RDI INFORMATION DOCUMENT
May 2026 (v3)

Memorial University Faculty of Education Graduate Diploma and Master of Education in Reading Development and Instruction

This document provides basic information about the Graduate Diploma and the Master of Education programs in Reading Development and Instruction pertaining to timetables and program requirements. For further information about application instructions, fees, and related information, please consult the Faculty of Education and School of Graduate Students (SGS). *Please note*: should any information in this document differ from information published by SGS or the Faculty of Education, the SGS/Faculty of Education information is assumed to be correct.

Table of Contents

Part 1. General questions 2
What is the focus of the RDI programs? 2
What careers might I pursue with a diploma or degree in RDI? 2
What content is taught in the RDI programs? 2
Descriptions of four core RDI courses 3
What is the difference between the RDI diploma and the RDI master's degree? 3
Can I earn my master's degree or graduate diploma entirely online? 3
Am I required to be available for live online classes for the four core RDI courses? 4
Will I work independently for all course work that is evaluated/marked? 4
Will I need access to a school? 4
Can I transfer into the RDI MEd from another MUN program or university? 4
Is funding available for students in the RDI programs? 5
What are some key dates for the RDI diploma and master's programs? 5
Important logins and sites 6
Key points of contact for the RDI program 6
Part 2. Graduate diploma 6
What are the requirements for a Graduate Diploma in RDI? 7
How long does it take to complete the diploma? 7
Can I transfer from the RDI diploma to the RDI degree? 7
Part 3. Master's degree (MEd) 7
What are the requirements for a Master of Education in RDI? 8
How do I choose a MEd program route? 8
What if I have taken ED6100 already when I completed another program? 9
Details on RDI course route 9

Details on RDI project route **9**
Details on RDI thesis route **9**
What are the regulations about full-time and part-time study? **10**
How much time do I have to complete the degree? **10**
Do I pay less tuition if I complete my program early? **10**
Do I pay more if my degree takes longer to complete? **11**
Appendix – Diploma and Degree Completion Routes ***11***
RDI diploma completion timeline **11**
MEd Comprehensive course route completion examples **11**
MEd Project route completion examples **12**
MEd Thesis route completion examples **12**

Part 1. General questions

What is the focus of the RDI programs?
The Reading Development and Instruction (RDI) diploma and degree programs are rooted in a comprehensive range of scientific research on reading development and instruction, often known as the "science of reading," the "science of teaching reading," "reading science," or "structured literacy". The theories, skills, and knowledge taught in the RDI program reflect contemporary reading research that many jurisdictions in Canada and elsewhere are adopting to inform curriculum and pedagogy. We focus on systematic and explicit approaches to teaching phonics and associated word recognition skills, fluency, and comprehension. There are modules on executive skills, multilingualism, and (meta) cognitive factors that influence literacy development. We also focus on informal and formal assessment tools, and theory and practice in literacy leadership.

What careers might I pursue with a diploma or degree in RDI?
Students graduating from the program may take up various reading leadership roles in the educational community, such as school reading specialists, or reading program specialists in school boards or ministries of education. A degree in RDI also prepares graduates for research-related careers, such as in government or industry, or pursuit of a PhD. All students completing the RDI diploma or degree program are qualified to administer Level B assessments.

What content is taught in the RDI programs?
Both diploma and MEd students take the four core RDI courses listed below. In the first course (ED6470) we focus on word reading skill and fluency, which are critical underpinnings for independent reading. Course two (ED6471) examines different forms of comprehension, and specifically how oral language development, motivation, and instruction support comprehension. In both courses, we consider the full range of reading ability, and the pedagogical approaches for supporting all students. In the third course (ED6472) we take a closer look at multilingual learners and how to respond to their educational needs with appropriate and effective pedagogy. This course also introduces principles and practices of standardized assessment. In the fourth course (ED6473) students have opportunities to practice administering and interpreting

standardized assessments to inform instructional design. Students undertake a brief field-based experience in a school to practice assessment skills and build literacy leadership.

Descriptions of four core RDI courses

ED6470 - Word and sentence level reading development and instruction
This course examines the underpinnings of word identification, including phonological awareness, working memory, orthographic knowledge, and fluency. It also examines the role of grammatical knowledge and syntactic awareness in sentence-level reading processes. Instruction and assessment of word-level and sentence-level processes are key areas of focus.

ED6471 - Text-level reading development and instruction (Prerequisite: ED6470)
This course examines the underpinnings of text comprehension including reading motivation, vocabulary development, and strategies for studying and comprehending text. The cognitive processes underlying reading comprehension will also be of particular interest. Instruction and assessment of text-level processes are also key areas of focus.

ED6472 - Issues and interventions in reading development and instruction for diverse learners (Prerequisites: ED6470, ED6471)
This course examines the nature of reading development and instruction for diverse learner populations. Key areas of focus include the nature of second language reading as well as reading difficulties affecting word identification and reading comprehension. Special attention will be paid to assessment issues, principles and practices, including implementing assessments, interpreting results and planning appropriate evidence-based interventions.

ED6473 - Praxis for reading specialists (Prerequisites: ED6470, ED6471, ED6472)
This course extends the focus on assessment and instructional planning in prior coursework and addresses issues in literacy leadership. Students will gain further experience in conducting reading assessments of school-age students and developing instructional plans to support student learning in small-group and whole-class settings. Issues in supporting classroom-based educators' practice will also be explored.

What is the difference between the RDI diploma and the RDI master's degree?
The diploma is a four-semester, four-course program that concludes with a Graduate Diploma in Reading Development and Instruction. The Master's in Reading Development and Instruction requires the same four courses as the graduate diploma, plus additional courses to complete the MEd course route, project route, or thesis route. Further details on each are provided below.

Can I earn my master's degree or graduate diploma entirely online?
Yes. The RDI programs draw students from all over Canada and the world. The four core RDI classes are only offered online and therefore can be completed from any location. Additional courses for the master's degree are offered both online and in-person; you may choose an entirely online timetable should that best meet your needs.

Am I required to be available for live online classes for the four core RDI courses?
Yes. While core material is available online in the Brightspace course shell to view at your convenience, every course holds weekly or biweekly meetings in the evenings/afternoons –the schedule always includes time slots such that students in every time zone in Canada can attend after 3pm. *You are expected to attend and participate fully in all sessions*. Sessions are held via Brightspace or Webex and will be posted through the course shell as determined by your instructor. Class times are noted on the registration page to guide your selection of course sections; for example, a note of Wednesdays from 7:30-9:30pm (Newfoundland time), means that for most Wednesdays during the semester, you must be available to participate live online. All class times are noted in Newfoundland time, which is 90 minutes ahead of Ontario time (e.g., noon in Ontario is 1:30pm in Newfoundland). Please ensure that if you live in western Labrador or other provinces, you are aware of the class times / time zone differences for the course section you register for. You can choose the section that works for your time zone. If that section is full, we work with you to resolve the scheduling issue.

Should you pursue a master's degree, you will take additional courses beyond the four core RDI courses. The additional courses will vary in the requirement for synchronous participation. You should confirm questions related to participation with each course instructor.

Will I work independently for all course work that is evaluated/marked?
No. Courses have some assignments in which you will work with other people. In every course, some assignments require individual work. Completing the program only via individual work is not an option. Collaborations can be successful even when the partners live in different time zones, as long as communication avenues remain open.

Will I need access to a school?
Yes. There is a fieldwork component focused on assessment in course 4 (ED6743) that requires engagement with a student, their parents, and their teacher. With guidance from your instructor, you will approach the school principal, who will identify a student for you to assess with a standardized reading assessment. Most RDI students work in a school, so they engage in this fieldwork at their own school. RDI students who do not work in a school usually approach their neighborhood school to engage in this fieldwork. The total time on campus will be about 4 hours, but engagement takes place throughout the term. RDI instructors can help connect you with a school for the fieldwork experience. If your profession's code of conduct restricts your ability to engage in the assessment process as a graduate student, your instructor and the RDI program chair can support you to find a mutually agreed-upon alternative setting for this fieldwork.

Can I transfer into the RDI MEd from another MUN program or university?
Yes. Students must request to transfer by September 15 to start in the following Winter semester and may inquire to the Academic Programs Office for instructions to be considered with other applicants for January intake. Transfer can only occur for a January start. Transfer students are required to take all four core RDI course (6470, 6471, 6472, 6473); no transfer credits are permitted for these four courses. At most, 9 elective credit hours (equivalent to three courses) may be transferrable from another MUN program, and the transferred elective courses must be approved by the graduate office. It is possible that not all courses previously taken will be transferrable.

Please note that the cost of the RDI master's program may differ from other MUN master's programs. See this page for information on tuition.

Is funding available for students in the RDI programs?
A Newfoundland and Labrador government bursary may be available for students based in NL who are enrolled in the Master's (or Diploma) in Reading Development and Instruction program. Information can be found **here**. *Note*: You will need to set up an NLESD or CDLI account to access the application form.

MEd students may qualify for MUN fellowship funding. Information is on the School of Graduate Studies website.

What are some key dates for the RDI diploma and master's programs?
See the University Diary for the last day to drop courses and other important deadlines.

Before Year 1	
August 15	Annual application deadline. Applicants can apply for 4-course diploma or 10-course MEd. MEd options at the time of application are course route or thesis route.
December	RDI orientation for incoming students
Year 1	
Early January	First semester of the program.
March	Interested students can apply for the MEd thesis route*
May	Interested students can apply for the MEd project route*
July	Begin police check and vulnerable sector check
September	Complete police check and vulnerable sector check Provide address for assessment kit to be mailed to you (postage paid) ** Identify field experience location (school)**
November	Arrange fieldwork for following January (recruit student)**
Year 2	
January	Begin fieldwork**
February	Decision to transfer from diploma to degree
May	Return assessment kit (postage paid) to the Education Library**

* Students can reapply for these routes annually, as long as their accrued credits do not exceed the maximum for each route. See below for more details on the different routes.

** These activities will happen sooner for students on the accelerated route, as their field experience will take place in Fall of Year 1.

Important logins and sites

1. **Brightspace / D2L:** This is MUN's learning management system: https://online.mun.ca/. This is where you will find your course content and assignments and interact with instructors.

2. **MUN Calendar:** You can find regulations for the MEd program and diploma program.

3. **Webex:** This is the video platform we use for our biweekly synchronous meetings: https://mun.webex.com

4. **Registration:** You can register for classes here: my.mun.ca. You can reach out to gradeduc@mun.ca with questions about course registration.

5. **Microsoft Office:** All MUN students can download Microsoft 365 applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook, etc.) for free! Access here: https://my.mun.ca/.

6. **CITL Support Centre:** Online support for online learning (e.g., Brightspace). Click here to access CITL support.

7. **IT support:** For other types of technology support, visit the OCIO service desk.

Key points of contact for the RDI program

Faculty of Education Graduate Admissions: **edgradadmiss@mun.ca**

The Graduate Admissions Officer can answer any questions you may have about admissions, including tuition.

RDI Program Chair: **rdichair@mun.ca**

The Program Chair can offer support in course selection and understanding program processes and guidelines.

Faculty of Education Graduate Academic Programs Office: **gradeduc@mun.ca**

The Graduate Academic Programs Office can help with course registration and paperwork required for changes in program or route.

Part 2. Graduate diploma

The Graduate Diploma in Education (Reading Development and Instruction) is a four-course online graduate diploma with a focus on reading development and instruction. The diploma is intended as a program of study for students who want to further develop their professional

learning and deepen their understanding of reading development to better support classroom-wide instruction, including the instruction of children who experience reading difficulty.

What are the requirements for a Graduate Diploma in RDI?
The requirements for the graduate diploma are to successfully complete and pass the four core RDI courses (6470, 6471, 6472, 6473). Students who complete these four courses are qualified to administer Level B assessments

How long does it take to complete the diploma?
The diploma is only offered on a part-time basis, with one course offered per semester. It can be completed in four sequential semesters. The programs begin with 6470 in the winter semester, and the courses must be completed in order (6470, 6471, 6472, 6473). The courses are described above. If you take leave during the four-course program and are not able to complete one of the four courses, you will need to wait until the next time that course is offered to continue with your program of study.

The program is offered year-round. Please note that at the end of each semester, there is about a one-month break before the start of the next semester.

Timetable of four core RDI courses

Year 1			**Year 2**
Winter (Jan-Apr)	**Spring (May-Aug)**	**Fall (Sep-Dec)**	**Winter (Jan-Apr)**
ED6470	ED6471	ED6472	ED6473

In some years, an accelerated sequence of these four courses may be offered, allowing the four courses to be completed in a single year (3 semesters). In years that the accelerated route is offered, students will be given an opportunity to opt-in to the accelerated route as space allows.

Can I transfer from the RDI diploma to the RDI degree?
Yes. Students admitted to the diploma may transfer to the degree before completing the final diploma course (ED6473). You must contact the Academic Programs Office (gradeduc@mun.ca) to arrange completion of forms and make any other inquiries and arrangements necessary (e.g., program payment). Students will be transferred into the course route by default. If you transfer from diploma to degree, you have nine semesters to complete the degree. If you complete the diploma in four semesters, and if you are admitted to the degree, you have five remaining semesters to complete the degree without incurring continuation fees. See the appendix for possible pathways to program completion.

Part 3. Master's degree (MEd)

The Master of Education (Reading Development and Instruction) has a strong focus on reading development and instruction. The program is intended for students who want to further develop their professional learning and deepen their understanding of reading development to better support classroom-wide instruction, including for children who experience reading difficulty.

What are the requirements for a Master of Education in RDI?
The Master of Education (Reading Development and Instruction) comprises the four courses in the Graduate Diploma, described above, as well as additional program requirements. There are three options to complete the master's degree: course route, project route and thesis route. All MEd routes are equivalent to 10 courses.

- The **course route** consists of the four core RDI courses (ED6470, 6471, 6472, and 6473), an introductory research methods course (ED6100), and five electives.

- The **project route** consists of the four core RDI courses (ED6470, 6471, 6472, and 6473), an introductory research methods course (ED6100), three electives, and the project (ED6192), which is equivalent to two courses and completed in one semester. RDI students on the project route work in pairs.

- The **thesis route** consists of the four courses required for the diploma (ED6470, 6471, 6472, and 6473), an introductory research methods course (ED6100), one additional research methods course, and the thesis, which is equivalent to four courses.

All students in the master's program complete ED6100 and the remaining program requirements as appropriate to the student's program completion route.

> *ED6100: Research designs and methods in education*
> An introductory course in research designs and methods. It is intended to cover the broad spectrum of research methods found in published research in education. This course has two main goals: to help students make sense of the research they can be expected to encounter in their graduate program and their professional practice, and to provide the basis for more intensive study in particular research methods required in the conduct of their own research.

How do I choose a MEd program route?
All three MEd routes are comprehensive programs that provide opportunities to learn essential theories, knowledge and skills about reading development, assessment, and instruction. The course route allows students to take a range of courses tailored to their interests. The project includes a one-semester collaborative creation of a research-based educational product and report including a comprehensive literature review. The thesis route consists of an independent research project resulting in a study that is published in the MUN Library and potentially also publishable as an academic journal article or book chapter. Students interested in pursuing a PhD would likely be best prepared by pursuing the thesis route.

All students are initially admitted on the course route (unless accepted into the thesis route) upon admission. Students wishing to pursue the project or thesis route can apply for these in your first year of the program. The thesis route application and the project route application take place in the first semester of studies. Details will be shared within Brightspace, and you can inquire to the Program Chair or Academic Program Office if you have questions about this process. As for

securing a supervisor, in your application for the project or thesis route, you can indicate your research interest and potential faculty members who might be appropriate supervisory fits.

The four core courses (ED6470, ED6471, ED6472, ED6473) are normally offered over four consecutive semesters beginning in the winter semester. In some years, an accelerated route is offered that enables completion of these four core courses in three semesters. Typically, ED6100 is offered each term. We recommend taking ED6100 as early as possible. Other research courses may vary in the terms they are offered. Likewise, electives are offered in varying terms from one year to another.

What if I have taken ED6100 already when I completed another program?
You will need to enroll in a different research course to replace ED6100. Consult with your advisor and the Academic Programs Office (gradeduc@mun.ca) before proceeding.

Details on RDI course route
Students on the course route of the master's program will complete the following requirements in addition to the four core RDI courses and ED6100:

1. Fifteen credit hours (5 courses) from relevant electives offered in the MEd. program. Each semester, seats are made available in various electives of interest to RDI students. Each semester, you can find a list of electives specifically open to RDI students here. You can see the full list of graduate course descriptions here.

Details on RDI project route
Students on the project route of the master's program will also complete the following requirements in addition to the four core RDI courses and ED6100:

1. Nine credit hours (3 courses) from relevant electives offered in the M.Ed. program. Each semester, seats are made available in various electives of interest to RDI students. Each semester, you can find a list of electives specifically open to RDI students here. You can see the full list of graduate course descriptions here.

2. Education 6192 (Project in Reading Development and Instruction) is taken after coursework has been completed. The project is a research-informed educational product intended for use in educational settings, along with a comprehensive literature review and report. The project will be reading-focused and developed in consultation with the supervisor (6 credit hours, or equivalent to 2 courses). The project is completed within one semester. Students work with a partner on the project.

Details on RDI thesis route
Students on the thesis route of the master's program will also complete the following in addition to the four core RDI courses and ED6100:

1. One of the following research methods courses as appropriate to the thesis methodology, chosen in consultation with the thesis supervisor:

- Qualitative Research Methods (ED6466)
- Quantitative Research Methods (ED6467)
- Critical Approaches to Educational Research (ED6468)
- Theoretical and Methodological Foundations of Action Research (ED6469)
- Narrative Approaches to Teaching, Learning and Research (ED6909)

Please note that ED6100 must be completed as a prerequisite before enrolling in any of the research courses listed above.

2. The thesis is focused on an area of inquiry related to reading development and instruction and developed in consultation with the thesis supervisor. Most theses involve working with human participants. In order to pursue research with human participants, students must complete the TCPS-2 CORE self-paced course on research ethics and apply for ethics approval. Your advisor will support you with this process.

All courses must satisfy the requirements for the Master of Education (Reading Development and Instruction) as outlined in the MUN School of Graduate Studies Graduate Calendar.

What are the regulations about full-time and part-time study?
Part-time MEd students can register for a maximum of one (1) course during each of the Fall and Winter Semesters and two (2) during the Spring semester (which also includes Intersession and Summer sessions). Full-time students may work a maximum of 24 hours per week. Full-time MEd students can register for a maximum of three (3) courses during the Fall and Winter semesters, and four (4) courses during the Spring semester (which also includes Intersession and Summer sessions).

Please note that the structure of the Spring semester and Intersession and Summer sessions at Memorial University is as follows:

- Spring semester: mid-May to early August (same length as Fall and Winter semesters)
- 6-week Intersession: mid-May to mid-June
- 6-week Summer session: end of June to early August

If you are planning to switch from full-time to part-time, or part-time to full time, please reach out to the Academic Programs Office (gradeduc@mun.ca), as they can help with this process.

How much time do I have to complete the degree?
Normally, a Master of Education is completed within three years (9 semesters) for part-time students, and two years (6 semesters) for full-time students. The program is offered year-round and students are expected to enrol every semester unless on an approved leave of absence. Please note that at the end of each semester, there is about a one-month break before the start of the next semester. Please see the Appendix for example timelines.

Do I pay less tuition if I complete my program early?
No. The tuition rates are based on the entire program, and a per-semester payment plan, not per course. Per-semester payment plans are based on the entire program fee and are not reduced if

you graduate early. If you complete the program in fewer semesters, you will be required to pay the remaining program fees in full before your degree/diploma can be conferred.

Do I pay more if my degree takes longer to complete?
If you require extra time to complete your degree beyond the allotted semesters (9 semesters for part-time students, and 6 semesters for full-time students), you will need to pay continuance fees, which are detailed here**.** Semesters during which students take approved leaves of absence (for medical, bereavement, or other reasons) do not count toward the completion timeline.

Appendix – Diploma and Degree Completion Routes

RDI diploma completion timeline

Year 1			Year 2
Winter	**Spring**	**Fall**	**Winter**
6470	6471	6472	6473

In some years, an accelerated sequence of these four courses may be offered, allowing the four courses to be completed in a single year (3 semesters). In years that the accelerated route is offered, students will be given an opportunity to opt-in to the accelerated route as space allows.

MEd Comprehensive course route completion examples

Here are example timelines to complete the MEd program on the comprehensive course route (10 courses).

	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3		
Example	**Winter**	**Spring**	**Fall**	**Winter**	**Spring**	**Fall**	**Winter**	**Spring**	**Fall**
Part time example 1	6470	6471	6472	6473	6100 Elec 1	Elec 2	Elec 3	Elec 4	Elec 5
Part time example 2	6470	6471 6100	6472	6473	Elec 1 Elec 2	Elec 3	Elec 4	Elec 5	
Full time example 1	6470 6100	6471 Elec 1 Elec 2	6472 Elec 3	6473 Elec 4	Elec 5				
Full time example 2	6470 6100	6471 Elec 1	6472 Elec 2	6473 Elec 3	Elec 4 Elec 5				

In order for part-time, course-route students to complete the program within 9 semesters, two courses must be taken at the same time in one Spring semester. Please note that part-time students can take 2 classes at a time only in the spring semester.

MEd Project route completion examples

Here are example timelines to complete the MEd on the project route (8 courses + project).

	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3		
Example	**Winter**	**Spring**	**Fall**	**Winter**	**Spring**	**Fall**	**Winter**	**Spring**	**Fall**
Part time example 1	6470	6471	6472	6473	6100	Elec 1	Elec 2	Elec 3	Project
Part time example 2	6470	6471	6472	6473	6100 Elec 1	Elec 2	Elec 3	Project	
Part time example 3	6470	6471 6100	6472	6473	Elec 1 Elec 2	Elec 3	Project		
Full time example 1	6470 6100	6471 Elec 1 Elec 2	6472 Elec 3	6473 Project					
Full time example 2	6470 6100	6471 Elec 1	6472 Elec 2	6473 Elec 3	Project *				

Please note that part-time students can take 2 classes at a time only in the spring semester.
*If you work in schools, we advise completing the project in the spring if possible, because the workload is more manageable when you are not also teaching.

MEd Thesis route completion examples

Here are example timelines to complete the MEd on the thesis route (6 courses + thesis).

	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3		
Example	**Winter**	**Spring**	**Fall**	**Winter**	**Spring**	**Fall**	**Winter**	**Spring**	**Fall**
Part time example 1	6470	6471 6100	6472	6473	2nd RM course/ Begin proposal	Thesis proposal & ICEHR	Data collection & analysis	Analysis & writing	Complete thesis
Full time example 1	6470 6100	6471 2nd RM course	6472 Proposal & ICEHR	6473 Collect data	Data analysis & begin writing	Writing Complete thesis			
Full time example 2	6470 6100	6471 2nd RM course	6472 Begin proposal & ICEHR	6473 Complete proposal & ICEHR	Begin data collection	Data collection & analysis	Writing	Complete thesis	

RM: research methods; ICEHR: Interdisciplinary Committee on Ethics in Human Research
All theses that involve collecting data from human subjects must be approved by ICEHR. Your thesis supervisor will help you navigate this process.