

WATR7500* - Final project (8 units)

* Course codes for part-time students are WATR7501, WATR7502 or WATR7503, depending on academic calendar and expected semester of graduation.

Aims

To demonstrate individual inquiry and the ability to plan, execute and deliver a high quality submission that illustrates skills, knowledge and critical assessment of contemporary aspects of integrated water management (IWM).

Learning objectives

The final project enables participants to:

- Discover through practical application how to apply tools and concepts of integrated water management to an existing or emerging focal water resource issue that is of professional or personal interest
- Undertake self-directed project work aimed at demonstrating skills in planning, executing and delivering a high quality submission that demonstrates individual inquiry, critical problem solving and effective communication of complex issues
- Develop skills in critical inquiry of conceptual and operational aspects of water management; adopting multi-disciplinary / multi-stakeholder perspective of a current or emerging water issue
- Build professional links and networks in the water practitioners throughout the project experience; develop leadership skills and advocated integrated, reflective practice.

Module description

The [Master of Integrated Water Management \(MIWM\)](#) creates future water leaders who can cross social, environmental and technological boundaries to find sustainable solutions to global water challenges in urban and rural contexts. The program has been designed to provide graduates with a strong theoretical foundation in IWM best practice, strengthened by a practical skill set developed through problem-based learning projects, field trips and a final project experience.

The IWM project is a compulsory module, undertaken as the 'final project' component of the Master of Integrated Water Management (MIWM) program (see Figure 1 on the left). Here, participants design and undertake self-directed project work to consolidate and apply concepts, principles and methodologies learned in the [MIWM Foundation, Integration and Specialisation modules](#).

Participants are encouraged to base their project on a focal issue that is of personal or professional development interest, which they will explore under the guidance of dedicated professional and academic supervisory expertise. Professional placements with NGOs, research institutes, water industry clients and service providers, private consultants, or natural resources management organisations are encouraged. Where possible, participants will be linked with IWC partners and associates.

The project is assessed by means of a report which represents the academic effort attributable to one semester of full-time work, or two semesters of part-time work (8 units at The University of Queensland). Participants should discuss and agree the overall scope and outcomes of the project with the staff of the IWC and secure academic supervisors prior to commencing work.

Scholarship and visa conditions permitting, projects can be undertaken in Australia or overseas.

Visit IWC website for more information: www.watercentre.org/final-project

Enrolment options

The final project is offered in both full-time and part-time delivery modes. Participants have the option to select ONE of the following enrolment options to complete the course:

Full-time enrolment options:

Semester 1	Feb - Jun
Semester 2	Jul - Oct

Part-time^ enrolment options:

Semester 1	Feb - Oct
Semester 2	Jul - Jun

^ Part-time delivery options are available only to domestic students.

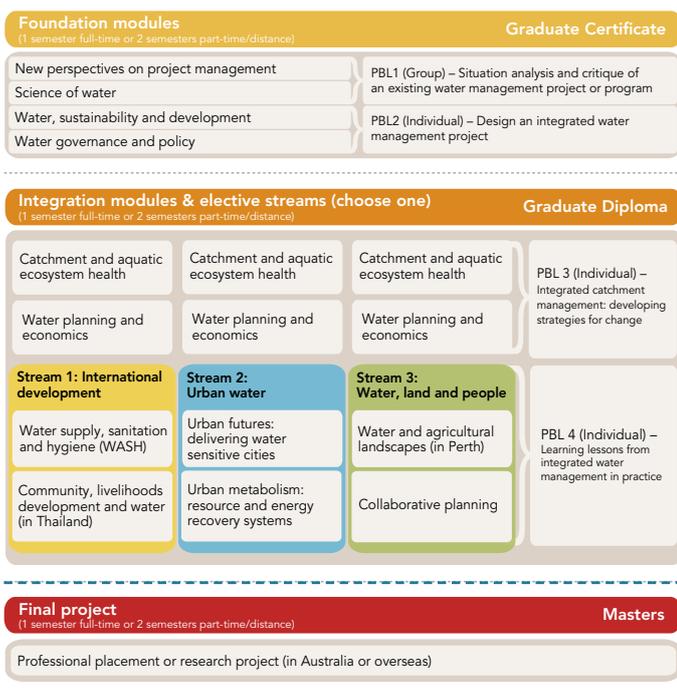


Figure 1: Program structure - final project component



IWC Graduates receive a co-badged degree from four leading Australian universities, ranked amongst the top 1% of the best universities in the world for teaching and research. (QS Global Ranking)

Pre-requisites

Prior to undertaking their final project, participants must:

- Successfully complete the MIWM Foundation, Integration and Specialisation modules; and
- Obtain permission from the Head of School of Chemical Engineering at The University of Queensland.

Teaching staff

- **Course Coordinator:** [Professor Paul Lant](#) (The University of Queensland)
- **Project Coordinator:** [Dr Karen Benn](#) (International WaterCentre)

Student knowledge base at the commencement of the final project

At the commencement of the final project, MIWM participants have been exposed to a mixture of theoretical and evidence based learning from systems, planning and the philosophy of science to firmly root the nature of water management as a practical discipline dealing with complex issues and situations. Questions are raised over the need for change in water management practice, and why future generations will need to think and act differently about water.

Student skills are developed to help them characterise contemporary water-related challenges across the world, anticipate emerging and future challenges, and map out the dimensions of some of the responses which will be required. Questions of social purpose are raised to stimulate reflection on professional purpose and ambition, and incorporation of personal values into a reflective professional praxis.

At IWC, we believe this reflective professional praxis will be essential for future water professionals to effectively and justly engage in the complex, potentially conflict ridden changes required across the sector.

“Since the program’s launch in 2008, IWC students have delivered more than 153 projects in 45 countries, in collaboration with 128 organisations across the globe.”

STUDENT FINAL PROJECT

Maria Belén Andrade (Ecuador)

Engaged or Disengaged? Bringing motivations and emotions into the study of multi-stakeholder platforms for Integrated Catchment Management – A case study of multi-stakeholder platforms in the Pumicestone Region Catchment, Queensland, Australia

Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) are widely promoted to attain a new water governance system known as Integrated Catchment Management (ICM). MSPs are often considered to be conflict-free and rational spaces for participation, leaving aside the fact that they are composed of human beings, who are far more complex than this. MSPs are usually initiated by the government or an NGO (due to the skills required to facilitate a positive environment for dialogue).

However, one must ask: what motivates people to join, remain active in and leave MSPs, and what experiences and emotions make some individuals who have left cynical about joining other participatory initiatives?

Belen undertook a six-month research project to answer this question through the examination of three government-invited MSPs from the Pumicestone Catchment Region in Queensland, Australia. She approached the study of engagement and disengagement of participants in MSPs through the socio-psychological lens of motivations and emotions, and how they influence behaviour in order to attain ICM goals.



Project options

The final project offers an opportunity for participants to demonstrate integration of the different MIWM program elements within a coherent, self-directed project experience.

There are three broad project options for participants to choose from:

- Professional placement
- Applied research
- Desktop research

Mode of delivery

The mode of project delivery is flexible. This enables participants to tailor the project experience to their demonstrate strengths, and achieve personal and professional development aspirations.

Project delivery can take the following forms:

- A project with a host organization or community group (professional placement or collaborative project),
- A project within the student's current workplace (for part-time students, a project tailored to their job and adding value to their employer), or
- A self-driven research project (involving either field work or a desk-based critical review).

Guidance will be provided by IWC staff throughout the taught semesters of the MIWM program to help participants decide which option is best for them.

Assessment

The IWM final project submission will either take the form of a 14,000 word report, OR a multimedia submission (audio, video, graphic design, phone app) accompanied by a 10,000 word report.

Participants are assessed on their ability to:

- Select a focal issue, relevant to a current or emerging water challenges, to explore and develop their IWM inspired project
- Effectively communicate the aims, objectives (or activities) and contextual 'need' for the project
- Rationalise project design and approaches used to achieve identified aims and objectives (or activities)
- Present project outputs appropriate to the audience and critically evaluate overall findings in the broader context of the focal issue
- Reflect upon observed gaps between theory, practice, rhetoric and reality of IWM from their project experience and suggest a way forward.

The 'Final Project Student Handbook' provides detailed guidance on milestones and assessment criteria which should be followed closely.

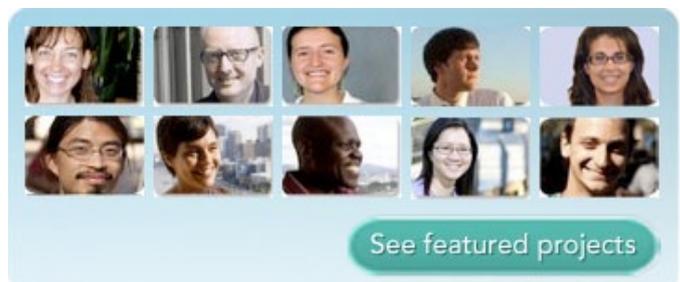
Project topics

Project topics to date have covered a broad array of water related issues, stimulated through the foundation, integration and specialisation streams as well as MIWM networking events and discussions.

Examples of topics covered to date (list non exhaustive):

- Indigenous water rights and service planning
- Coal seam gas regulation and risk management
- Sustainable mine water practices in developing countries
- Participatory approaches to community water management
- Methods for establishing residential water use parameters
- Methods for establishing fit for purpose rainwater tank treatment options
- Water sanitation and hygiene
- Water sensitive urban design
- Changing role of women in communities caused by improved water infrastructure
- etc.

Projects topics are developed in accordance with the participant's chosen specialisation stream (1. International development; 2. Urban water; or 3. Water, land and people). Participants are encouraged to select a project topic that fits within their personal and professional development aspirations.



- **See featured projects:** www.watercentre.org/education/programs/highlights/student-projects

Supervisors, hosts & funding support

Supervisors

During the final project, program participant's knowledge and skills are tested against current or emerging water issues under the guidance of professional and academic expertise.

Each student is required to have at least one academic supervisor from their enrolling university to be eligible to undertake the final project module.

Depending on the type of project undertaken, participants may elect to engage additional academic and/or industry expertise to guide them through their project experience.

Collaborative project opportunities

Program participants are encouraged to design and implement collaborative projects with organisations or communities seeking integrated solutions to complex water-related challenges.

Project placements might include remunerated positions for time spent on project work, or in-kind contributions to cover project costs under voluntary work arrangements.

Alternatively, fixed-value scholarship top-ups can be offered to attract MIWM participants to explore a particular challenge facing one or more organisations who are looking for novel solutions.

Formalised agreements

All final project placements require approval by IWC and/or the enrolling university for administrative and insurance purposes. Approval is to be formalised by way of a counter-signed agreement, established between IWC and all relevant parties

The content of these agreements relates to: student supervisor and placement organisation responsibilities, financial support offered to academic supervisors (if deemed appropriate), student insurance coverage, confidentiality arrangements and IP status.

IWC student funding and resources

IWC students may apply for a AU\$1,000 Professional Development Grant which can be used towards conferences or to fund the final project (equipment, books, travel, in-country expenses, etc.)

Limited funding may also be available to offset academic supervisor workloads for the duration of the final project experience. The specifics of these funds are to be negotiated between IWC and the supervisor.

Information for prospective project collaborators

IWC welcome nominations for professional placements and collaborative project opportunities with NGOs, research institutes, water industry, or natural resources management organisations.

- **View the list of previous and current host organisations (PDF):** http://www.watercentre.org/education/programs/attachments/miwm_final_project_host_organisations

Expressions of interest are open all year round:

- **Register your interest to host a final project (online form):** <https://watercentre.wufoo.com/forms/express-your-interest-to-host-a-final-project/>
- **Register your interest to supervise or mentor a future water leader (online form):** <https://watercentre.wufoo.com/forms/express-your-interest-to-supervise-a-final-project/>

Contact

For enquiries relating to the final project, please email Dr Karen Benn at k.benn@watercentre.org

For enquiries relating to the MIWM program, please email admin@watercentre.org or call +61 7 3014 0200.

STUDENT FINAL PROJECT

Hong Hanh Nguyen (Vietnam)

Integrating sanitation marketing into a national program: A case study in Vietnam

Despite the high annual rate of economic growth in Vietnam, poor sanitation has caused a loss of approximately 1.3% of the country's annual GDP. Since 2003, International Development Enterprises (IDE), a non-profit development organisation, has implemented several rural sanitation marketing pilot projects in various parts of Vietnam, achieving promising results.

As a result, Hong Hanh, who was undertaking an internship with IDE Vietnam, conducted a pilot project to integrate a sanitation marketing model into the National Target Program for rural water supply and sanitation. The field research analysed the potential as well as the constraints for scaling up this innovative model into a national governmental program.

