

Graduate research opportunity in biogeography

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<http://www.uoguelph.ca/geography>

Opportunities exist for a fully funded M.Sc. program in biogeography in the Department of Geography, University of Guelph. The position would commence in the summer of 2004 with field assistance and the student would begin the geography graduate program in September 2004. Applications are encouraged from qualified Canadian and/or international students with a sound background in areas of physical geography, biogeography, ecology, or environmental sciences.

Research Program: Student will participate in a multidisciplinary, multi-institute research program looking at ecological processes, past variability, and future change, in Garry oak ecosystems of coastal British Columbia. This component of the project is a collaborative effort between Marlow Pellatt (Parks Canada), Dan Smith (University of Victoria Tree-Ring Laboratory) and Ze'ev Gedalof (University of Guelph), and is part of a Parks Canada initiative to improve understanding of baseline ecological processes, function, sensitivity and vulnerability in the newly established Gulf Islands National Parks Reserve (GINPR).

Potential projects will use tree-ring, ecological, and related techniques to provide insight into:

- Fire history (frequency, intensity, seasonality) in the GINPR.
- Baseline ecosystem processes in Garry oak ecosystems, and how their functions have been altered (e.g., pre-European and recent land use change).
- Potential impacts of climate change, fire suppression, exotic species, and habitat fragmentation on Garry oak and surrounding ecosystems as well as species at risk in south west BC and the GINPR.
- The use of Garry oak ecosystems by indigenous peoples.

Research results will be used to help develop park management plans based on different land management regimes and various future climate scenarios. In particular, this research will help assess whether the GINPR and other protected areas in Garry oak ecosystems provide sufficient protection for ecosystem processes in a future warmer climate.

Funding :

The Department of Geography at the University of Guelph guarantees financial support to all students accepted into its graduate programs. Support involves a combination of Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA), Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA), and scholarships, and is normally guaranteed for five semesters for students in the Masters program.

Further Information:

Information on the Department and our graduate program, admission requirements & financial support can be obtained at:

www.uoguelph.ca/geography/graduate/pro-grad/index.htm

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Ze'ev Gedalof:

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