

NEWS RELEASE



**Wilfrid Laurier
University**



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WLU and UW to offer joint doctoral program in geography

Together, Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo will offer one of North America's most comprehensive doctoral programs in geography and operate master's-level programs jointly.

Although the joint graduate program will not be fully implemented until September 1993, the first doctoral students will be enrolled at Laurier this September.

One of the five areas of specialization offered, spatial data handling, is believed to be unique in Canada. Other areas are: resources management, urban/economic geography, physical geography, and cultural/historical/regional geography.

The joint program is being offered to capitalize on the strengths of faculty and resources in the geography departments of the two institutions.

"With their combined strengths, UW and Laurier will offer one of North America's most comprehensive graduate programs in geography — with one specialization that is unique," says Alfred Hecht, chair of the geography department at Laurier.

Ron Bullock, chair of the geography department at UW, says, "We are looking forward to the development of this new program which combines the recognized

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strengths of the two departments and which will offer students access to significantly enhanced resources."

It is expected that nine students — three at Laurier and six at UW — will be admitted to the joint program this fall. Later, there will be a maximum of four new students in the program at Laurier and six at UW each year.

Students will be registered at the university of their adviser and will receive their degree from that institution.

The doctoral program will be the first to be offered by the faculty of arts and science at Laurier. There has been a doctorate of social work program offered at Laurier since 1987.

UW has offered a doctoral program in geography since the mid-1960s.

Along with the PhD program comes a joint master of environmental studies degree. Although courses in environmental studies are currently offered at both institutions, this new degree will enable students to obtain a formal qualification in this area of geography.

The existing master of arts programs in geography at both universities will continue to be offered under the regulations governing the new joint program.