

RDI MEd thesis route application instructions

If you enjoy independent, self-directed work, setting long-term goals, and have a keen interest in a specific area of language / literacy development or pedagogy, you might consider applying for the RDI thesis route. An RDI thesis focuses on an area of inquiry related to language and/or literacy that is developed in consultation with the thesis supervisor.

As of the January 2026 admitted cohort, applicants can apply to the thesis route in their admission application to the RDI program, or after they have enrolled. This document is to support applicants who wish to apply prior to admission.

Full-time thesis route students are eligible for a School of Graduate Studies fellowship. Depending on funding availability, graduate fellowships are available for two years from the start date of a student's program. The rate for full-time thesis students admitted in 2025 was \$3,000 for the first year of study and \$6,000 for the second year. The amount may vary based on School of Graduate funding availability. Please reach out to jeannes@mun.ca for current amounts or other questions about the thesis route.

The thesis is worth 12 credit hours (four courses) and is begun after the four core RDI courses, ED6100, and a focused research methods course have been completed. Completion of the thesis results in publication in the [MUN Research Repository](#) and potentially can be submitted for publication in an academic journal or as a book chapter.

Students on part-time or full-time routes can start and finish the thesis in four semesters (once coursework is complete), though it is common to extend one additional semester. Completing the [TCPS-2 course on ethics](#) is required before beginning the thesis.

The thesis route is competitive with a maximum of four students admitted to the thesis route in any year. It is possible that within a given year, fewer than 4 students are admitted to thesis route.

Instructions for pre-admission applicants (before enrolling in RDI program)

The deadline is the same as the general RDI application (August 15). Please upload a combined PDF of a one-page research proposal (described below) and academic writing sample in your application in the "writing sample" field of the application. The academic writing sample can be from previous coursework or a published or unpublished manuscript of any length. Documents can be submitted with the general application materials on the application portal. Be sure to select "thesis route" on the application.

If your application is ranked highly for the thesis route, you will be invited for an interview. If you are not selected for the thesis route, you may be contacted about your interest in pursuing the course route.

Adjudication of thesis-route applications

The adjudication of RDI applications for thesis route ranks applicants on four equally weighted factors (listed below) and also identifies the best fit for faculty supervisor.

1. Academic background

Academic background criteria include undergraduate and graduate marks which are tabulated separately. Program rigour is taken into consideration.

2. Research proposal

The research proposal should follow [SSHRC guidelines](#):

- a. Length is *1 page maximum for the research proposal, and 1 page for citations*
- b. Use 12-point Arial or Times font with 2 cm margins
- c. Cite research literature throughout, and use APA 7 citation style
- d. **Suggested structure of the research proposal**
 - i. Brief literature review providing practical and theoretical motivation for the study and positioning the proposed research within current knowledge
 - ii. State the research objectives and hypotheses (as appropriate). Ensure that each concept/construct/factor in the proposed study is clearly described, with reference to literature.
 - iii. Outline the research approach to be taken (methods and procedures).
 - iv. State the significance of the research to the field of education

You can also refer to MUN's [guidance for writing a research proposal](#).

The proposal is evaluated on three factors of equal weight: 1) theoretical grounding, 2) significance and relevance, and 3) logic and cohesion.

3. Writing sample

Applicants are invited to submit a writing sample to be assessed for cohesion/ logic, integration of academic/theoretical concepts, and academic voice.

4. Interview

Applicants who are among the final candidates will have a virtual interview to discuss their aspiration and motivation for pursuing the thesis route.

Faculty fit

The fit with faculty expertise and supervisory availability will be determined by the adjudication committee.