



Job Opportunity: Post-Doctoral Fellowship/Research Scientist Opportunity in Ecotoxicology
River Institute, Cornwall, ON

Start Date: October 2022

Hours: 35 hrs. per week

Full-time contract

Salary \$ \$48,579/yr.

Application Deadline: We will review applications and conduct interviews on a continuing basis; candidates are encouraged to apply early. Please note that we will only be contacting candidates invited for an interview.

Job Description:

Post-Doctoral Fellowship/Research Scientist Opportunity in Ecotoxicology
River Institute, Cornwall, ON

River Institute is a non-government organization established in 1994 as a unique community partnership among governments, educators, business and industry, and the Mohawks of Akwesasne (www.riverinstitute.ca). Our scientific work contributes locally, nationally and internationally to the greater understanding of how large river ecosystems and their components function.

Description of Project and Position

The postdoctoral position will be associated with the project “The Great River Rapport – An Ecosystem Health Report for the Upper St. Lawrence River”, conducted in partnership with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (www.riverapport.ca). The overarching goal of this project is to inform local communities on the health of the Upper St. Lawrence River through western science, local knowledge, and Indigenous Knowledge.

The scientific component of the project is to produce a series of technical reports of 35 ecological indicators selected based on input from the local and scientific community. Of the 35 indicators, several indicators are related to contaminants in the environment. The scientific component of this project provides a fundamental basis for future research on the St. Lawrence River.

The St. Lawrence River has a long history of contamination from industrial inputs resulting in the designation of the region as an “Area of Concern”. Legacy contaminants (notably mercury, PCBs and a range of pesticides) have persisted in the Upper St. Lawrence River for several decades and have impaired the function of the system. The goal of this position is to produce a series of reports describing contaminant levels in the St. Lawrence River through time.

The postdoctoral position is for a 1 year, with the option to extend dependent on performance and funding. Ideally the person would be based in Cornwall, Ontario.

Main Responsibilities

The position involves conducting research on contaminant levels in the St. Lawrence River. The deliverables of this position are a series of technical reports describing contaminants in sediments, benthic macroinvertebrates, Yellow Perch, Northern Pike, Fish and Herring Gulls. The reports involve systematic literature reviews and compilations/processing of large datasets, data analysis, interpretation of results, and writing the reports. The candidate must follow standard operating procedures when completing these reports. The position also involves contributions to related projects being conducted at the River Institute in the St. Lawrence River (which could include experimental design, data collection and processing, data analysis/interpretation and report writing). Responsibilities also include working effectively in a team and the oversight and mentorship of junior scientists at the River Institute.

Details

1. Lead and complete a series of technical reports on contaminants in the St. Lawrence River for the Great River Rapport (contaminants in sediments, benthic macroinvertebrates, Yellow Perch, Northern Pike, Fish, Herring Gulls).
2. Learn and understand the Indigenous Knowledge contributions of the First Nations partners.
3. Assist with scientific data collection/sharing with First Nations communities, wherever possible.
4. Perform fieldwork, including equipment installation and assembly, sample and data collection, and field assessments for River Institute research projects.
5. Disseminate and publish research results in the peer-reviewed literature.
6. Participate in promotion and dissemination of the research to the public and scientific bodies through a variety of media, including oral presentations, video, and interviews as appropriate.
7. Attend and assist with community events, workshops, presentations, and education programs related to the project.
8. Assist with preparing and submitting funding applications and proposals.
9. Supervise and provide training to students and other assistants.
10. Participate in course delivery for a college environmental technician program
11. Perform other related duties as required.

Qualifications / Requirements

- a) A PhD in environmental biology or chemistry or related fields specializing in ecotoxicology
- b) Experience working with large datasets
- c) Expertise in analysing data using R software

- d) At least one peer-reviewed publication an asset
- e) Experience supervising or mentoring students an asset
- f) Ability to work independently, exhibiting a high degree of initiative, self-discipline and professionalism
- g) Project/time management skills and organizational skills
- h) Ability to read and write well in English
- i) Computer Skills i.e.: Microsoft Office, Microsoft Teams
- j) Geographical Information Systems capability an advantage

The successful candidate will be a recent doctoral graduate in aquatic ecology and chemistry, limnology or a related field. While all candidates with suitable back-grounds are encouraged to apply, preference may be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents eligible for Canadian employment subsidy programs. The position is an initial 1-year contract with a starting salary of \$48,579/yr. Anticipated starting date is October 2022, applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found.

Interested candidates are encouraged to send a **cover letter** outlining their research interests and relevant experience and a resume to:

Dr. Leigh McGaughey
Program Leader for Research and Community Engagement
River Institute, 2 St. Lawrence Drive
Cornwall, Ontario Canada K6H 4Z1
lmcgaughey@riverinstitute.ca

The River Institute is an equal opportunity employer.

