



NEPAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY
MANBHAWAN, LALITPUR, NEPAL

MASTER DEGREE IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT
2076 (2020)

Introduction

Natural resources are the principal economic drivers for the developing countries like Nepal. Natural resources based industries such as eco-tourism, hydropower, non-timber forest products are the contributors in socio-economic development. However, unplanned infrastructural growth and economic activities have posed negative consequences mainly in terms of degradation in environmental quality and depletion of natural resources. To address the current environmental issues and development challenges and promote structured development practices, adequately trained, informed and skilled human resources are required. Natural Resources and Development (NRD), a Masters Degree program of Nepal Open University, offers opportunity for career-oriented professionals and practitioners to develop their skills and expertise in the field of natural resources and development. It also opens up opportunities to explore various arrays on the interlinkages, interactions and complementarities between natural resources and development sectors. This course will contribute to meet the demand of required capable human resources to deal with the emerging thirst of 21st Century on NRD and address the everyday changing contexts. The academic program seeks to unravel different dynamics of various forms of natural resources on the development and vice versa without compromising the environment, and achieving the overall development objective of the nation. The program offers several modules on theories, concept and practices of natural resources management and development. After the completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate and apply the learnt knowledge and skills in appropriate natural resources planning and designing developmental programs to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Aim and Objectives of the Program

The aim of the course is to enable the students to assess and learn multidisciplinary approach of natural resources, environment, development practices, social and economic aspects, and their interlinkages in the overall development outcomes towards achieving prosperous Nepal.

- Equip students with knowledge, technical know-how, and practical skills through interdisciplinary sharing-learning, observation and quasi-experiment of the concerned subjects,
- Provide students the learning opportunities in contemporary and frontier fields of nature resources and development by utilizing knowledge of science, technology and practices; thereby developing their skills and expertise for natural resources friendly development practices and prosperous natural resources management interventions,
- Produce knowledgeable, skillful and capable human resources that are updated and informed and are ready to take challenges in order to apply new ideas and innovations at various professions including local government authority, local officials and development practitioners,
- Develop professionals capable of improving the conventional practices towards more empirical and exploring new opportunities to make the development interventions relevant in the current context.

Admission Eligibility

For admission eligibility to the program, an applicant must have completed the following prerequisites:

- I. Applicant must have completed bachelor's degree in natural science, engineering or any science related discipline from a recognized university,
 - II. Students who have completed bachelor's degree in humanities, management, development studies, other related field need to complete one year diploma on NRD; or should provide evidence of having experience of working more than five years in natural resources and development field.
- Applicants will be selected from a merit list of entrance examination conducted by the Nepal Open University.

Degree Award

Degree award to the students enrolled in master degree in Natural Resources and Development program will be based on their admission criteria as:

- Students enrolled through admission eligibility criteria I will be awarded: "Master's Degree in Science in Natural Resources and Development (MSc in NRD)" .
- Students enrolled through admission eligibility criteria II will be awarded: "Master's Degree in Natural Resources and Development" (Ms in NRD).

Course Delivery

- Deliver online courses where the instructor and student and, student and student will connect virtually to build up system for interaction.
- Use of e-learning approach integrated into teaching and learning strategies through the use of professional online databases, video-audio system of learning. This system will provide the learners the interface between synchronous and asynchronous interaction.
- Learners' future career is secured through quality education mediated by technology in a blended mode: a combination of online and face-to-face interaction at service center. The blended mode includes mix of lectures, seminars, workshops, webinars, etc.
- Students will also participate in seminars, workshops, discussion and critiques of academic papers, case study scenarios and general discussions of academic and ethical issues.
- Where relevant, the students will also be connected with relevant organizations working on development and natural resources management; so that they get opportunities to interact and learn from the other practitioners.

Evaluation

During the semester, 40% percent marks will be allocated for the internal assessments. This includes participation in workshops, seminars, attending lecturer's classes and reviewing the reading materials and case studies, term paper and project work assignments. The respective instructor and professor will be responsible for this formative evaluation. After the completion of semester, 60% of marks will be allocated to evaluate the understanding and knowledge of the student on subject matter. The student should appear in the designated examination center and take up the proctored examination.

Course Structure

Master degree in Natural Resources and Development is divided into four semesters across two academic years. The course carries 63 credits (36 credits theory ~ around 60% and 27 credits for skill development including research ~ around 40%) with 1575 full marks and 1755 lecture hours.

The first semester offers four compulsory and a skill development course with 15 credits. The theory course includes basic knowledge on Environment and Natural Resources; Development Theories and Development Practices; Society, Culture and Social Development; and Legal Framework and Good Practices in Natural Resources Management. The Natural Resource and Development skill-I includes Seminar, Workshop and Case Study and also professional development skills. Similarly, the second semester also offers four compulsory theory and a skill development course with 15 credits. The theory course includes advance knowledge on Natural Resource Economics; National Development Policies and Strategies; Global Environmental Change; and Statistics and Research Methodology. The Natural Resources and Development skill-II course includes Workshop, Term Paper and Case Study.

The third semester offers four specialized (two compulsory and two optional courses) and one skill development course with 17 credits. The compulsory course includes Natural Resource Management and Resources Conservation and Local Development Planning and Management. The optional course includes group A: Forests Management and Biodiversity Conservation OR Landscape Planning and Landscape Engineering, OR Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, and group B: Watershed Management OR Wildlife conflict and Conflict Management OR Natural Resource Governance. The Natural Resource and Development skill-III includes Review Writing and Proposal Writing. Finally, the fourth semester offers skills development (Project Work and Research Paper Writing) and Dissertation (research) with 16 credits. Students must complete and submit the dissertation work within six months as regular, and one year as part time student. In special cases, the research committee may extend the duration of dissertation with the consent of relevant authority.

Course Structure Matrix of Natural Resources and Development

Semester I (Compulsory)	Semester II (Compulsory)	Semester III Specialized (Optional)	Semester IV (Compulsory)
NRD 501. Environment and Natural Resources	NRD 551. Natural Resource Economics	NRD 601. Natural Resources Management and Resources Conservation	
NRD 502. Development Theories and Development Practices	NRD 552. National Development Policies and Strategies	NRD 602. Local Development Planning and Management	NRD 651. Project Work
NRD 503. Society, Culture and Social Development	NRD 553. Global Environmental Change	NRD 603 Forests Management and Biodiversity Conservation OR Landscape Planning and Landscape Engineering OR Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management	
NRD 504. Legal Frameworks and Good Practices in Natural Resources Management	NRD 554. Statistics and Research Methodology	NRD 604. Watershed Management OR Wildlife conflict and Conflict Management OR Natural Resource Governance	NRD 652. Research Paper Writing
NRD 505. NRD Skill-I (Seminar, Workshop, Case Study)	NRD 555. NRD Skill-II (Workshop, Term Paper, Case Study)	NRD 605. NRD Skill-III (Review Writing, Proposal Writing)	NRD 699. Dissertation
4x3+3=15	4x3+3=15	4x3=12+3+2 =17	2+2+12 =16