

February 23, 2010

**RICHARD PLANT**, Chair  
Graduate Group in International Agricultural Development

**RE: Graduate Group in International Agricultural Development revised M.S. degree requirements**

Dear Richard:

At its meeting of February 22, 2010 Graduate Council considered and approved the revisions to the degree requirements in the International Agricultural Development M.S. graduate program.

Enclosed is a copy of the new degree requirements with the Graduate Council approval date; please keep a copy for your files and for future revisions. The Office of Graduate Studies will also will keep a copy in its files and has posted them to your program page at:

[http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/programs/program\\_detail.cfm?id=57](http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/programs/program_detail.cfm?id=57).

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of graduate education.

Sincerely,



André Knoesen, Chair  
Graduate Council

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Enclosure

c:

EPC Chair Farnham  
Director Jurado  
Graduate Program Staff Maricich

# INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Revised: January 20, 2010

Graduate Council Approval: February 22, 2010

## 1. Admissions Requirements

Admission to the M.S. program in International Agricultural Development requires a Bachelor's degree or a Bachelor's degree equivalent as well as demonstrated commitment to international development. This could include study abroad, work in a developing country, or work on a community development project in a local community. A completed university application that includes GRE scores and three letters of recommendation is required. Priority deadline for admission is January 2 and the final admission deadline is April 15.

### a) Prerequisites:

In addition, applicants are expected to have the equivalent of the following UC Davis courses:

|          |  |         |
|----------|--|---------|
| ARE 100A | Intermediate Microeconomics                | 4 units |
| PLS 120  | Applied Statistics in Agricultural Science | 4 units |

### One of the following:

|          |   |         |
|----------|---|---------|
| PLS 110A | Principles of Agronomic Crop Production in Temperate and Tropical Systems | 3 units |
|----------|---|---------|

### One of the following:

|          |  |         |
|----------|--|---------|
| PLS 110L | Principles of Agronomy Laboratory                | 1 unit  |
| or       |  |         |
| PLS 110C | Crop Management Systems for Vegetable Production | 4 units |

### b) Deficiencies.

Course work deficiencies should be made up by the end of the first academic year following initial enrollment by earning a letter grade of "B" or better.

## 2) Master's Plan

**Plan I.** This plan requires 42 units of graduate and upper division courses (i.e., from the 100 and 200 series only) and, in addition, a thesis. At least 16 of the 42 units must be in the major field, and at least 8 of these 16 must be graduate units. At least 8 units of research (299 or equivalent).

**Plan II.** This plan requires 42 units of graduate and upper division courses, of which at least 24 units must be graduate courses in the major field. At least 8 of these 24 must be graduate units. A comprehensive final examination in the major subject is required of each candidate. No thesis is required.

3) **Course Requirements - Core and Electives (42 units)**

a) **Core Courses (18 units):**

**Required courses:**

|   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| IAD 200N  | Philosophy and Practice of Agricultural Development | 5 units |
| IAD 201   | The Economics of Small Farms and Farming Systems    | 4 units |
| IAD 202N  | Analysis and Determinants of Farming Systems        | 4 units |
| IAD 290   | Seminar in International Agricultural Development   | 1 unit  |
| *IAD 170 or 203N  | Project Planning & Evaluation                       | 4 units |
| *Other courses covering this topic may be substituted with the consent of the Advisor |   |         |

b) **Elective Courses (24 units total):**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Classes in Field of Specialization as approved by the Advisor |   |
| Plan I  | At least 16 units<br>At least 8 units of research |
| Plan II   | At least 24 units required                        |
| Both plans  | At least 8 units must be in 200 level courses     |

c) **Summary:**

42 total units (core and elective) are required.  
At least 26 units must be graduate coursework  
Plan I students must complete 8 units of IAD 299  
Minimum course load is 12 units each academic quarter.

4) **Special requirements**

None.

5) **Committees:**

a) **Admission Committee**

Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application will be submitted to the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee consists of five graduate group faculty and two graduate group students. Based on a review of the entire application, a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant's request for admission. That recommendation is forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval of admission. Notification of admissions decisions will be sent by Graduate Studies. Applications are accepted through April 15 for the next Fall entering.

b) **Course Guidance or Advising Committee**

The Graduate Adviser, acting in conjunction with the major professor for Plan I students, assists the student in developing the study plan. The study plan must incorporate a minimum of 12 units per quarter for full time students. These 12 units can be made up of required courses and 299s.

c) **Thesis Committee or Comprehensive Examination Committee**

The student, in consultation with his/her major professor and graduate advisor, nominates three faculty to serve on the Thesis (Plan I) or Examination (Plan II) Committee. For Plan I students, nominations are submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for formal appointment in accordance with Graduate Council policy (DDB 80, Graduate Council B.1.); for Plan II students, the Graduate Group Chair appoints the comprehensive exam committee.

6) **Advising Structure and Mentoring**

For Plan I students, the **Major Professor** is the faculty member who supervises the student's research and thesis; this person serves as the Chair of the Thesis Committee. The **Graduate Advisor**, who is appointed by the Chair of the program, is a resource for information on academic requirements, policies and procedures, and registration information until the Course Guidance Committee is formed. The Graduate Advisor has primary responsibility for supervision of Plan II students. The **Mentoring Guidelines** can be found in the Program description located at [http://iad.ucdavis.edu/program/index\\_program.html](http://iad.ucdavis.edu/program/index_program.html)

7) **Advancement to Candidacy**

Every student must file an official application for Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Science in International Agricultural Development after completing one-half of their course requirements and at least one quarter before completing all degree requirements. The Candidacy for the Degree of Master form can be found online at: <http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/forms/>. A completed form includes a list of courses the student will take to complete degree requirements. If changes must be made to the student's course plan after s/he has advanced to candidacy, the Graduate Adviser must recommend these changes to Graduate Studies. Plan I students must have their Graduate Adviser and thesis committee Chair sign the candidacy form before it can be submitted to Graduate Studies; Plan II students only need their Graduate Adviser's signature on the candidacy form as Graduate Studies does not appoint comprehensive exam committees. If the candidacy is approved, the Office of Graduate Studies will send a copy to: the Thesis Committee Chair, the appropriate graduate staff person, and the student. If the Office of Graduate Studies determines that a student is not eligible for advancement, the department and the student will be told the reasons for the application's deferral. Some reasons for deferring an application include: grade point average below 3.0, outstanding "I" grades in required courses, or insufficient units.

Students must complete the Candidacy application prior to the quarter in which they will file a thesis or take the comprehensive exam, normally in the 5<sup>th</sup> quarter. For Plan I (thesis option), students will list their three committee members for Office of Graduate Studies approval. For Plan II (exam option), students do not need to provide names of the exam committee members.

8) **Comprehensive Examination and Thesis Requirements**

a) **Thesis Requirements (Plan I)**

A written outline of the research project shall be submitted to the thesis committee by the end of the fourth quarter. This outline will include critical

evaluation of the methods and their limitations plus a full description of experimental design, protocols, and data analysis. Consultations should occur at reasonable time intervals between the candidate and the thesis committee meeting as a group. The M.S. thesis should be:

- A scholarly piece of experimental research.
- Rigorous in approach (design, methodology, and analysis), but not as extensive as a Ph.D. dissertation.

It is expected that the student submit the draft thesis to his or her committee by the end of the spring quarter of the second year (6<sup>th</sup> quarter). An exception is explicitly made to this policy for Plan I students whose research requires two seasons of field work; it is expected that these students will submit the draft thesis to their committee by the end of the fall quarter of the third year (7<sup>th</sup> quarter).

Thesis committee members will have one month to review the thesis. Failure to return comments after one month will be considered implicit approval. Students must submit a revised thesis to the committee within one month of receiving comments. Approval of the thesis by the committee must be unanimous. In cases where there is disagreement over the approval of the thesis, the final decision will be made by the Graduate Group Chair, in consultation with the major professor. Students whose thesis fails to gain approval will be recommended for disqualification from the program to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

b) **Comprehensive Examination (Plan II)**

Every M.S. Plan II student must pass a comprehensive exam. The M.S. Comprehensive Examination is an oral examination, administered by a committee of three faculty members, whose duration is about 2 hours. It is expected that the student take the exam in winter quarter of their second year (5<sup>th</sup> quarter).

The chair of the Graduate Group will appoint an examination committee that will be responsible for preparing, administering and grading the examination. This committee will forward its recommendation to the chair of the Graduate Group, who will make the final decision on each student. Should a student not pass the oral comprehensive exam, he or she will be offered a second opportunity, which must be completed by the end of the academic quarter immediately following that in which the first exam was taken or by the time specified at the end of the first exam by the examining committee, whichever is later. If a student does not attempt the second oral exam, it will be counted as a failure. Students who fail on the second attempt will be recommended for disqualification from the program to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The student will prepare a capstone project and the first portion of the oral exam (at least 30 minutes) will consist of an oral presentation of this project. The student will present an outline describing the project to the exam committee at least two weeks prior to the exam. The exam committee chair may, at his or her discretion, also require a written project. The project must apply to a real problem in international agricultural development concepts learned in the course of the student's study for the MS. Following the

presentation, examiners will question the student on his or her knowledge of the material. Questions will not be limited to the student's presentation topic but must cover any aspect of the students' coursework in completion of the degree requirements.

**9) Normative Time to Degree**

The Normative Time to Degree for the M.S. program is six quarters (two years). Exception to this normative time is explicitly made for students whose thesis research requires two seasons of field work. For these students the normative time is eight quarters.

**10) Typical Time Line and Sequence of Events**

**Year 1:**

| <i>Fall</i> | <i>Winter</i> | <i>Spring</i> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| IAD 200N    | IAD 201       | IAD 202N      |
| PLS 110C    | Elective      | Elective      |
| IAD 290     | Elective      | Elective      |
| Elective    |               |               |

**Year 2:**

| <i>Fall</i>  | <i>Winter</i>                  | <i>Spring</i>           |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Elective   | Elective                       | IAD 203N                |
| Elective   | IAD 299                        | IAD 299                 |
| IAD 299  | <i>M.S. Comprehensive Exam</i> | <i>Thesis submitted</i> |
| <i>Thesis outline submitted</i><br><i>(Plan I)</i> | <i>(Plan II)</i>               | <i>(Plan I)*</i>        |

*\*Plan I students whose research requires two seasons of field work are allowed to submit their thesis by the end of fall quarter of their 3<sup>rd</sup> year.*

**11) Sources of funding.**

Students are typically funded through a combination of Graduate Student Researcher positions, Teaching Assistantships, fellowships, and self support.

**12) PELP, In Absentia and Filing Fee status**

Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave), In Absentia (reduced fees when researching out of state), and Filing Fee status can be found in the Graduate Student Guide: <http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/publications/>