-studies/).

  International students enrolled in a French-language program of study may be eligible for a differential tuition fee exemption (https://www.uottawa.ca/university-fees/differential-tuition-fee-exemption/).

  To learn about possibilities for financing your graduate studies, consult the Awards and financial support (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/awards/) section.

Notes

• Programs are governed by the academic regulations (http://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/general-regulations/) in effect for graduate studies.

• In accordance with the University of Ottawa regulation, students have the right to complete their assignments, examinations, research papers, and theses in French or in English. Research activities can be conducted either in English, French or both, depending on the language used by the professor and the members of his or her research group.

Graduate Studies Office, Faculty of Engineering (https://engineering.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies-office/)
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Email: engineering.grad@uottawa.ca

Twitter | Faculty of Engineering (https://twitter.com/uOttawaGenie/?lang=en)
Facebook | Faculty of Engineering (https://www.facebook.com/engr.uottawa/)

Admission Requirements
For the most accurate and up to date information on application deadlines, language tests and other admission requirements, please visit the specific requirements (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/programs-admission/apply/specific-requirements/) webpage.

To be eligible, candidates must:
• Have a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, Mathematics, Operations Research, Science or a related area with a minimum average of B (70%).

Note: International candidates must check the admission equivalencies (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/international/study-uottawa/admission-equivalencies/) for the diploma they received in their country of origin.

• Undergraduate courses in probability, linear algebra, differential equations and computer programming are prerequisites for the core courses of the Program. Details regarding the level and content of prerequisite courses are included in the information package which is sent to all applicants. If a student lacks any of these courses, he will normally be required to complete them as a condition of admission. Entering students who lack the required undergraduate preparation may be permitted to enter a qualifying program.
• Identify at least one professor who is willing to supervise your research and thesis. We recommend that you contact potential thesis supervisors as soon as possible.

Language Requirements
Applicants must be able to understand and fluently speak the language of instruction (French or English) in the program to which they are applying. Proof of linguistic proficiency may be required.

Applicants whose first language is neither French nor English must provide proof of proficiency in the language of instruction.

Note: Candidates are responsible for any fees associated with the language tests.

Notes
• The admission requirements listed above are minimum requirements and do not guarantee admission to the program.
• Admissions are governed by the academic regulations (http://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/general-regulations/) in effect for graduate studies.
• Candidates must apply to the primary program and indicate in their application for admission to the MSc program in Systems Science and Engineering that they wish to be accepted into the collaborative specialization in Environmental Sustainability. In exceptional cases, students could commence their specialization in Environmental Sustainability at the beginning of the second term of enrollment. To be accepted into the collaborative specialization, candidates must be admitted to the primary program participating in the collaborative specialization.
• No equivalencies or advanced standing are granted. A student who has already successfully completed some of the compulsory units, may be allowed to replace those units with elective units. For details, see the general regulations in effect for graduate studies, section B 2.7 c).

Documents Required for Admission
In addition to the documents required (http://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/programs-admission/apply/recommended-documents/) for graduate and postdoctoral studies, candidates must submit the following documents:
• A resume
• Two letters of intent or motivation or statement of purpose
  • One letter of 350 words outlining your proposed research.
  • One letter indicating what research topic or area you would like to pursue, and why you wish to do so as part of the collaborative program (to be submitted along with the application form).
• Two confidential letters of recommendation from professors who have known the applicant and are familiar with the student work.

You are strongly encouraged to contact your referee(s) prior to submitting your application in order to confirm their email address and their availability to complete your letter of recommendation.

• Transcripts from all universities attended:
  • You must submit official transcripts from all the universities you have attended.
  • This applies to all courses and programs at any university you attended, including regular programs (completed or not), exchanges, letters of permission, online or correspondence courses, courses taken as a special student or visiting student, etc.
  • If the transcript and degree certificate are not in English or French, a certified translation (signed and stamped/sealed) must be submitted.
• A collaborative specialization enrollment form (http://www.uottawa.ca/environment/grad-programs/specialization/apply/)
• A letter of recommendation from a professor confirming that he or she is willing to act as thesis supervisor.

Note: Documents that are not required for admission will not be consulted, conserved or returned to the student. These documents will be destroyed according to our administrative procedures.

Program Requirements
Master’s with Collaborative Specialization

Students must meet the following requirements for the master’s with collaborative specialization:

The Department may require students to take additional courses depending on their backgrounds.

Compulsory Courses (SYS): 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SYS 5160</td>
<td>Systems Integration</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 course units from:</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYS 5100</td>
<td>Systems Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYS 5110</td>
<td>Foundation of Modelling and Simulation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYS 5120</td>
<td>Applied Probability</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>SYS 5130</td>
<td>Systems Optimization and Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>SYS 5140</td>
<td>Economic System Design</td>
<td>3</td>
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Optional Course:

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<td>3 optional course units from the list of optional courses 2</td>
<td>12</td>
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Compulsory Course (EVD):

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<tr>
<td>EVD 5100</td>
<td>Seminar in Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
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Thesis Proposal:

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<td>SYS 7990</td>
<td>Master Thesis Proposal 3</td>
<td>3</td>
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Thesis:

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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THM 7999</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis 4,5</td>
<td>3</td>
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Note(s)

1. Students enrolled in the Master’s who have successfully completed the core courses (15 units) and who are not continuing in the program, may be awarded the Graduate Diploma in Systems Science and Engineering.

2. Consult the department for the list of elective courses and for the regulations governing the selection of these courses.

3. Candidates enrolled for the MSc degree must submit to the program committee, by the middle of their third term of enrollment in the MSc program, a clearly defined research proposal that has been approved by their thesis director. Approval of the proposal must normally be obtained by the end of the term. A student must enroll in the Master’s Thesis (THM 7999) in the term immediately following the approval of the proposal. A student whose proposal is not approved on the first attempt may be permitted to submit a second proposal. Failure to obtain approval following the second submission will lead to withdrawal from the MSc program. Students required to withdraw from the MSc but who have successfully completed all the core courses are eligible to receive the graduate diploma.

4. Presentation and defence of a thesis on a topic in environmental sustainability based on research carried out under the supervision of a professor who is a member of the student’s primary program and/or of the collaborative program. The Collaborative Specialization Committee determines whether or not the topic of the thesis is appropriate for the designation “Specialization in Environmental Sustainability.” At least one of the thesis examiners must be a member of the Environmental Sustainability collaborative specialization.

5. Students are responsible for ensuring they have met all of the thesis requirements (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/theses/).

Research
Research Fields & Facilities

Located in the heart of Canada’s capital, a few steps away from Parliament Hill, the University of Ottawa is among Canada’s top 10 research universities.

uOttawa focuses research strengths and efforts in four Strategic Areas of Development in Research (SADRs):

- Canada and the World
- Health
With cutting-edge research, our graduate students, researchers and educators strongly influence national and international priorities.

Research at the Faculty of Engineering

Areas of research:

- Chemical and Biological Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- Mechanical Engineering

For more information, refer to the list of faculty members and their research fields on Uniweb.

IMPORTANT: Candidates and students looking for professors to supervise their thesis or research project can also consult the website of the faculty or department (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/academic-unit-contact-information/) of their program of choice. Uniweb does not list all professors authorized to supervise research projects at the University of Ottawa.

Courses

SYS 5100 Systems Engineering (3 units)
Controllability and observability, Euler-Lagrange equations, Pontryagin maximum principle, dynamic programming, linear quadratic regulator problem, matrix Ricatti differential equations and properties of their solution, design of optimal regulator based on steady state solution of the Ricatti differential equation, time optimal control, LaSalle bang-bang principle, applications to motor speed control, satellite attitude control, etc.

Course Component: Laboratory, Lecture, Tutorial
The following courses are recommended as prerequisites: CSI 1100, MAT 2341, (MAT 2324 or MAT 2331), MAT 2371, MAT 2375.

SYS 5110 Foundation of Modelling and Simulation (3 units)

Course Component: Lecture
The following courses are recommended as prerequisites: CSI 1100, MAT 2341, (MAT 2324 or MAT 2331), MAT 2371, MAT 2375.

SYS 5120 Applied Probability (3 units)
An introduction to stochastic processes, with emphasis on regenerative phenomena. Review of limit theorems and conditioning. The Poisson process. Renewal theory and limit theorems for regenerative processes; Discrete-time and continuous-time Markov processes with countable state space. Applications to queueing.

Course Component: Lecture
The following courses are recommended as prerequisites: CSI 1100, MAT 2341, (MAT 2324 or MAT 2331), MAT 2371, MAT 2375.

SYS 5130 Systems Optimization and Management (3 units)
Analysis of user requirements and model design. Data mining. Use of optimization software. Systems thinking and its application to economic systems and hierarchical systems. Applications to economic systems simulation, modeling, optimization and management.

Course Component: Lecture
The following courses are recommended as prerequisites: CSI 1100, MAT 2341, (MAT 2324 or MAT 2331), MAT 2371, MAT 2375.

SYS 5140 Economic System Design (3 units)
Introduction to the epistemology of systems thinking and its application to economic systems. Basic concepts of complex systems thinking including hierarchical systems and economic systems simulation and behaviour. Soft systems thinking. Examples from other fields of application will be reviewed from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Course Component: Lecture
The following courses are recommended as prerequisites: CSI 1100, MAT 2341, (MAT 2324 or MAT 2331), MAT 2371, MAT 2375.

SYS 5160 Systems Integration (3 units)

Course Component: Lecture
Prerequisites: 6 course units from SYS 5100, SYS 5110, SYS 5120, SYS 5130, SYS 5140.

SYS 5190 Directed Readings in Systems Science (3 units)
Directed Readings in Systems Science

Course Component: Research
Courses SYS 5190, SYS 5975 cannot be combined for units.

SYS 5975 Projet en science des systèmes / Project in Systems Science
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research
Les cours SYS 5190, SYS 5975 ne peuvent être combinés pour l’obtention de crédits. / Courses SYS 5190, SYS 5975 cannot be combined for units.

SYS 7990 Proposition de thèse de maîtrise / Master Thesis Proposal
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research