



Forest Ecology Research Group

Overview: Ten (10) field research assistant positions are available with the Forest Ecology Group (www.forestecology.ca) based at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo Ontario. The project is funded in partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Government through a range of programs. These positions are integrated into a broader program characterizing the resilience of North American boreal forests to natural and anthropogenic disturbances, which in turn informs policy and land use management strategies regionally.

We are looking for motivated, energetic individuals to contribute to ongoing research projects in sub-arctic, boreal forest research sites in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and Yukon Territory (YT). Positions involve working on a diverse range of projects relating to changing fire regimes in northern systems, permafrost thaw impacts on landcover, and supporting the development of sustainable northern food systems. Research assistants will gain experience with various field sampling tools and protocols, as well as experience navigating in the bush using GPS. During the field season (late May to late August 2026), these positions will require travel to various remote research sites in the NWT and Yukon. The successful candidates will be provided with a stipend in addition to the costs of travel from Waterloo to the study sites, and food and accommodations while in the field. Opportunities will also be made available for individual research assistant project development prior to travelling to the field for the appropriate candidates. There is the opportunity for these positions to start as early as May 1 conducting lab-based field preparation and sample analysis prior to leaving for the field in late May/early June.

Qualifications

- Strong academic record, with a B.Sc (either completed or in progress) in ecology, biology, forestry, environmental science, agriculture, or a related field, depending on the project.
- Valid driver's license (G)
- Fluency in English
- Excellent capacity for independent and team-based work with a passion and an inherent curiosity for natural environments
- A love of being outdoors and, ideally, experience camping, hiking, canoeing, etc.
- Field work experience related to plant, fire, or forestry topics would be considered an asset, particularly in remote settings

To Apply: Interested students should contact Emily Bowyer (ebowyer@wlu.ca). Applicants should provide a short statement of their interest, a current resume, and the names of two references. There will be a rolling evaluation of applications.

Our research program values diversity and inclusivity, recognizing that a diversity of experiences and perspectives is vital to advancing innovation, critical thinking and complex problem solving. Our research program is committed to developing and maintaining a culture that is positive, collegial, and respectful of all members, and in which wellness and healthy work-life balance are valued.