

## **Agriculture**

(one academic year (12 months) post-graduate advanced diploma)

Please read and think about the following information below carefully to decide whether this program is a good fit for you. This information may change and is simply intended to offer you a helpful perspective on what you will experience in this program.

**Orientation:** Typically, during the last week of August (**Required** for all students).

**Program Dates:** September through August (approximately, depending on co-op job)

**Scheduled Breaks:** Last week of December and first week of January (two weeks); end of October (one week); first week of March (one week). Check your registration for exact dates.

### **Post-Graduation**

**Work Permit length:** Up to 12 months.

**Schedule:** Monday to Friday as early as 8:00 a.m and as late as 6:00 p.m. You will receive a schedule of **required** outdoor off-campus field days, which could be at different times of day.

**Campus Location:** 1430 Victoria Avenue East, Brandon, Manitoba. See campus information [here](#)

### **What You'll Study:**

Build on your existing education, with new specialized skills in the fast-changing world of agriculture. Program best for students with a previous business/commerce or agriculture/science background who want to learn about the agriculture industry and practices in Western Canada, which could be quite different than agriculture in their home country.

Courses in the science and management of large-scale agriculture in the Canadian prairies: crops, livestock, equipment, pests, soils.

Develop knowledge in agricultural-related communications, customer service, sales and marketing, and management.

Round out your analytical and critical thinking skills by learning the technological/software applications of GIS (geographical information systems) and GPS (global positioning systems).

See course descriptions [here](#).

See PDF document on [this page](#).

### **How You'll "Learn By Doing"**

Concentrated, advanced courses get you career-ready in one academic year.

Classroom theory integrated with hands-on lab and field (outside) learning. Well-equipped, modern soils and plant labs complete with growth chambers.

You'll meet agricultural producers and businesses to learn from them. Off-campus industry tours throughout the year allow you to see careers in action, network with others in your field, and help you to see the complex and fast-paced world of agriculture.

Towards the end of your program, complete a 16 week paid co-operative education work placement for valuable Canadian experience.

### **What You'll Need to Do to Graduate**

**Attend all classes**, activities and field trips; arrive on time every day. Do **not** plan vacation/a trip home outside of regularly scheduled college breaks.

You will need to be very comfortable with the Windows operating system and capable of learning to use **new** software programs and other technology, quickly and correctly. If you have doubts, try quizzes here: <https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/> If you have difficulty with these quizzes, this program may not be a good choice for you.

**Purchase all required books and supplies**, including appropriate footwear and clothing and safety equipment.

Programs at Assiniboine have certain technology requirements. Students require access to computer devices at home and may be required to bring these on campus when instructed. Refer to [assiniboine.net/tech](http://assiniboine.net/tech) for more detailed information about the requirements for this program.

**Work co-operatively in teams and behave respectfully** to all students, staff and partners.

**Manage physical demands** like walking a long distance, often on rough/uneven land, or lifting equipment into a vehicle.

**Pass all courses and** have a grade point average (GPA) of C (60%). Passing many courses with only a D (50%) can make your GPA too low to graduate. Re-testing is generally not an option. If you fail a course, it may not be available again until the following year.

You will need to travel between two campuses, and sometimes outside of the city bus system. **The college does not provide this transportation.** It will help if you have a valid Manitoba **driver's license and access to a car.** We *strongly encourage* this, as you will be responsible to travel and arrive on time to all program activities. See information [here](#).

**English only during class.** All English skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) are important. Evaluation could include tests, group projects, presentations, public events and research papers.

**No personal cell phone use during class.**

**Do your own work.** Cheating, not referencing sources of your ideas, or using other people's work ((current or previous) could result in failing grades, probation or suspension.

**Ask for help** when you need it!

### **How Assiniboine College Can Help You**

Trained instructors will share their knowledge and experience from the industry, and will give you frequent and specific feedback on your progress.

Learning Commons staff can assist with study and test taking skills, mathematics, writing reports or term papers, and some tutorial support.

Student advising staff offer support for academic planning and can refer you to resources outside the college such as counselling, housing, and other supports.

A Regulated International Student Immigration Advisor can answer questions related to permits.

### **Job Options for Graduates**

Potential employers include grain companies, seed and crop inputs suppliers, banks and credit unions, livestock supply outlets, agricultural equipment dealers, government agencies, agronomists/consultants and co-operatives.

Types of jobs include agriculture, agronomy, sales and service, finance, livestock, marketing, management, research, administration and precision agriculture.

Most jobs will require working outside, sometimes in unpleasant weather.

Some jobs will require evening and weekend work and/or long hours of work, especially in the spring/summer/fall months.

Most job opportunities will be outside of a city, in a smaller town or rural area.

Almost all jobs will require a **valid Manitoba driver's license**; many will require you to drive daily outside of the city's bus system. See information [here](#) and [here](#).

**Possible** jobs on Manitoba In-Demand Occupations list: [2123-Agricultural representatives, consultants and specialists](#) or [6221-Technical sales specialists-wholesale trade](#).

#### **Costs:**

**Tuition:** see website and letter of acceptance. Payable in full **before** program start. **NO REFUNDS OR TRANSFERS**. If you fail a course and must repeat it, you will pay tuition for that course again.

**Health insurance:** All international students will **require** health insurance. Cost approximately \$1000.

**Textbooks and supplies:** approximately \$450. See lists [here](#); click on the "Tools and Supplies" tab. Purchased on your own, not payable to college. **Required** early in program.

**Clothing and footwear:** you may need to purchase new footwear and/or warm clothing for outdoor activities.

**Transportation and living costs** are your responsibility.

#### **Other Important Information**

**Field trips** will generally be outside; the weather could be cool or windy or rainy. You could be walking a long distance on uneven ground and in fields of dirt or crops. There could be insects. **You will need comfortable and warm shoes/boots and clothing.**

**Location of most jobs** will be outside of a city, so you will have the best opportunities if you will live and work in a small rural community.

**"Co-op work permit"** will be required by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada before you start the practicum placement. Your letter of acceptance will allow you to apply. Apply for this **early**, as processing time is very long! See IRCC website [here](#).