

Funded MSc position: Effects of urban landscape structure on biodiversity within and across cities (*PhD also possible*)

The Ziter Urban Landscape Ecology lab (Department of Biology, Concordia University) and Sivarajah Lab (Research Chair on Urban Trees and its Environment (CRAUM), Université Laval) are seeking a motivated and proactive MSc student to join our research groups starting in Spring or Fall 2026 (PhD applicants will also be considered). The successful candidate will join a collaborative urban ecology project between Concordia University, Université Laval, University of British Columbia (*with Drs. Matthew Mitchell and Tahia Devisscher*), and Environment and Climate Change Canada (*with Dr. Barbara Frei*). The overall project explores the relative contributions of private versus public lands and urban forests to connectivity, biodiversity, and multiple climate-related ecosystem services across a range of urban densities and forms within and across Canadian cities.

The position will combine fieldwork, acoustic monitoring, spatial analysis, and community science data to assess tree, bird, and bat diversity within public and private urban green spaces (in Montreal and Quebec City). This position is ideal for students interested in urban ecology, conservation, biodiversity, landscape ecology or social-ecological systems, and presents substantial opportunities to contribute to local urban conservation and landscape planning. ***MSc applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents***

Location: position can be based in Montreal (Concordia University) or Quebec City (Université Laval) depending on preferences of the applicant

Skills and experience:

- A BSc in ecological sciences or similar (e.g., biology, ecology, forestry, geography, environmental sciences)
- Strong interest in biodiversity, ecology, and the environment
- Strong teamwork and communication skills, a positive attitude
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Comfortable communicating in French and English (or willingness to learn)
- Good data management and analysis skills
- Proactive to learn new software and ecological methods
- Field ecology experience is helpful but not required, including bird field surveying, automated acoustic monitoring techniques and data management, and urban vegetation and tree inventory experience
- Experience with GIS and/or spatial analysis is helpful but not required

Salary: Guaranteed stipend of at least \$25,000 for 2 years (MSc), or 4 years (PhD). Stipend may be partially made up of funds from teaching assistant contracts. Students will be supported in applying for relevant external funding (e.g. NSERC, FRQNT)

To apply: If interested, please contact Dr. Carly Ziter (carly.ziter@concordia.ca) and cc Dr. Janani Sivarajah (janani.sivarajah@sbf.ulaval.ca). Candidates will be reviewed until position is filled. Please include as a single PDF attachment the following:

- Cover letter expressing your interest in working in this position
- CV
- Undergraduate transcripts (unofficial is fine)
- One writing sample
- Contact info for 2 references

We particularly encourage applications from members of marginalized or minority groups, including those based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, Indigeneity, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status or age.