

Opportunity for funded Masters Degree in Geography at the University of Victoria (UVic)

Under the supervision of [Dr. Crystal Tremblay](#) (principal supervisor) and [Dr. Sophia Carodenuto](#), we are offering a 2-year funded graduate position to support the SSHRC project “*Indigenous Knowledge Bridging of Land and Water Governance in Tanzania and Canada*”. This opportunity offers funding for 2 years and admission into the Geography graduate program at the University of Victoria, with coursework in year 1 and supported fieldwork in year 2 in Tanzania focused on land/water governance and stewardship. This opportunity provides employment income to support tuition and living expenses, as explained below.

Project overview

This partnership development project builds on existing relationships and develops new ones to strengthen land and water governance approaches of the Enguserosambu Forest Trust (EFT) and the Ereto Maasai Youth (EMAYO) in Tanzania, where the local Maasai people have recently been granted management rights of their traditional territories. The EFT, composed of four Maasai communities, will work with EMAYO, the University of Victoria, and The Kesho Trust together with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation in the Yukon and other potential First Nation partners in BC and Yukon to develop Indigenous-led land and water governance approaches while maintaining cultural integrity and improved livelihoods. All partners will benefit from this knowledge interchange, including UVic students who will have opportunities for field studies related to the project.

We are recruiting a graduate student to support the identification and mobilization of research priorities and mobilizing field research in Tanzania in partnership and with guidance from project partners. The topic of interest, although still quite broad in scope at this stage of the partnership, will be focused on Indigenous land and water stewardship in Tanzania. As a member of the research team, the student will also support pre field activities and planning, including a workshop at UVic with partners in fall 2021/winter 2022 (TBD), and other project needs such as communication of project updates, website and/or other knowledge mobilization outputs.

Job Description

This Master’s position will begin as soon as September 2021 and will begin with planning and engagement in a workshop in Victoria, identify research priorities in collaboration with partners and prepare for fieldwork (4-6 weeks during summer 2022). Travel, visa, and accommodation for field work will be covered. There is some flexibility embedded in this opportunity, and we encourage the student to build from their strengths, expertise and background in co-designing the research topic and methodologies.

Qualifications

In order to apply, applicants must have obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies,

Anthropology, Political Science, Geography, or related field. Strong written and oral skills in English are a requirement for a successful applicant, and applicants will be expected to demonstrate excellent communication, writing, and organizational skill. There are high expectations to publish research results and support the publication efforts of the partnership. Those with experience working with First Nations/Indigenous communities, and in community-based research are encouraged to apply. Either MA or MSc degree is possible based on student background and aspirations. Priority will be given to Indigenous applicants and those from the Global South.

Benefits

The University of Victoria (UVic) Department of Geography is proud to be a space for high quality and conscientious research and teaching. We are an interdisciplinary unit, and much of our work is possible thanks to close partnerships with community members and groups, both locally and around the world. You will be part of an exciting graduate program that brings together students with diverse backgrounds and interests to learn together in a supportive environment.

This position offers grant-funded employment funded through the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The Department offers all graduate students employment as a Specialist Instructor (or Teaching Assistant). There is a guaranteed minimum income of \$17,500 for the first academic year. The student is expected to apply for further grant-based funding in the second year. Please see the [Geography funding information page](#) for more information

Expected start date

September 2021.

Working location

The student will be based at the University of Victoria in Canada.

Application

Deadline is July 10th, 2021 but early applications are highly encouraged. The selected candidate will then apply to the UVic Geography Graduate program. We realize this is a tight deadline and early start in the fall of 2021 and are pleased to discuss any questions you may have.

Interested individuals should email Dr. Tremblay (crystalt@uvic.ca) with a statement of interest in the form of a cover letter (1-2 pages), a recent CV including two references that can be contacted, and an academic writing sample. Please specify in your application how your past academic and work experience has prepared you for fulfilling the tasks required of this position. Only complete applications will be considered.

