

# GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

**Department Website:** <https://www.smu.ca/academics/sobey/sobey-international-centre-co-op-management.html>

Saint Mary's University offers two international management programs that provide exceptional management skills to current and future co-operative leaders:

- Master of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Unions
- Graduate Diploma in Co-operative Management

These programs are designed for working professionals seeking a part-time, on line program geared to co-operatives, credit unions, and mutuals. The programs draw students, faculty, and researchers from around the globe and from a diversity of co-operative sector organizations.

Throughout the curriculum, management functions are explored within the context of the co-operative business model while being driven by the purpose, values and principles of cooperation. Beyond the development of a deep understanding of the history and evolution of the co-operative movement, learning encompasses governance, strategy, leadership and people management skills through to accounting finance, marketing, and information technology.

The program is predominantly on line with students and faculty in various countries interacting as part of a co-operative learning community. To facilitate this on line learning experience, strong relationships are forged during a one week face-to-face orientation at the start of the program and during the international study tour in year 2 (for Master program students).

## Admission Requirements

These programs follow the general admission requirements (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/admissions/>) and procedures of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) as outlined in the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar with the following additional requirements:

- **Letter of Intent:** A two page description that outlines how the Master or Graduate Diploma program will benefit you and your organization.
- **Letter of Support:** A letter from the co-operative sector organization (typically your employer) that you will use as a case study, indicating their willingness to have you study various aspects of the organization.
- **Resume:** Submit a current resume and list your most recent experience first;
- **Recommendations:** two confidential recommendation forms, one of which should be from a current or former professor. The other one will be work experience references. **Note:** If you are unable to find an academic recommendation then two professional recommendations will be accepted.

In addition, we require that you:

- Be actively engaged in the co-operative sector (e.g. employed by a co-operative, credit union, mutual, or sector association serving governance roles, consulting) preferably in a supervisory or management position.

- Have completed an undergraduate degree or have an equivalent combination of training and experience.
- Have adequate access to the internet and a computer to enable you to handle the demands of computer-based distance education.

We encourage you to apply early as we review and make acceptance decision on applications throughout the year. **April 1st is the standard application deadline**, and a requirement for bursary consideration. Applications after this date will be accepted until spaces are filled, or until a final deadline of May 31st.

## Program Requirements

See the FGSR Program Requirements (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/program-study-research/>) in the *Graduate Studies Academic Calendar* in addition to the requirements detailed below.

Given that the programs are internet-based, using course delivery software, candidates and faculty meet virtually rather than in a classroom setting. There are two exceptions. Candidates gather together in Halifax for a compulsory five day Orientation before beginning their program.

While this orientation is not for credit, it is a compulsory part of the program. In addition, during the second year of the Master degree program, part of one class involves a ten day international study visit to experience integrated cooperative development in action.

The Master degree program consists of thirty-six (36) credit-hours of courses followed by a six (6) credit hour Master Research Project. The program is designed to be completed in three years on a part-time basis. The Graduate Diploma consists of twenty-one (21) credit hours of courses. The program is designed to be completed in sixteen (16) months on a part time basis.

Master and Graduate Diploma students begin their programs as a combined cohort. Courses are designed to be taken in sequence by the full entering cohort. After the first year, Diploma students may opt to choose six (6) credits of second year courses out of sequence, and complete the requirements in twenty months instead.

**(All courses are designed to be taken in the order indicated below. The Program Director may grant permission to deviate from the order indicated on a case by case basis.)**

First Year		Credit Hours
MMCC 5101	History of the Movement	1.5
MMCC 5110	Global Economy and Society	3
MMCC 5170	The Enterprise Model	1.5
MMCC 5130	Accounting and Reporting	3
MMCC 5180	Strategic Advantage	1.5
MMCC 5121	Governance	1.5
MMCC 5150	Innovation	1.5
MMCC 5161	Digital Transformation	1.5
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
Second Year		
6 credit hours among the following courses:		6
MMCC 5206	Organizational Behaviour and Leadership	
MMCC 5210	Current Issues	
MMCC 5230	Financial Management	

MMCC 5270	Field Research & Study Tour: An Ecosystem for a Co-operative Economy	
MMCC 5280	Marketing the Advantage	
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>21</b>