

MSc or PhD position available :**Community and ecosystem responses to multiple stressors in coastal ecosystems**

We invite applications for MSc or PhD positions to join a team working on relationships between community and ecosystem processes in coastal ecosystems. The successful candidates will enroll in the graduate program of one of the participating universities in Quebec (Canada): Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC), Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR), Université Laval, McGill University. They will join a diverse and interdisciplinary team led by prof Philippe Archambault (Laval), prof Mathieu Cusson (UQAC), prof Fanny Noisette (UQAR) and prof Frederic Guichard (McGill).

The project aims at developing and testing theories of relationships between community assembly and ecosystem functions in response to multiple stressors. Our focus is on eelgrass meadows and mussel beds of the St. Lawrence Estuary. Our goal is to integrate these foundation species in a mechanistic theory of spatial and temporal heterogeneity in biodiversity-ecosystem function relationships across scales. The collaboration includes the development of mathematical models, the analysis of historical data, and field experiments. We are now seeking applications from candidates interested in conducting field experiments in mussel bed and/or eelgrass meadow ecosystems.

Students will be part of a large and diverse interdisciplinary team combining experimental and computational approaches, with ample opportunity for networking and skill development. Students will have the opportunity to conduct field work and will gain experience in a variety of experimental techniques (ecosystem fluxes, invertebrate taxonomy, eelgrass phenology, statistical and dynamic modelling).

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree relevant to ecology. Research experience in ecology would be an asset. Students will receive funding according to guidelines in places at their university. We will offer a top-up supplement to recipients of major external awards and will be happy to assist candidates with the preparation of their fellowship applications.

We strive to provide equitable support and access to opportunities, and we promote a respectful and inclusive learning experience for all students. People who identify with groups underrepresented in STEM fields are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should send a cover letter outlining their relevant background and research interests, their CV, and the names of 2-3 potential references to frederic.guichard@mcgill.ca. Interviews and formal invitations to apply to the graduate program will follow. Program start date will be either in May or in September 2024.

