

The Global Institute for Water Security – Quick Facts

Fresh water is essential for human life and well-being, for economic development and for entire global ecosystems, yet water resources worldwide are under pressure. New interdisciplinary research that links science to resource management and policy is vital to protecting and managing this precious resource.

Officially launched in March 2011, the **Global Institute for Water Security** builds upon leading expertise and capacity in water research at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S).

The institute is funded through the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Water Security - a \$30-million joint commitment between the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan and the U of S. It is the largest investment in a research chair in U of S history and one of the single largest water research investments in the world.



Dr. Howard Wheeler, CERC and director of the institute, is recruiting six new faculty and over 60 post-doctoral fellows and graduate students to join the current U of S water research network of more than 65 faculty and five research chairs. Through a formal partnership with Environment Canada, and with participation of other federal, provincial and international partners, interdisciplinary teams at the institute are addressing key strategic issues.

Research Themes

Research at the Global Institute for Water Security is focused on sustainable use of water resources and protection against flood and drought hazard. Multi-disciplinary science, engineering and social science teams work with industrial and government partners to address four broad water security issues:

- Climate change and water security
- Land-water management and environmental change
- Sustainable development of natural resources
- Socio-hydrology

Access to World Class Facilities

Research concerning water quality, quantity, and other related issues are U of S priorities. Home to several state-of-the-art facilities, the U of S provides a wealth of resources for aquatic research, including:

- *Toxicology Centre*: A cutting-edge aquatic and environmental toxicology research and training centre.
- *Centre for Hydrology*: An internationally leading hydrological research and training centre.
- *Canadian Light Source*: A unique analytical research tool and Canada's only synchrotron.

Key Activities of the Global Institute for Water Security

- Interdisciplinary research collaboration links land, atmosphere and water research by integrating natural, health, social and applied sciences with ecotoxicology and forensic geochemical analysis.
- New science and technologies integrate water quantity with water quality management.
- Tools, technologies and computer models are developed and applied to globally significant water security issues.
- Through a new research focus called Socio-hydrology, knowledge of people and their activities are integrated with water science to create useful governance models and policy tools.

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The University of Saskatchewan is located along the banks of the South Saskatchewan River in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

