

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate DATE January 15, 2026
FROM Mary O'Brien,
Chair of Senate Graduate Studies
Committee (SGSC)
RE: Program Changes



For information:

Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of **January 6, 2026**, SGSC approved the following curriculum item, effective **Fall 2026**:

Faculty of Environment

Department of Geography

- 1) Program Change: Geography MA
Program Change: Geography MSc

Faculty of Science

Department of Earth Sciences

- 2) Program Change: Earth Sciences PhD



To: Senate Graduate Studies Committee
From: Christina Giovas
Date: November 18, 2025
Re: Program Change – GEOG 608 and 629 inclusion in MSc and MA elective List

Dear Senate Graduate Studies Committee,

The program change below from the Department of Geography has been approved by the Faculty of Environment and is forwarded to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for approval. The proposed changes are intended for Fall 2026 implementation. Please include these materials on the next SGSC meeting agenda.

- Calendar Entry Change for MA and MSc programs to include:
 - GEOG 608 – Fundamentals of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning in Geography
 - GEOG 629 – Racial Capitalism and Beyond

GEOG 608 and 629 are new, Senate-approved courses that need to be integrated into program elective options. Additional details may be found in the attached memo from GEOG Graduate Program Chair, Rosemary Collard. Thank you for the committee's consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Giovas'.

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



Faculty of Environment
Department of Geography
Rosemary Collard / rcollard@sfu.ca
RCB 7124- 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC Canada V5A 1S6

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Christina Giovas, Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies, FENV
DATE 1 October 2025
FROM Rosemary Collard, Graduate Program Chair, Department of Geography
PAGES 1
RE Program Change – adding GEOG 608 and GEOG 629 Geography graduate programs

Dear Christina,

Geography would like to integrate two new (and Senate approved) graduate courses into our programs. We would like to add GEOG 608 to the list of elective Geography courses for Geography's MA and MSc programs; and add GEOG 629 to the list of eligible elective Geography courses for Geography's MA program.

The Department of Geography has approved these proposed changes as outlined on the attached program change form.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosemary Collard'.

Rosemary Collard,
Graduate Program Chair and Associate Professor
Department of Geography

Calendar Entry Change for Geography MA

<p>Summary of change: Add GEOG 608 and GEOG 629 to the list of elective Geography courses for Geography’s MA program.</p>
<p>Rationale for change: GEOG 608 and 629 are new courses (approved by Senate) that need to be integrated into Geography’s MA program.</p>
<p>Effective term and year: Fall 2026</p>
<p>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students? Current students will not be impacted by this change</p>

Calendar Change: All deletions should be crossed out as follows: All additions should be marked in **bold font**. Do not use “to” and “from” sections.

Program Requirements

This program consists of two introductory seminars, three graduate geography courses, a thesis proposal and a thesis, for a minimum of 30 units. Those admitted without an appropriate academic background may be required to complete additional coursework.

Students must complete both of

- GEOG 600 - Introduction to Graduate Studies: Fall Semester (1)
- GEOG 601 - Introduction to Graduate Studies: Spring Semester (1)

and*

- GEOG 603 - Theory and Methods for Human Geographers (5)

and two of*

GEOG 608 - Fundamentals of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning in Geography (4)

GEOG 620 - Selected Topics: Economy, Environment and Development (4)

GEOG 621 - Advanced Geographical Political Economy (4)

GEOG 629 – Racial Capitalism and Beyond (4)

GEOG 640 - Selected Topics in Social and Urban Geography (4)

GEOG 651 - Advanced Spatial Analysis and Modeling (4)

GEOG 653 - Remote Sensing of Environment (4)

GEOG 655 - Advanced Principles of Geographic Information Science (4)

GEOG 657 - Geovisualization Interfaces (4)

GEOG 665 - Relational Geographies of Conquest and Liberation (4)
GEOG 681 - Law and the Geographies of Power (4)
GEOG 686 - Advanced Health Geography (4)
GEOG 691 - Directed Readings (4)

and a thesis proposal

GEOG 678 - MA Thesis Proposal (1)

and a thesis

GEOG 698 - MA Thesis (18)

* Course substitutions may be allowed for different graduate geography courses or graduate courses outside of geography subject to approval.

Calendar Entry Change for Geography MSc

<p>Summary of change: Add GEOG 608 to the list of elective Geography courses for Geography’s MSc program.</p>
<p>Rationale for change: GEOG 608 is a new course (approved by Senate) that needs to be integrated into Geography’s MSc programs.</p>
<p>Effective term and year: Fall 2026</p>
<p>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students? Current students will not be impacted by this change</p>

Calendar Change: All deletions should be crossed out as follows: All additions should be marked in **bold font**. Do not use “to” and “from” sections.

Program Requirements

This program consists of two introductory seminars, three graduate geography courses, a thesis proposal and a thesis, for a minimum of 30 units. Those admitted without an appropriate academic background may be required to complete additional coursework.

Students must complete both of

GEOG 600 - Introduction to Graduate Studies: Fall Semester (1)
GEOG 601 - Introduction to Graduate Studies: Spring Semester (1)

and*

GEOG 606 - Research Design and Analytical Techniques in Physical Geography (5)

and two of*

GEOG 608 - Fundamentals of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning in Geography (4)

GEOG 612 - Glacial Geomorphology (4)

GEOG 613 - Fluvial Geomorphology (4)

GEOG 614 - Climatology (4)

GEOG 617 - Soil Science (4)

GEOG 651 - Advanced Spatial Analysis and Modeling (4)

GEOG 653 - Remote Sensing of Environment (4)

GEOG 655 - Advanced Principles of Geographic Information Science (4)

GEOG 657 - Geovisualization Interfaces (4)

GEOG 658 - Advanced Ecohydrology (4)
GEOG 691 - Directed Readings (4)

[...]



MEMO

**Faculty of
Science**

ATTENTION: Senate Graduate Studies Committee

FROM: Vance Williams, Associate Dean Graduate Studies, Faculty of
Science

RE: Proposed Calendar Change EASC

DATE: Dec. 3, 2025

Dear SGSC,

The following curriculum change has been approved by the Faculty of Science and are being submitted to the Senate Graduate Studies committee for approval.

The following Calendar change is being proposed:

EASC M.Sc. to Ph.D. Program change

Enclosed are the documents in support of this change.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vance Williams".

Vance Williams
Associate Dean Graduate Studies, Faculty of Science



DEPARTMENT
OF EARTH SCIENCES

MEMO

ATTENTION Vance Williams – AD Graduate Studies, Faculty of Science

FROM Sergio Sepúlveda – Graduate Program Chair, Department of Earth Sciences

RE Addition of requirement from student in request to transfer from MSc to PhD

DATE November 25, 2025

Dear Prof. Williams,

Please find attached a request to add a letter of motivation from the student and a statement confirming funding for the duration of the degree from the supervisor, to the list of requirements for transfer from the EASC MSc to PhD programs. The student letter represents a desire for the graduate committee to know the motivations of the student rationalising the program change and the confirmation of funding ensures the supervisor will be able to cover the student for the remainder of their degree.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Sepúlveda'.

Sergio Sepúlveda
Professor & Graduate Program Chair
Department of Earth Sciences

Calendar Entry Change for Earth Sciences PhD

<p>Summary of change: Requesting a letter of intent from the student, rationalizing the switch from a MSc to PhD. Requesting a statement from the supervisor confirming the availability of funds for the additional time in the PhD program.</p>
<p>Rationale for change: To provide more understanding for the graduate committee in making their decision. Currently, the requirements are primarily quantitative, so the only basis for the graduate committee's decision is the narrative-style letter provided by the supervisory committee. In that context, it is odd not to request a statement from the student, as is requested in the regular PhD admission process. Similarly, a statement assuring funding, as is done in the regular process, is also missing.</p>
<p>Effective term and year: Fall 2026</p>
<p>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students? No</p>

Calendar Change: All deletions should be crossed out as follows: All additions should be marked in **bold font**. Do not use “to” and “from” sections.

Admission Requirements

[...]

Transfer from MSc to PhD Program

Students who have excelled in their academic programs and who are judged to have outstanding research potential may apply for transfer from the MSc to the PhD program. The following are required:

- Completion of at least 75% of the course work units required for the MSc program
- A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 in the MSc program
- Successful completion of EASC 810 (MSc Thesis Proposal)
- **A letter of intent from the student, detailing why they want to switch from MSc to PhD**
- Endorsement of the student's supervisory committee in the form of a letter co-signed by all members. The letter should state the rationale for transfer, provide evidence of the student's doctoral research potential and address any perceived shortcomings in the application
- **A statement from the supervisor confirming the availability of minimum funding according to GGR 1.17.12.**
- Approval of the departmental graduate program committee
- An application for transfer can only be submitted after the second term and before the seventh term in the MSc program