




OFFICE OF THE PROVOST  
AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

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Burnaby, BC  
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## MEMORANDUM

<b>ATTENTION</b>	Senate	<b>DATE</b>	Oct 31, 2024	
<b>FROM</b>	Dilon Rassier, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Chair, SCUP	<b>PAGES</b>	1/25	
<b>RE:</b>	Program Termination of the Master of Science in Ecological Restoration (SCUP 24-44)			

At its meeting on October 23, 2024, SCUP reviewed and approved the program termination of the Master of Science in Ecological Restoration.

**Motion:** That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Master of Science in Ecological Restoration within the Faculty of Environment effective Summer 2025.

## For Information

Included for the information of Senate and approved by SGSC under delegated authority are the following curriculum changes effective Summer 2025:

Course deletions:

- ECO 600 Ecological Restoration
- ECO 611 Concepts of Ecological Restoration and the Biological Environment
- ECO 621 Graduate Seminars in Research Methods
- ECO 622 Project Management and Policy for Ecological Restoration
- ECO 630 Applied Research Project I
- ECO 640 Applied Research Project II
- ECO 641 First Nations and Social Perspectives of Ecological Restoration
- ECO 645 Special Topics in Ecological Restoration
- ECO 650 Directed Studies in Ecological Restoration

C: Christina Giovas, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Environment



GRADUATE STUDIES

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Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

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**MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTENTION** Senate Committee on University  
Priorities (SCUP)

**DATE** September 10, 2024

**FROM** Mary O'Brien,  
Chair of Senate Graduate Studies  
Committee (SGSC)

**RE:** Program Termination

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary O'Brien', is written over the 'FROM' field.

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**For approval:**

At its meeting on September 10, 2024, the SGSC approved the program termination for Master of Science in Ecological Restoration within the Faculty of Environment and is recommending it to SCUP for approval, effective **Summer 2025**:

**Motion:**

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the program termination for Master of Science in Ecological Restoration.



FACULTY OF  
ENVIRONMENT

OFFICE OF  
THE DEAN

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July 2, 2024

**TO:** Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

**RE:** Master of Science in Ecological Restoration Graduate Program Termination

The Faculty of Environment Graduate Studies Committee approves the termination of the Master of Science in Ecological Restoration (MER) program, a joint degree program between SFU's School of Environmental Science (EVSC) and the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). MER suspension was approved by the Senate Committee on University Priorities on January 25, 2023, and submitted to the Senate for its information on February 13, 2023. No students currently remain in the program.

The accompanying termination package contains the following documents:

1. Memo from EVSC Director Karen Kohfeld
2. Termination Proposal
3. Course deletion forms for the following:
  - ECO 600 – Ecological Restoration (3 units)
  - ECO 611 – Concepts of Ecological Restoration and the Biological Environment (3 units)
  - ECO 621 – Graduate Seminars in Research Methods (3 units)
  - ECO 622 – Project Management and Policy for Ecological Restoration (3 units)
  - ECO 630 – Applied Research Project I (3 units)
  - ECO 640 – Applied Research Project II (3 units)
  - ECO 641 – First Nations and Social Perspectives of Ecological Restoration (3 units)
  - ECO 645 – Special Topics in Ecological Restoration (3 units)
  - ECO 650 – Directed Studies in Ecological Restoration (3 units)
4. Suspension Proposal (Senate S.23-33)

Please include these items on the SGSC agenda for September 10. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina Giovas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christina Giovas  
Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies  
Faculty of Environment  
P: 778 782 906 I  
E: fenvadr@sfu.ca



SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

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Reception  
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TEL 778.782.5613  
<http://www.sfu.ca/EVSC/>

Director, Karen Kohfeld  
TASC II 8903  
TEL 778-782-7651  
[SES\\_Director@sfu.ca](mailto:SES_Director@sfu.ca)

MEMORANDUM

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ATTENTION	Dr. Christina Giovas, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Environment	DATE	June 14, 2024
FROM	Dr. Karen Kohfeld, Director, School of Environmental Science	PAGES	2
RE:	Termination of Master of Science in Ecological Restoration Program		

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Dear Dr. Giovas,

The School of Environmental Science (EVSC) would like to send the termination documents for the Master of Science in Ecological Restoration (MER) program, a joint degree program between Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), for consideration by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) at their upcoming meeting on September 10, 2024. Faculty in the School of Environmental Science have approved the termination of the program through an electronic vote.

This package contains the following documents:


1. Termination Proposal

Along with the Termination Proposal, we provide a package of course deletion forms for your review and approval, including:

- ECO 600 – Ecological Restoration (3 units)
- ECO 611 – Concepts of Ecological Restoration and the Biological Environment (3 units)
- ECO 621 – Graduate Seminars in Research Methods (3 units)
- ECO 622 – Project Management and Policy for Ecological Restoration (3 units)
- ECO 630 – Applied Research Project I (3 units)
- ECO 640 – Applied Research Project II (3 units)
- ECO 641 – First Nations and Social Perspectives of Ecological Restoration (3 units)
- ECO 645 – Special Topics in Ecological Restoration (3 units)
- ECO 650 – Directed Studies in Ecological Restoration (3 units)

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards,



Karen Kohfeld

Director & Professor  
School of Environmental Science  
Faculty of Environment  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby BC, Canada  
Email: SES\_Director@sfu.ca  
[www.sfu.ca/evsc.html](http://www.sfu.ca/evsc.html)

Professor  
Resource & Environmental Management  
Faculty of Environment  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby BC, Canada  
Email: karen\_kohfeld@sfu.ca  
[www.sfu.ca/rem/copelab/](http://www.sfu.ca/rem/copelab/)

## Proposal to Terminate a Program

1. All impacted credentials, levels and categories of the degree, and specific discipline or field of study
  - Master of Science in Ecological Restoration
2. Location of the program
  - Burnaby Campus, SFU
  - Burnaby Campus, BCIT
3. Faculty(ies), Department(s), or School(s) offering the program
  - School of Environmental Science, SFU
  - School of Construction and Environment, British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)
4. Anticipated final dissolution date
  - As soon as possible
5. Reasons for termination of the program, such as:

Program admission is being terminated for the following reasons:

- Institutional differences – Among many institutional differences, there is one key factor that created an unresolvable divide between SFU and BCIT in the delivery of the MER program. It was expected that SFU and BCIT shared equal responsibility for the program's applied research capstone project and that SFU research faculty supported individual supervision of students in the same ways as BCIT instructors. This was an unrealistic expectation given that, in addition to this supervision, SFU faculty were also expected to perform teaching duties, run research programs, publish in scientific journals, contribute to knowledge mobilization in their respective fields, and secure tenure and promotion to Full professor. Our efforts to meet these expectations created unintended consequences in the School of Environmental Science (EVSC): while most EVSC faculty have the freedom to dedicate time solely to traditional graduate students, the EVSC

faculty contributing to the MER program carried 10 – 12 professional students in addition to any traditional graduate students they could afford the time to support.

- Program scalability – The Joint Collaboration Agreement defined the Applied Research Committee as having oversight for each student’s applied research project, with a senior supervisor from either SFU or BCIT. In 2017, it was clarified that both institutions would be equally involved in the delivery and supervision of the applied research projects and that a financial adjustment would be made to either institution carrying more than half the supervisory load. This model became financially unsustainable. Several alternate solutions, including a proposal to develop group project opportunities, were dismissed by BCIT based on yet another institutional difference. Unlike SFU, BCIT is funded based on employment success rates upon graduation. They were adamant that MER students must graduate with eligibility for the RPBio designation offered through the College of Applied Biologists and that this designation was necessary for biologists to carry out or supervise work in many resource management activities. Given individual supervision is necessary to meet the College’s credentialing standards, BCIT was unwilling to consider alternate models that would allow for program scalability.
- Financial Viability – SFU and BCIT split gross tuition revenue 50/50, with SFU’s portion distributed to the Faculty of Environment through the Faculty Allocation Model, which yielded approximately 25% of annual gross revenue. Program expenses continued to eclipse revenue, and in 2022/23, the shortfall was \$126K. With tuition increases locked at 2% per year by the Ministry of Advanced Education and no options for program scalability, the Faculty of Environment was not able to continue to carry program losses.

6. Plan for phasing-out of program, including:

a) Steps taken to consult with students

- a. An email was distributed to all MER students on November 25, 2022 about the formal dissolution of the program. Anayansi Cohen-Fernandez, Graduate Program Chair of the program at BCIT, Caroline Dépatie (BCIT Dean), and Ruth Joy, Graduate Program Chair of the program at SFU, held a meeting with students on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 3:30-5:00PM at BCIT in SW01-2030.

Students attended both in-person and online. Drs. Joy, Cohen-Fernandez, and Dépatie attended in-person.

- b) Steps taken to consult with impacted instructors and staff:
  - a. Instructors and faculty at both institutions have been notified that program admission will be suspended and course planning was done accordingly.
  - b. The two SFU faculty members dedicated to the MER program have remained in the School of Environmental Science and was assigned normal research faculty duties.
- c) Steps taken to ensure students in the program have the opportunity to complete the program:
  - a. The last two cohorts of students in the program had individual meetings with their supervisors and were assured they would be supported to the end of their degree. Both cohorts have now completed all their degree requirements; the last cohort has graduated in June 2024.
  - b. Termination of the program is only being pursued once all students in the last cohorts have graduated and if BCIT remains unwilling to address concerns.
- d) Description of the reallocation of any remaining program and associated resources when program is terminated
  - a. There is one specific endowed award for students in this program (the John Halliday McCrae Graduate Scholarship in Ecological Restoration Endowment); the termination of the program has been discussed with the Faculty of Environment's Dean's Office regarding this award and the donor has revised the terms of reference to allow any students from the Faculty of Environment engaging in restoration work to apply to the award and adjudication of the award is now under Graduate Studies' purview.
  - b. The faculty who were allocated to teach and supervise as part of the MER program will be full-time contributors to the newly proposed Master's and PhD graduate programs in the School of Environmental Science. These two proposals were approved by SFU Senate on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The full graduate programs are expected to begin in Fall 2025. The faculty members previously affiliated with the MER program are now teaching full-time as part of the EVSC program, and are



supervising graduate students in other SFU graduate programs until the EVSC graduate programs come online.

- e) Confirmation of consultation with other impacted departments and Faculties
  - a. No other departments or Faculties are formally involved in the MER program.
- f) Impacts on and/or reorganization of curriculum in cognate disciplines
  - a. The ECO-coded MER courses which made up required courses for the MSc in Ecological Restoration degree (ECO 600, 611, 621, 622, 630, 640, 641, 645, 650) will be deleted. Course Deletion forms from Graduate Studies have been submitted as part of this package for approval. All required ECO courses were restricted to students in the MER program; therefore, no students in cognate disciplines will be affected by their deletion.
  - b. The EVSC-coded MER graduate program courses that were taught at SFU have remained as part of the EVSC curriculum. These courses were optional electives for MER students and will remain available to students in cognate disciplines:
    - i. EVSC 445/645 – Environmental Data Analysis
    - ii. EVSC 695 – Special Topics in Environmental Science.
  - c. Two of the deleted MER courses have equivalent content in other courses:
    - i. ECO 621 - Graduate Seminars in Research Methods is equivalent to EVSC 601 - Research Methods in Environmental Science. This new graduate course was approved by Senate on June 10, 2024, for the Masters in Environmental Science program (approval pending).
    - ii. ECO 641 - First Nations' Perspectives in Ecological Restoration shares some equivalent content with REM 607 – Indigenous Governance and Resource Relationships.
- g) Timeline of activities
  - a. Fall 2022 – Meeting with last two MER cohorts to give notice of dissolution of program
  - b. Spring 2023 – Suspension of admission
  - c. Spring 2024 – Last cohort finishes all coursework. No students in the program.
  - d. Summer 2024 – Termination of program

7. Name, title, phone number and email address of the institutional contact person in case more information is required (normally, the Dean of the Faculty in which the program is housed)

- Dr. Naomi Krogman, Dean, Faculty of Environment, 778 782 8797, [envdean@sfu.ca](mailto:envdean@sfu.ca)

## GRADUATE COURSE DELETION

A course can be deleted if it has not been offered in the previous seven years or if there is no chance of it being offered again. Once a course has been deleted for a minimum of 10 years, the course subject and number can be re-used.

<b>Course Subject / Number</b> ECO 600	<b>Units</b> 0
<b>Course Title</b> Ecological Restoration	
<b>Reason for Deletion</b> Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated. Not required for any other degree requirements.	
<b>Effective Term and Year:</b> Summer 2025	

## Before Submission to SGSC check the following:

Is this course required for degree completion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Do any program calendar entries need to be changed as a result of this withdrawal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Does the departmental website need to be updated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

## Additional information for any YES responses:



Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated

**REMINDER:** All course deletions must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.


## CONTACT PERSON

<b>Department / School / Program</b> School of Environmental Science	<b>Contact name</b> Rebecca Ho	<b>Contact email</b> evscmgr@sfu.ca
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## DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL

<b>Department Graduate Program Committee</b> Shawn Chartrand	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> June 13, 2024
<b>Department Chair</b> Karen Kohfeld	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> June 13, 2024

## FACULTY APPROVAL

<b>Faculty Graduate Studies Committee (FGSC)</b> Christina Giovas	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> July, 2, 2024
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## SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<b>Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)</b> Mary O'Brien	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> September 10, 2024
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<b>Course Subject / Number</b> ECO 611	<b>Units</b> 3
<b>Course Title</b> Concepts of Ecological Restoration and the Biological Environment	
<b>Reason for Deletion</b>  Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated. Not required for any other degree requirements.	
<b>Effective Term and Year:</b> Summer 2025	

**Before Submission to SGSC check the following:**

Is this course required for degree completion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Do any program calendar entries need to be changed as a result of this withdrawal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Does the departmental website need to be updated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

**Additional information for any YES responses:**



Master of Science in Ecological Restoration is being terminated.

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## CONTACT PERSON

<b>Department / School / Program</b> School of Environmental Science	<b>Contact name</b> Rebecca Ho	<b>Contact email</b> evscmgr@sfu.ca
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<b>Course Subject / Number</b> ECO 621	<b>Units</b> 3
<b>Course Title</b> Graduate Seminars in Research Methods	
<b>Reason for Deletion</b>  Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated. Not required for any other degree requirements.	
<b>Effective Term and Year:</b> Summer 2025	

**Before Submission to SGSC check the following:**

Is this course required for degree completion?

☒ YES☐ NO

Do any program calendar entries need to be changed as a result of this withdrawal?

☒ YES☐ NO

Does the departmental website need to be updated?

☒ YES☐ NO**Additional information for any YES responses:**



The Master of Science in Ecological Restoration is being terminated.

**REMINDER:** All course deletions must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.

## CONTACT PERSON

<b>Department / School / Program</b> School of Environmental Science	<b>Contact name</b> Rebecca Ho	<b>Contact email</b> evscmgr@sfu.ca
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<b>Course Subject / Number</b> ECO 622	<b>Units</b> 3
<b>Course Title</b> Project Management and Policy for Ecological Restoration	
<b>Reason for Deletion</b> Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated. Not required for any other degree requirements.	
<b>Effective Term and Year:</b> Summer 2025	

## Before Submission to SGSC check the following:

Is this course required for degree completion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Do any program calendar entries need to be changed as a result of this withdrawal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Does the departmental website need to be updated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

## Additional information for any YES responses:



Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated.

**REMINDER:** All course deletions must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.


## CONTACT PERSON

<b>Department / School / Program</b> School of Environmental Science	<b>Contact name</b> Rebecca Ho	<b>Contact email</b> evscmgr@sfu.ca
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<b>Course Subject / Number</b> ECO 630	<b>Units</b> 3
<b>Course Title</b> Applied Research Project I	
<b>Reason for Deletion</b> Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated. Not required for any other degree requirements.	
<b>Effective Term and Year:</b> Summer 2025	

## Before Submission to SGSC check the following:

- |                                                                                    |                                         |                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Is this course required for degree completion?                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| Do any program calendar entries need to be changed as a result of this withdrawal? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| Does the departmental website need to be updated?                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

## Additional information for any YES responses:



Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated.

**REMINDER:** All course deletions must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.

## CONTACT PERSON

<b>Department / School / Program</b> School of Environmental Science	<b>Contact name</b> Rebecca Ho	<b>Contact email</b> evscmgr@sfu.ca
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<b>Course Subject / Number</b> ECO 640	<b>Units</b> 3
<b>Course Title</b> Applied Research Project II	
<b>Reason for Deletion</b> Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated. Not required for any other degree requirements.	
<b>Effective Term and Year:</b> Summer 2025	

## Before Submission to SGSC check the following:

Is this course required for degree completion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Do any program calendar entries need to be changed as a result of this withdrawal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Does the departmental website need to be updated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

## Additional information for any YES responses:



Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated.

**REMINDER:** All course deletions must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.


## CONTACT PERSON

<b>Department / School / Program</b> School of Environmental Science	<b>Contact name</b> Rebecca Ho	<b>Contact email</b> evscmgr@sfu.ca
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<b>Course Subject / Number</b> ECO 641	<b>Units</b> 3
<b>Course Title</b> First Nations and Social Perspectives of Ecological Restoration	
<b>Reason for Deletion</b> Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated. Not required for any other degree requirements.	
<b>Effective Term and Year:</b> Summer 2025	

**Before Submission to SGSC check the following:**

Is this course required for degree completion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Do any program calendar entries need to be changed as a result of this withdrawal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Does the departmental website need to be updated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

**Additional information for any YES responses:**

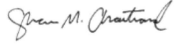

Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated.

**REMINDER:** All course deletions must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.

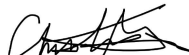
## CONTACT PERSON

<b>Department / School / Program</b> School of Environmental Science	<b>Contact name</b> Rebecca Ho	<b>Contact email</b> evscmgr@sfu.ca
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## SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<b>Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)</b> Mary O'Brien	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> September 10, 2024
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## GRADUATE COURSE DELETION

A course can be deleted if it has not been offered in the previous seven years or if there is no chance of it being offered again. Once a course has been deleted for a minimum of 10 years, the course subject and number can be re-used.

<b>Course Subject / Number</b> ECO 645	<b>Units</b> 3
<b>Course Title</b> Special Topics in Ecological Restoration	
<b>Reason for Deletion</b> Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated. Not required for any other degree requirements.	
<b>Effective Term and Year:</b> Summer 2025	

## Before Submission to SGSC check the following:

Is this course required for degree completion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Do any program calendar entries need to be changed as a result of this withdrawal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Does the departmental website need to be updated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

## Additional information for any YES responses:



Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated.

**REMINDER:** All course deletions must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.

## CONTACT PERSON

<b>Department / School / Program</b> School of Environmental Science	<b>Contact name</b> Rebecca Ho	<b>Contact email</b> evscmgr@sfu.ca
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## DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL

<b>Department Graduate Program Committee</b> Shawn Chartrand	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> June 13, 2024
<b>Department Chair</b> Karen Kohfeld	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> June 13, 2024

## FACULTY APPROVAL

<b>Faculty Graduate Studies Committee (FGSC)</b> Christina Giovas	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> July, 2, 2024
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## SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<b>Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)</b> Mary O'Brien	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> September 10, 2024
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## GRADUATE COURSE DELETION

A course can be deleted if it has not been offered in the previous seven years or if there is no chance of it being offered again. Once a course has been deleted for a minimum of 10 years, the course subject and number can be re-used.

<b>Course Subject / Number</b> ECO 650	<b>Units</b> 3
<b>Course Title</b> Directed Studies in Ecological Restoration	
<b>Reason for Deletion</b> Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated. Not required for any other degree requirements.	
<b>Effective Term and Year:</b> Summer 2025	

## Before Submission to SGSC check the following:

Is this course required for degree completion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Do any program calendar entries need to be changed as a result of this withdrawal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Does the departmental website need to be updated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

## Additional information for any YES responses:

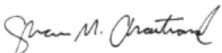

Master of Science in Ecological Restoration program is being terminated.

**REMINDER:** All course deletions must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.

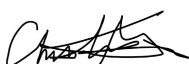
## CONTACT PERSON

<b>Department / School / Program</b> School of Environmental Science	<b>Contact name</b> Rebecca Ho	<b>Contact email</b> evscmgr@sfu.ca
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## DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL

<b>Department Graduate Program Committee</b> Shawn Chartrand	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> June 13, 2024
<b>Department Chair</b> Karen Kohfeld	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> June 13, 2024

## FACULTY APPROVAL

<b>Faculty Graduate Studies Committee (FGSC)</b> Christina Giovas	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> July, 2, 2024
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## SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<b>Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)</b> Mary O'Brien	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> September 10, 2024
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OFFICE OF THE PROVOST  
AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

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8888 University Drive  
Burnaby, BC  
Canada V5A 1S6

## MEMORANDUM

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ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	February 13, 2023
FROM	Wade Parkhouse, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Chair, SCUP	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Suspension of Admission: MSc in Ecological Restoration (SCUP 23-01)		

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wade Parkhouse", is written over the "PAGES" field of the memorandum.

At its meeting on January 25, 2023, SCUP reviewed and approved the suspension of admission to the Master of Science in Ecological Restoration. It is attached for the information of Senate.

C: Dr. Ruth Joy ([rjoy@sfu.ca](mailto:rjoy@sfu.ca))  
Dr. Karen Kohfeld ([sesdir@sfu.ca](mailto:sesdir@sfu.ca))  
Dr. Naomi Krogman ([envdean@sfu.ca](mailto:envdean@sfu.ca))



GRADUATE AND  
POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES

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Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

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FAX 778.782.3080

gradstudies@sfu.ca  
www.sfu.ca/grad

**MEMORANDUM**

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ATTENTION Senate Committee on University  
Priorities (SCUP) DATE December 9, 2022  
FROM Jeff Derksen,  
Chair of Senate Graduate Studies  
Committee (SGSC)  
RE: Suspension of Admission: Ecological Restoration MSc

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JD", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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**For approval:**

At its meeting of December 6, 2022, SGSC approved the suspension of admission for the Master of Science in Ecological Restoration within the Faculty of Environment and is recommending it to SCUP for approval, effective **Fall 2023**:

**Motion:**

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the suspension of admission for the Master of Science in Ecological Restoration within the Faculty of Environment

To: Jeff Derksen, Chair, Senate Graduate Studies Committee

Re: Suspension of Admission, Ecological Restoration

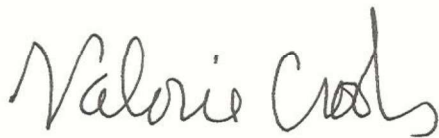
Date: November 28, 2022

November 2022

To: Senate Graduate Studies Committee

The Faculty of Environment Graduate Curriculum Committee supports the suspension of admission in the Ecological Restoration graduate program. Please bring the suspension of admission forward to SGSC for approval.

Many thanks,



Dr. Valorie A. Crooks  
Associate Dean – Research & Graduate  
Faculty of Environment, Simon Fraser University  
Professor & Canada Research Chair in Health Service Geographies  
Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University  
604.417.9007, crooks@sfu.ca



### Proposal to Suspend Admission to MSc in Ecological Restoration

In 2015, SFU and BCIT embarked on a joint professional Master of Science program in Ecological Restoration as a unique degree to advance both the practice and science of ecological restoration. The Program has successfully prepared over 150 practitioners to contribute to the recovery of ecosystems and land degradation across the province and beyond.

In spite of many success stories the program has not been without its challenges, the most longstanding of which are deeply entrenched cultural differences between the two institutions. Recently, MER program faculty and leaders from both institutions came together to work toward resolving the most problematic issue. The issues revolve around an applied research project for which specific faculty and student workloads have continually caused discomfort for all those involved. However, efforts to revise the program in a manner beneficial to both institutions have failed. Program admission will be suspended immediately and the program terminated if a mutually agreeable solution cannot be identified.

#### Rationale

Program admission is being suspended for following reasons:

- Institutional differences – Among many institutional differences, there is one key factor that has created an unresolvable divide between SFU and BCIT in the delivery of the MER program. It is expected that SFU and BCIT share equal responsibility for the program's applied research capstone project and that SFU research faculty support individual supervision of students in the same ways as BCIT instructors. This is an unrealistic expectation given that, in addition to this supervision, SFU faculty are also expected to perform teaching duties, run research programs, publish in scientific journals, contribute to knowledge mobilization in their respective fields, and secure tenure and promotion to Full professor. Our efforts to meet these expectations have created unintended consequences in the School of Environmental Science (EVSC): while most EVSC faculty have the freedom to dedicate time solely to traditional graduate students, the EVSC faculty contributing to the MER program carry 10 – 12 professional students in addition to any traditional graduate students they can afford the time to support.
- Program scalability – The Joint Collaboration Agreement defines the Applied Research Committee as having oversight for each student's applied research project, with a senior supervisor from either SFU or BCIT. In 2017, it was clarified that both institutions would be equally involved in the delivery and supervision of the applied research projects and that a financial adjustment would be made to either institution carrying more than half the supervisory load. This model has become financially unsustainable. Several alternate solutions, including a proposal to develop group project opportunities, were dismissed by BCIT based on yet another institutional difference. Unlike SFU, BCIT is funded based on employment success rates upon graduation. They are adamant that MER students must graduate with eligibility for the RPBio designation offered through the College of Applied

Biologists and that this designation is necessary for biologists to carry out or supervise work in many resource management activities. Given individual supervision is necessary to meet the College's credentialing standards, BCIT is unwilling to consider alternate models that would allow for program scalability.

- Financial Viability – SFU and BCIT split gross tuition revenue 50/50, with SFU's portion distributed to the Faculty of Environment through the Faculty Allocation Model yielding approximately 25% of annual gross revenue. Program expenses continue to eclipse revenue, and in 2022/23, the expected shortfall is \$126K. With tuition increases locked at 2% per year by the Ministry of Advanced Education and no options for program scalability, the Faculty of Environment cannot continue to carry program losses.

### Plan for Suspension

The MSc in Ecological Restoration is offered jointly between SFU's Faculty of Environment and the School of Construction and Environment at BCIT. On October 14, 2022, BCIT was given notice that the Joint Collaboration Agreement would not be renewed and that program admission would be suspended immediately.

The admission cycle that normally opens in October will not proceed and students will not be admitted to the program for Fall 2023. There are currently two cohorts of students that will continue in the program, with the September 2021 cohort completing in April 2023 and the September 2022 cohort completing in April 2024. These students will continue with no changes to the program and will be supported through to completion of their respective degrees.

The following steps have been or will be taken to communicate the plan to suspend program admission:

- Instructors and faculty at both institutions have been notified that program admission will be suspended, and planning should be done accordingly.
- Appropriate language will be developed and posted on both BCIT and SFU's websites to reflect that the program will not be offered in 2023.
- Current students will have individual meetings with supervisors to assure them that they will be supported through to the completion of their respective programs.
- The two SFU faculty members dedicated to the MER program will remain in the School of Environmental Sciences and be assigned normal research faculty duties.
- No other departments or Faculties are formally involved in the MER Program however, this change will be discussed at the Faculty of Environment's Academic Leadership Committee meeting.
- Termination of the program will only be pursued once all students in the current cohorts have graduated and if BCIT remains unwilling to address concerns.
- The Faculty will defer to the Graduate and Post Doctoral Studies Office to determine an appropriate entry for the SFU Calendar.



## Contact Information and Acknowledgements



Nov 2, 2022

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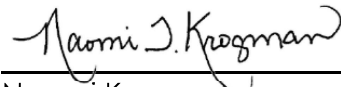
Ruth Joy  
Director, Ecological Restoration



3 Nov 2022

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Karen Kohfeld  
Director, School of Environmental Science



Nov 7, 2022

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Naomi Krogman  
Dean, Faculty of Environment

Should more detailed information be required please contact Naomi Krogman  
([envdean@sfu.ca](mailto:envdean@sfu.ca), 778 782-8797) , Dean of the Faculty of Environment.