OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDY AT MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY’S DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Considering graduate study in geography? The Department of Geography at Memorial University in St. John’s, Newfoundland, is offering competitive, fully funded studentships for MA, MSc., and PhD programs, starting in Fall 2015. The Geography graduate program attracts students from across Canada and around the world, and provides opportunities for field-based scientific and social scientific study in a wide variety of areas. Learn more about our graduate program at www.mun.ca/geog/graduate/.

Students attending Memorial receive instruction in geographical practices and methods appropriate to their field of study, leading to field research opportunities and the preparation of a master’s or PhD thesis. Our program offers the chance to interact with a diverse group of fellow students, and to live and study in St. John’s, the culturally vibrant capital of the ruggedly beautiful province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Our graduates go on to further advanced study, university faculty positions, and government and private sector employment.

Our application deadline is listed as January 15, but we will consider applicants for the positions below on an ongoing basis until filled. For more information and applications for graduate study at Memorial, visit www.mun.ca/sgs.

Current graduate opportunities

- Atlantic Coastal Geomorphology (MSc) **NEW**
- Atlantic Coastal Climatology (MSc)
- Marine Habitat Mapping in Frobisher Bay, Nunavut (MSc)
- Cold-water carbonate sediment distribution, production and loss (PhD)
- Fisheries, aquaculture and waste research (MA/MSc)
- Arctic and Boreal forest biogeography (MSc/PhD)
- Economic geography in Atlantic Canada (MA)
- Participatory Citizen Science, Marine Plastics, and Action-based Research (2 MA, 1 PhD)
**NEW** MSc position in Coastal Geomorphology

We are seeking **MSc applicants** for a fully funded research project investigating coastal evolution and monitoring of infrastructure along Conception Bay South, Newfoundland. The successful applicant will study the evolution of the coastal barrier enclosing Long Pond Harbour, home of the Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club (RNYC), and survey the RNYC’s coastal infrastructure using state-of-the-art ocean technology (multibeam and sub-bottom echosounders, terrestrial laser scanner) and traditional survey methods (remote imagery, RTK GPS). The outcomes of this project will support the RNYC in the effective and sustainable management of the coastal barrier and RNYC infrastructure. Students with a strong Physical Geography and/or Earth Science academic background are encouraged to apply. A strong interest in field-based research and mapping technology is also an asset. Training on mapping equipment will be provided. Please contact Dominique St. Hilaire (Dominique.St-Hilaire@mi.mun.ca) or Trevor Bell (tbell@mun.ca) for more information. We will consider applications until the position is filled. Expected start date is Fall semester 2015, but we may consider alternatives.

Atlantic Coastal Climatology—MSc positions

The Dept. of Geography’s **Applied Climatology Lab** is currently seeking highly motivated applicants for MSc positions related to i) marine fog forecasting on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and ii) the high latitude coastal treeline responses to climate change. All positions are fully funded through Canadian Networks of Centres of Excellence (ArcticNet & MEOPAR), offering significant national networking opportunities. Interested parties can contact Dr. Joel Finnis (jfinnis@mun.ca) for more information.

M.Sc., Marine Habitat Mapping in Frobisher Bay, Nunavut

**Fully funded** two year MSc. program through ArcticNet. Marine habitat mapping combines marine geomatics, especially multibeam sonar, with marine geology and marine biology to understand the distributions of marine habitats and marine biodiversity. This project in Frobisher Bay, near Iqaluit, Nunavut, will map habitats throughout the bay to identify highly sensitive habitats and habitats of highest biodiversity. The project will involve extensive field work in Frobisher Bay. The ideal student will have a background in marine geology, marine biology or geomatics, and some Arctic experience, or some combination of those. For more information, contact Evan Edinger (eedinger@mun.ca) or Trevor Bell (tbell@mun.ca).

* Results of funding applications will be known by end of February 2015.

PhD., cold-water carbonate sediment distribution, production and loss in Canadian waters

**Fully funded PhD program:** Cold-water carbonate sediments are important biogenic sediments in temperate and cold oceans in many parts of the world, including Canada. The organisms that make these carbonate sediments, such as coralline algae, cold-water corals, bryozoans, and mollusks, create habitat for a wide variety of other flora and fauna. Cold-water carbonate production is tied to the growth of the organisms, while the loss of cold-water carbonates is linked to biological erosion, dissolution, and habitat change. Anthropogenic factors like ocean acidification and bottom-contact fishing may also cause loss of cold-water carbonates. A PhD student is sought for an integrated study on the distribution of cold-water carbonate sediments and the organisms that produce them, they growth and their erosion, dissolution and loss to anthropogenic factors. The study will combine marine geological sample analysis and field and lab experiments using SCUBA and ROVs. The ideal student will have background in marine geology or marine biology and some marine field experience. For more information, contact Evan Edinger (eedinger@mun.ca).
MA/MSc. positions— Fisheries, aquaculture and waste research

Two fully funded MA/MSc positions are available in fisheries-related research. The first project will focus on fisheries discards (or ‘bycatch’), an issue that is generating a great deal of interest and controversy in North America and Europe. The second project will focus on salmonid aquaculture, stocking and angling on the island of Newfoundland. These two projects are part of a larger SSHRC international partnership called Too Big to Ignore (TBTI), which is focused on global small-scale fisheries.

There is the possibility of a third Masters opportunity, pending the outcome of an SSHRC Insight Development Grant. This third project focuses on ocean plastics, waste and fish consumption in Newfoundland. The research will examine the presence of plastic waste using citizen science methods through this province’s bi-annual food fishery for cod. For information on these three opportunities, please contact Dean Bavington (dbavington@mun.ca) and Charles Mather (cmather@mun.ca).

MSc. and PhD positions in Arctic and boreal forest biogeography

MSc and PhD positions are available (pending funding) to join the Northern EDGE Lab with Carissa Brown, assessing the relative effect of biotic and abiotic interactions on tree recruitment at their altitudinal and latitudinal range limits, including the role of disturbance as a catalyst for range expansion. Graduate students will use a combination of field observation and experiments to test hypotheses related to bottlenecks on tree range expansion under climate change, including seed dispersal, germination, early survival, and growth. Potential field research sites include coastal treeline sites in Nunatsiavut (northern coastal Labrador) and alpine regions of the Table Mountains on the west coast of Newfoundland. For more information, contact Carissa Brown (carissa.brown@mun.ca). Check out the Northern EDGE Lab website for more information on our research: carissabrown.wix.com/home.

MA positions in economic geography in Atlantic Canada

Two full-time master’s students are sought to take part in the research project entitled “Business Life Cycles in Atlantic Canada: Local Determinants of Diversification, Innovation, and Regional Competitiveness”. The project will be conducted as part of the newly founded Lab of Spatial Economic and Regional Data Analysis (L-SERDA), where the students will be expected to contribute to the general activities of the lab. The successful applicants will work toward the Master of Arts in Geography under the supervision of Dr. Cedric Brunelle. The MA Candidates will have the opportunity to develop an independent research question and theoretical approach intersecting with the outlines of this RDC-funded study. Interested individuals should make contact with: Cedric Brunelle (cbrunelle@mun.ca).

**NEW** MA & PhD positions in Participatory Citizen Science, Marine Plastics, and Action-based Research

Max Liboiron, Charles Mather, and Dean Bavington are looking to recruit two Masters students and one PhD student for an interdisciplinary, STS-driven project on Action-Research Methods for the Anthropocene at the Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada. The aim of this project is to develop methodologies that are appropriate to researching and acting in environments that are affected by permanent pollution. Our main case is marine plastics, a largely invisible but permanent pollution problem emblematic of the Anthropocene. While the project will look at a variety of methodologies based in action, activism, and making change during research, we will focus on participatory citizen science in particular. This approach aims to democratize science by involving local experts such as fishermen and women as full collaborators who co-create research questions, collect data, analyse findings, and mobilize research.

We offer full funding to successful applicants at both MA and PhD levels. The thesis-based MA students can be based in either the Geography Department or the Department of Sociology. The PhD student will be based in the Department of Sociology at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. All students will be part of Memorial’s WaSTE Group (Waste in Science, Technology, and...
the Environment). Student start dates can be: Sept 1, 2015; January 1, 2016; May 1, 2016; or Sept 1, 2016. Positions are open until filled.

For more information on the project see: Civic Laboratory website or email Max Liboiron.