

Interdisciplinary PhD Project in Human Dimensions of Great Lakes Fisheries Research: “Understanding the Importance of Provisioning Fisheries in the Great Lakes”

Start Date: Sept 2023 (or as soon as possible)

Application Deadline: June 15, 2023 or until position is filled

Salary: ~20,000-23,000/year (includes teaching assistantship, research assistantships and variable depending on internal scholarships)

Location: Carleton University, Ottawa with collaborations with Dalhousie University, University of Windsor, Virginia Tech, and Cornell University.

Thesis topic:

We are seeking a PhD or MSc student to work on a project that investigates shore fishing in the Great Lakes. In particular, the student will explore ‘provisioning fisheries’ – defined and distinguished from recreational fisheries as fulfilling personal, social, and dietary needs of poor and vulnerable people, many who are new migrants to North America. As a result, we hypothesize that provisioning fisheries are currently unrepresented in recreational fisheries assessment, governance, and management in the Great Lakes.

This project will focus on vulnerable communities to better understand how important fishing is to their food security, livelihood, culture, and identity.

This project may explore topics including: food sovereignty, food and nutritional security, fisheries sustainability, environmental justice, political ecology, angler behaviours, risks and risk perceptions, among others.



Learning Opportunities: The student will learn methods from ecological, economic, sociological and ethnographic sciences. A combination of literature reviews, lake-side survey sampling and in-depth semi-structured interviews/focus groups with provisional fishers in various cities around the Great Lakes will be used. Interest in both quantitative and qualitative research and analyses is ideal. The student will also work closely with interpreters and translators to design and develop research tools that can be used among a multi-cultural population.

Experience Required: This is a very novel project requiring careful planning and design, thus we are seeking self-motivated candidates. Interested applicants should have a Bachelor’s (BA or BSc) or Master’s degree (MA or MSc) in sociology, anthropology, geography, environmental science or studies, fisheries, interdisciplinary degree, natural resource management, economic, or related field. Students with keen interest in interdisciplinary research/methods and both qualitative and quantitative research are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must be willing to travel and spend significant time in the field. Applicants must have strong communication and interpersonal skills, be highly organized, and the ability to manage multiple tasks. The candidate must be comfortable conducting literature reviews and interviews, and facilitate focus groups. Bilingualism (Eng + other) and experience working in different cultural settings will be considered an asset.

To Apply: All documents must be submitted to vivian.nguyen@carleton.ca: 1. Maximum one-page cover letter/statement of interest describing your fit and interest in this position; 2. CV demonstrating relevant experience and background; 3. Unofficial transcript; 4. Names/contact information for two references. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Vivian.

For more information visit www.fishingbeyondfun.org