

Graduate Student Opportunity with the Canadian Museum of Nature

Saving the world through evidence, knowledge, and inspiration! The Canadian Museum of Nature is Canada's national museum of natural history and natural sciences. The museum provides evidence-based insights, inspiring experiences, and meaningful engagement with nature's past, present and future. It achieves this through scientific research, a 14.6-million specimen collection including biological materials, fossils, minerals and archives, education programs, signature and travelling exhibitions, and a dynamic web site, nature.ca. Two centres of excellence concentrate the museum's science activities: the Beaty Centre for Species Discovery and the Centre for Arctic Knowledge and Exploration.

The Canadian Museum of Nature's Scientific Training Program aims to nurture a future generation of highly qualified professionals with collection-based research and curation experience and first-hand knowledge of the important and central role natural history museums play in understanding our rapidly changing planet.

Award Description

As part of the Scientific Training Program, the museum is seeking applications for a two-year award to support a master's student who will undertake a research project related to biodiversity or geodiversity in one of the disciplines of study at the Canadian Museum of Nature: botany, mineralogy, palaeobiology, or zoology, or in a field relevant to the museum's archival collections. Proposed research is expected to be collections-based and may involve field work.

The successful candidate will undertake a master's program at a Canadian post-secondary institution under the advisement or co-advisement of a Canadian Museum of Nature Research and Collections professional.

Compensation

The award comprises a stipend of \$17,500/year and up to \$5,000 per year to support the research program (e.g., lab costs, field work, conference participation).

Facilities

The candidate will be expected to spend a portion of their time at the Canadian Museum of Nature's research and collections facility (Natural Heritage Campus) in Gatineau, Quebec.

There, they will have access to the museum's world class collections and laboratory facilities, which include labs with capabilities in light-microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, molecular biology, photography, x-ray diffraction, fossil and mineral preparation, specimen conservation, document scanning, and 3D scanning as well as a library.

For mineralogical research, an electron microprobe facility at the Advanced Research Complex at the University of Ottawa is available, through a partnership between the museum and the university.

Public Engagement

The successful candidate will also have substantial opportunities to participate in public engagement activities, including at the Victoria Memorial Museum Building, the museum's public engagement campus in downtown Ottawa.

Candidate Requirements

- Eligible to study at a Canadian post-secondary institution
- Eligible to apply for a master's program at a Canadian post-secondary Institution (i.e., completion or near completion of a bachelor's degree meeting the standards of the university to which you are applying)
- Must have confirmed the support of a potential advisor at the Canadian Museum of Nature prior to application (information on our Science Experts can be found [here](#)). Major areas include Palaeobiology, Zoology, Botany, Mineralogy, Library and Archives.
- The CMN advisor must qualify as advisor or co-advisor within the department in which the candidate intends to complete their master's program. The candidate must contact the department in which they intend to study to confirm this. Most departments will require an internal co-supervisor.
- For the funds to be dispersed, proof of acceptance to a master's program at a Canadian post-secondary institution must be provided and the master's program must have commenced.

How to Apply

Applications must include the following:

- A description of the applicant's academic interests, research experience, and relevant work experience
- Identification of a Research and Collections staff member at the museum who has agreed to serve as advisor and host
- A description of why the applicant wants to study at the CMN and why they want to work with the chosen CMN advisor
- A brief outline of the proposed research project that explicitly addresses how the project will leverage the CMN's collections and other resources (2 pages maximum)
- Unofficial transcripts (PDF preferred)
- A curriculum vitae listing relevant experience, publications, presentations, public engagement, etc.
- Contact information for two references.

The Canadian Museum of Nature is committed to developing inclusive and barrier-free selection processes and work environments. We welcome all applications from members of representation seeking groups (e.g., Indigenous, women, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA+). If contacted regarding your application for this opportunity, we encourage you to notify us of any accommodation measures you may need during the selection process, if applicable. Such information will be treated with confidentiality.

The successful applicant will receive a stipend as part of through the Museum's Scientific Training Program. They will not be working as an employee of the Canadian Museum of Nature.

Application Deadline

February 28, 2022

Contact Us

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