

## **Master's Project (MP)**

**MP capstone class (2F/S)** – This class will focus on research methods, proposal design, communicating with a client so as to facilitate the client-based masters projects that will be required as a capstone experience. Students will present their work in progress throughout the year. At the end of their fourth semester, students will be required to present the results of their MPs in a public forum.

A master project is a one-year project which allows students to apply their knowledge and skills in solving an environmental policy challenge in depth. Students can work on a project individually or as a group. The master project can be either research-oriented or client-based. A research-oriented project usually starts with a question that the student is interested in. Then the process of completing the project is a process of understanding the question deeper and looking for an answer or a solution. A client-based project starts with a service demand from a client. The client can be a private company, a multi-national corporate, a government agency, a research institute or a non-profit organization, most in China. The client provides a policy case that they want to understand or solve as the master project that the students work on. The process of completing a client-based master project is a process of communication, research, consulting and teamwork. The client-based aspect is particularly important and attractive because it helps students gain another real work experience and build network which makes our students more competitive. Each student will be supported by a faculty advisor for his/her MP. For students who work on a client-based MP, they will have a client advisor as well.

Students are required to identify their MP topic during the second semester and complete the project by the end of the fourth semester. In order to continue the study, a MP proposal must be approved during the third semester. The MP is of 6 credits and should be the emphasis of the students' study during the second year. A complete draft must be submitted two months prior to graduation. Students are required to present their MP in a public forum and turned in a final written project document.