

Interdisciplinary Program Proposal

<Title>

Thematic Area: <Concentration>

<Student Name>

<Date>

Student

Date

Concentration Area Representative

Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	i
Research Statement	1
Concentration Objective:	1
Student's Problem:	1
Course Work	1
Ethics	2
Qualifying and Preliminary Exam (PhD Students Only)	2
InterD 990	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Advisory Committee	3
Resources	3
Appendices	4

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Concentration Objective:

Co-operatives are associations of people who own and control enterprises for their own use.¹ Common examples include retail stores owned by consumers, housing complexes owned by tenants, financial institutions owned by depositors and borrowers, value-added enterprises owned by farmers, firms owned by employees, and so on. By definition, all co-operatives have a dual character as both democratic associations of people and as business enterprises. Discipline-based studies often concentrate on one part of the character of a co-operative: for example, studies of the co-operative business through Economics, Agricultural Economics, or Commerce; or studies of participation and leadership through Sociology, Political Studies, and the like. The interdisciplinary concentration in Co-operative Studies provides a framework for students to combine different perspectives and disciplines for a more holistic understanding of co-operatives as both enterprises and associations. This holistic perspective is even more critical in those cases where a third element is added in: community. Co-operatives are connected to their communities both through their business and through their membership/governance structure. Co-operative studies grounded in community settings are a particular interest in this concentration area and pose special challenges of integration and interdisciplinarity.

Student's Problem:

[Insert section outlining the research project or issue that the student will examine and its fit with the work of the concentration. This section will differ from one applicant to another.]

COURSE WORK

The Program of Study will comprise 12 credit units of graduate-level courses (equivalent to 4 single-term classes) for a Masters student, 9 credit units for a Ph.D. student. The

¹ International Co-operative Alliance Statement on the Co-operative Identity, 1995, in: Ian MacPherson, *Co-operative Principles for the 21st Century* (Geneva: ICA, 1996), p. 1.

courses chosen may be selected from those listed in the Co-operative Studies Letter of Intent.

Students must also complete

- GSR 960 Introduction to Ethics and Integrity
- INTD 990 seminar. Masters students are required to attend a minimum of 6 seminars and make a least one presentation in this seminar series during their program of study; PhD students are required to attend a minimum of nine INTD 990 seminars and make at least two presentations in this seminar series during their program of study; and,
- attendance at, as well as at least one presentation in, the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives graduate colloquium is considered part of the 990 requirement. Masters student attendance must equal a minimum of six seminars during their program of study; Ph D student attendance must equal a minimum of nine seminars during their program of study.

ETHICS

Research involving human subjects will follow normal university procedures. Students will be responsible for drafting behavioural ethics review applications prior to collecting data about or from human subjects. Their supervisors will review these applications and make comments or suggestions before the applications are submitted to the relevant university committee.

QUALIFYING AND PRELIMINARY EXAM (PHD STUDENTS ONLY)

The qualifying examination for Ph.D. students will take the form of a one-hour diagnostic interview by the advisory committee during the student's first term in the program. The purpose of the examination is to discuss and assess areas in which the student needs further preparation.

Comprehensive examinations for Ph.D. students will be taken in one major and, normally, two minor fields. The fields, the nature of the examinations, and their timing will be determined by the advisory committee following consultation with the student during the first year of the program. Normally comprehensive examinations will be taken in the second year of a Ph.D. program following completion of required course work. The advisory committee will appoint field examiners who will set the examination questions and evaluate the candidate's knowledge within the field on the basis of both written and oral questioning.

Advisory Committee

Chair: Concentration Area leader (or designate)

Supervisor: To Be Named

Committee Members:

The committee members will be drawn from the faculty members who have been named in the Co-operative Studies Letter of Intent.

RESOURCES

Students are eligible for scholarships both from the College of Graduate Studies and Research and from the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives. Scholarships will be awarded based on (a) successful admission or progress in the program; (b) academic excellence (maintenance of an A grade-point average); (c) compatibility with the themes of any research grants from which the scholarships are funded; and (d) total number of scholarships available. Scholarship holders will perform a small but regular amount of employment (normally four hours per week) for the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives. This will typically involve work as research assistants in areas relevant in some way to their graduate program.

The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives will provide office space, computer equipment, and library access to students admitted to the concentration area, subject to availability.

APPENDICES

Application for Admission to Interdisciplinary Program (GSR 103)

Transcripts

TOEFL (where applicable)

Letters of Reference (GSR 101)

Program of Studies Form (PhD – GSR 207; Masters – GSR 208)

Special Topics Courses

This section should include a written statement from faculty members offering special topics courses that they are willing to offer the course and that they will obtain approval for the course at the appropriate time. Applications for approval of Special Topics courses (please use form GSR 204) must be made separately from the InterD application. Some Special Topics courses may require an examination exemption (please use form GSR 401).

Curriculum Vitae for any Student Advisory Committee members who are not members of Graduate Faculty.

Correspondence (if applicable)