

MSc Opportunity with the Urban Natures Lab @ UBC

The Urban Natures Lab, led by Lorien Nesbitt at the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Faculty of Forestry, is recruiting for an **MSc position** to undertake research on recognition justice in urban greening by exploring grassroots stewardship and underrepresented ways of being, knowing, and seeing in nature. Dr. Nesbitt will supervise this student and they will form part of a larger team of researchers working on this project across Vancouver, CA, New York, USA, Medellín, CO, and Temuco, CL.

Our Work

Adopting a highly collaborative and multidisciplinary methodology, our work seeks to increase recognition for the myriad ways in which urban greening and stewardship manifest in cities, the diversity of actors involved, and the range of knowledges and values enacted through this work. We center co-creation and environmental justice in our approach, placing relationship building and counter-hegemonic thinking at the core of our research practice. Four primary objectives guide our project: (1) Clarify how diverse ways of knowing underpin human-nature relationships in civic stewardship of green spaces and identify underrepresented ways of knowing; (2) investigate how these underrepresented ways of knowing are enacted through processes and practices of civic stewardship of urban green spaces and the implications of these representations; (3) examine the governance arrangements and urban greening procedures that enable and/or constrain the work of civic stewards enacting underrepresented ways of knowing; and (4) co-create approaches to urban green space stewardship and urban greening governance that recognize and enact underrepresented ways of knowing.

Timing and Responsibilities

The position will start in **September, 2024**, or **January 2025** and will be based at the **UBC Vancouver campus**. The selected student will lead field work in the New York, site, and will be expected to spend 2-4 months conducting field work in New York, likely over two field seasons. The Urban Natures Lab will cover travel and accommodation costs associated with field work.

Working in New York, the student will be responsible to lead 1) walking interviews with grassroots urban green and blue space stewards and 2) co-create and lead stewardship salons with partner organizations and greening stewards. To communicate this research, the student will also be expected to produce at least one peer-reviewed journal article and other knowledge mobilization outputs of interest to community partners. All aspects of this work will be supported by other members of the research team.

Compensation and Requirements

This position provides a base stipend of minimum **CAD\$20,000 per year for two years**. Dr. Nesbitt will nominate the successful candidate for entrance awards and other scholarships as opportunities arise throughout the degree. The student will also be able to apply to work as a Teaching Assistant at the university. The total stipend is likely to range from \$23,000-30,000 depending on skills and experience.



The Urban Natures Lab and UBC will support the student in attending at least one conference during their degree, to share research findings.

The candidate must possess a **bachelor's degree** in a relevant field, such as urban forestry, urban planning, geography, sociology, ecology/biology, environmental science, or a related field. Experience in community-based work is an asset.

The Urban Natures Lab

The Urban Natures Lab aims to understand and support people and nature, living together in cities. We are a collaborative research group led by Dr. Nesbitt at the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Forestry. Our work is guided by a focus supporting equity and justice through urban greening, and a desire to integrate urban nature into our everyday lives. We conduct community- and practice-engaged research on urban systems using a social-ecological lens. Our approach to research is explicitly collaborative and inter-/trans-disciplinary. We are on the lookout for new and inclusive approaches to doing research and creating liveable cities. Along the way, we're actively creating a fresh academic culture: one that is non-hierarchical, inclusive, collaborative and welcoming of diverse worldviews. For more information, see: <https://urbannatures.ca/>.

How to Apply

To apply for this position, please send your **CV, academic transcripts, an example of your writing, and a statement of interest** to lorien.nesbitt@ubc.ca.

