

PhD and Postdoc Opportunity - Climate resilient ecological networks

Application Deadline: Ongoing until position is filled

Possible start dates: September 2025, January, May or September 2026.

University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada

The Kharouba lab <<https://kharoubalab.weebly.com>> is seeking **a PhD student** and **a one-year postdoctoral fellow** to explore how diversity influences the climate resiliency of ecological networks. The positions are part of an interdisciplinary project in community ecology and neuroscience to integrate theory and data from different biological networks to study the role of diversity on resilience.

Within this theme, the project is open-ended. The student and postdoc could use a combination of computational (e.g., data analysis, mathematical modelling, data-informed simulations), theoretical and/or experimental approaches in our current lab systems to test relevant ecological theory. The overall objective of the projects is to better understand the role of diversity during critical events (e.g., extreme weather events) and identify potential intervention strategies.

The successful candidates will join the Kharouba lab in the Department of Biology at the University of Ottawa which conducts research to support the conservation and recovery of plants and insects in a changing climate. The successful candidates will also interact closely with the Lefebvre lab which combines data and mathematical modelling to understand the relationship between biological organization, adaptation and stability.

The candidates will join an engaged lab with access to many additional training and networking activities via current partnerships with National Wildlife Research Centre, the Ottawa-Carleton Institute of Biology, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Candidates will also be associated with Centre for Neural Dynamics, the Ottawa-Carleton Institute of Biology, the uOttawa Brain and Mind Institute as well as the Krembil Brain Institute.

We welcome candidates who are enthusiastic about applying ecological principles to conservation strategies.

Position descriptions

Trainees will be expected to work in-person for most of the position. Trainees will be expected to participate in the lab's scholarly activities (i.e., workshops, meetings), and to support other lab member's work whenever applicable. We expect applicants to demonstrate the ability to work respectfully with others in teams to carry out project goals and contribute to an inclusive lab environment. Additional details of the projects will be provided during the interview process. Please don't hesitate to reach out to [heather.kharouba\[at\] uottawa.ca](mailto:heather.kharouba@uottawa.ca) for any questions.

Requirements

The ideal candidates are expected to possess a background in ecology with strong skills in quantitative analyses, mathematical modelling OR computational approaches.

PhD applicants must meet the required qualifications for admission to graduate/postgraduate studies at the University of Ottawa.

PhD and Postdoc applicants must comply with international regulations regarding traveling, studying and working in Canada whenever applicable.

Successful candidates must be eligible to work in Ontario as of start date (or at a mutually agreed date).

Funding

PhD position: This position is fully funded for four-years with a stipend of \$30,000 CAD per year, including teaching assistantship duties. The successful candidate will be eligible to apply for Teaching Assistant (TA) positions and/or other scholarships, such as entrance scholarships.

Postdoc position: This position is fully funded for one-year with potential for renewal, with a stipend of \$60,000 CAD per year, including health benefits.

Accommodations and Accessibility

Should you require a copy of this posting in an alternate format, please contact us as soon as possible and we would be happy to get one to you in a timely manner. We believe in the importance of supporting on-the-job success for the incumbent and are pleased to discuss and/or provide specific tools, resources, or other requirements for day-to-day work requirements, as needed.

How to Apply

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application to heather.kharouba@uottawa.ca, using the subject "Resilience position".

In your dossier, please include:

1. A cover letter stating your interest and explaining why you are a good candidate for this position, and specify clearly which position (Postdoc, PhD) you are applying for.
2. Up to date CV including a list of publication, if applicable.
3. Contact information for 2 references

Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.