

**AG University News:  
Agricultural communications diploma opening up to wider audience**



(GUELPH, April 27, 2009) -- Canada's online agricultural communications diploma program at the University of Guelph is opening to a wider global audience.

The three three-day residencies that were part of the limited-enrolment program are being replaced with online learning modules to make the program more accessible, says Owen Roberts, the program's academic coordinator.

"The feedback we're getting is that the residencies restrict too many potential learners from enrolling," says Roberts. "We want the program to be as widely available as possible, so we are eliminating the residencies."

Roberts says lessons normally in the residencies, particularly photography and citizen journalism, will be offered online instead. Student presentations that were part of the residencies will be given through videoconferencing or other electronic communications means.

The agricultural communications diploma program is the only one of its kind. The 16-month, five-course program is dedicated to communications skill development and application. It concludes with a three-month virtual internship which pairs student learners with a communications initiative at an agricultural business, agency or organization.

Applications are being accepted now for the 2009-2010 cohort. For more information, visit [www.agcommunications.ca](http://www.agcommunications.ca) or contact Roberts at [owen@uoguelph.ca](mailto:owen@uoguelph.ca).