

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability
Resource Management and Environmental Studies**
Aquatic Ecosystem Research Laboratory
4th Floor – 2202 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4
www.ires.ubc.ca

RMES Student Guidance Questionnaire

Congratulations for reaching a major landmark in your degree! This is a great time to think back on your experience so far and think about what is working for you and what isn't. This questionnaire has both personal goals for you as a student and institutional goals for IRES.

The personal goals are:

- to provide you with an opportunity to reflect upon your relationship with your committee members
- to help you and the graduate advisor identify any current or potential problems with your supervisor or committee members

The institutional goals are:

- to follow up our comprehensive exams policy for PhD students
- to follow up student progress for both Master's and PhD students
- to flag faculty members who routinely appear to have problems with their students. IRES has a large number of associates, many of whom are not in close contact with the institute therefore it can be difficult to assess the quality of guidance students are receiving.

In order to help you evaluate your relationship with your supervisors and committee members it is recommended that you fill out a separate questionnaire for each of them. The information you provide will be strictly confidential between you and the Graduate Advisor. After you complete the questionnaire the graduate advisor will read it. If s/he perceives any problems, s/he will contact you and together you can decide if you would like to address any conflicts or difficulties with the respective committee members.

The Graduate Secretary will construct a data base in which the information from the questionnaires is compiled over time to make it possible to identify potential problems with the comprehensive policy as well as persistent concerns with committee members and supervisors. After the Graduate Advisor has read your questionnaire s/he will pass it on to the Graduate Secretary who will enter that data and ensure that it remains confidential. The database will be constructed in such a way that the student providing the information cannot be identified. The original questionnaires will be shredded.

This questionnaire has four main sections focused on your general relationship, communication, guidance and finances. Each section includes one or two questions that ask you for a rating and an open ended question. To help you think about both the strengths and concerns in your relationship with your committee members several prompts in each section are included. There is also space at the end of the questionnaire for you to add any additional comments.

Timing for this questionnaire normally suggested:

- Master's or PhD students: during the first year in program and prior to March 31st
- PhD students: after Proposal, or before the Comprehensive Exams, or after Comprehensive Exams
- Master's students: after graduation from completed program
- Questionnaire may also be filled out at any time by student and submitted

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability
Resource Management and Environmental Studies
Aquatic Ecosystem Research Laboratory
4th Floor – 2202 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4
www.ires.ubc.ca

Section Three: Communication

	great			Very poor	
I think that the quantity of contact with this faculty member is	1	2	3	4	5
I think the quality of communication I have with this faculty member is	1	2	3	4	5

Please tell us about your communication with this faculty member. Some of the things you may want to consider are:

- what an ideal amount of contact would be
- the extent to which this person provides appropriate written and oral feedback within a reasonable time frame
- the extent to which you have his/her full attention during meetings
- how responsive this s/he is to your efforts to contact him/her (ie. answers email, acknowledges attempts at contact)

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability
Resource Management and Environmental Studies
Aquatic Ecosystem Research Laboratory
4th Floor – 2202 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4
www.ires.ubc.ca

Section Four: Guidance

I feel that I receive sufficient guidance for my work from this person

	agree				disagree
	1	2	3	4	5

What kind of expertise are you seeking from this faculty member? (i.e., topical, particular research methods, general research approach etc.)

How do you feel about the guidance you receive from this person? Some of the possible aspects you may want to consider include your perception that:

- s/he understands your research
- s/he has sufficient expertise in the area in which you require guidance
- his/her guidance improves the quality of your work
- s/he encourages you to present your work in external environments (i.e., publishing, conferences etc.) and supports you through the process
- s/he works well with your other committee members

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability
Resource Management and Environmental Studies
Aquatic Ecosystem Research Laboratory
4th Floor – 2202 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4
www.ires.ubc.ca

Section Five: Financial Support

	agree				disagree
I feel that this person has devoted adequate attention to helping me secure financial support	1	2	3	4	5

Please comment about this person's involvement in your financial situation. Some of the aspects you may wish to consider could include the extent to which this person has:

- provided direct funding or resources in kind (i.e. laboratory space, equipment, software)
- assisted in preparing grant and scholarship applications (i.e. letters of reference, assistance in preparing written statements, CV advice)
- helped strategize about the process of procuring financial support
- informed you about relevant opportunities

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability
Resource Management and Environmental Studies
Aquatic Ecosystem Research Laboratory
4th Floor – 2202 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4
www.ires.ubc.ca

Section Six: What Haven't You Been Asked?

Is there anything else you would like to mention about your experience working with this faculty member?