

MSc student opportunity: Amphibian and Reptile Sociality

The Riley Integrative Ecology Lab (RIEL; www.rileyecology.com) is recruiting a **MSc student** to investigate how natural selection shapes the social behaviour of amphibians and reptiles.

Examples of available projects (can be tailored to the applicant's interests and skillset):



- Variation in Eastern Red-backed Salamander social behaviour across a gradient of anthropogenic change
- The impact of social environment on the development of hatchling turtles (either Painted or Snapping Turtles)



Academic Environment: RIEL is a small, collaborative team of researchers at the undergraduate (BSc) and graduate (MSc) level. Students are empowered to lead their research projects, are supported through advisor and peer mentorship, and are encouraged to engage in professional development and outreach activities. RIEL's home is in the Department of Biology (<https://mta.ca/current-students/department-biology>) at Mount Allison University (MtA), which is located in Sackville, New Brunswick at the heart of the Maritimes.

Funding: This position offers a minimum guaranteed stipend of \$20,500/y. Additional details on MtA's graduate program can be found on this website: <https://mta.ca/current-students/graduate-studies> Eligible students are expected to apply for external scholarships and research funding.

Qualifications:

1. Have successfully completed a BSc in Animal Behaviour, Biology, Ecology or a related field prior to the proposed degree start date
2. Have meaningful experience or interest in behavioural ecology and herpetology (e.g., have taken upper-year courses and/or labs on these topics, completed a relevant BSc thesis, or work experience in these areas)
3. Driven to work both independently and collaboratively
4. Possess strong verbal and written communication skills
5. Experience with statistical analysis in R and reproducible scientific practices is a benefit

Starting Date for Fieldwork: May/June 2023 (pending funding)

Starting Date of Degree: 1 September 2023

Application Instructions: Email Dr. Riley (jriley@mta.ca) using the subject line "**Social Behaviour: MSc Application**" and include: **1)** A brief cover letter that outlines your research interests and experience and how they align with the project, as well as provides 2 references that can be contacted to speak to your expertise; **2)** Curriculum vitae; **3)** Unofficial transcripts; and **4)** A sample of your writing, if available.

Review of all applications will begin on 30 September 2023 and will continue until the position is filled. Please note that only applicants invited for an interview will be contacted. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply, but preference will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. Also, as our research group aims to cultivate diversity in STEM and strive to be an equitable, inclusive, and collaborative community, we welcome and encourage applications from women, Indigenous, Black, LGBTQ+, and other under-represented persons.