



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Graduate Student Position

Centre for Environmental Assessment Research

MBD1: UBC MSc position – Mainstreaming biodiversity in site design and operation: Supporting the implementation of Canada’s plan for long-term management of used nuclear fuel

UBC seeks an outstanding graduate student to join a collaborative research project on mainstreaming biodiversity. This is a collaborative project between the Centre for Environmental Assessment Research at UBC (CEAR) and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). The project will help support the NWMO’s work in designing and implementing Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

The research will go beyond standard project-based mitigation measures and will help identify the benefits of maintaining/enhancing biodiversity values. All work undertaken as part of the research will follow the NWMO’s policies on Indigenous Knowledge (2016) and Reconciliation (2019) and demonstrate/support the goals outlined in the NWMO’s Environmental Responsibility Statement (2020). The work will consider multiple lines of evidence to support recommendations in planning, design and operational policy (western conservation biology, Indigenous Knowledge, best impact assessment practices, sustainability). The successful student will be able to work with engineers, environmental scientists, social scientists, Indigenous Knowledge holders, geoscientists, and impact assessment practitioners to help achieve desired conservation/biodiversity values; and support proactive planning and project design at conceptual stages.

Specific research activities may include:

- Identifying ways to integrate conservation objectives into project infrastructure to help achieve net gains for biodiversity values.
- Aiding in developing applied/practical recommendations on biodiversity enhancement measures for land/infrastructure.
- Examining options for planning for monitoring the biodiversity enhancements that supports adaptive management.

- Accounting for two different ecoregions and key biodiversity values (South Bruce and Ignace, Ontario) to support a project sustainability assessment.
- Outlining sustainability criteria, focused on biodiversity contributions, that can be used to help assess aspects of the project.

Students from conservation science, biology, environmental assessment, geography, engineering, and the earth sciences, and related fields are encouraged to apply. Knowledge of the Canadian environmental assessment regulatory setting is an asset.

The start date is September 2021.

The student will be enrolled in the MSc program in the **Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences** at The University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus, located in Kelowna.

This position is based in the Centre for Environmental Assessment Research with Dr. Kevin Hanna. The first year of the program will be spent at the UBC campus, and portions of the second year may be spent in Toronto at the NWMO office. The position is for 2 years and is funded. The successful applicant will be required to undergo a Canadian criminal check as required by the NWMO.

<http://ok-cear.sites.olt.ubc.ca/>



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