Job Title: Part-time Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow – Immersive Research Training in Socio-Ecological Systems (0.2 FTE)

Department: Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability

Desired Start Date: June 1, 2019 or ASAP  End Date: May 30, 2020

The Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) is a problem-focused and curiosity-driven interdisciplinary research institute and graduate program, with interest and expertise in a wide range of topics under the realm of environment and sustainability. Our mission is to foster sustainable futures through integrated research and learning about the linkages among human and natural systems, and to support decision making from local to global scales. More often than not, we achieve this through collaborations across students and faculty in a manner that recognizes our collective skills, intellectual histories and methodological approaches, and yet encourages our interdependencies as we consider real world problems.

This role will support IRES in the development of new undergraduate curriculum, focused on fostering research experience in socio-ecological systems. Working with IRES faculty, the candidate will develop, launch, and co-ordinate a new interdisciplinary research training course (SCIE 3XX, 3 credits) offering mentored, scaffolded, and collaborative undergraduate research opportunities for students from multiple faculties at UBC. This course will build on existing research areas within and beyond the unit including (but not limited to) Diversified Agroecosystems, Biodiversity, Environmental Justice, and Sustainability Behaviour. Our overall aim is to build on UBC's strengths in sustainability science and interdisciplinarity, and encourage undergraduate participation in this research ecosystem.

Students participating in the course will apply for, and be matched to, research projects designed by faculty mentors. Over the course of the term, students will work directly with faculty mentors (and other members of their research teams) on a research project, as well as participate in group workshops and seminars (led by postdoctoral teaching fellows, with graduate student support) that introduce them to theory and practice of structured inquiry in the context of socio-ecological systems. Through this team-teaching approach we aim to provide enrolled students with well-rounded mentorship in hands-on research (faculty mentors), research design and process (postdoc teaching fellow), and enabling skills such as writing and communication, along with early exposure to resources for research support such as citation management and qualitative/quantitative data analysis methods and software (graduate academic assistant). Following successful completion of the course, students will be invited to apply for paid Undergraduate Research Assistantships, through which students can expand their research projects in directions that are co-defined by students and faculty.

The Fellow will:

- Collaborate with faculty to develop innovative and interdisciplinary undergraduate research training curriculum by identifying and creating instructional materials and assessment strategies, working towards a new course syllabus
- Liaise with IRES faculty and other UBC units engaged in socio-ecological systems research (e.g., SEEDS Sustainability Program), to identify and develop undergraduate research project ideas and match projects to students
- Work with Skylight, the Science Centre for Learning and Teaching staff to develop and implement program evaluation strategies
- Work with IRES Communications staff to develop communications and outreach strategies to advertise the course, focusing on reaching underrepresented groups in academia
Be the primary instructor for classroom modules in the pilot version of the course in 2019W T1 and T2
Train and supervise teaching assistants
Support undergraduate participation in knowledge mobilization and engagement activities across and beyond campus, through course and extra-curricular activities (e.g., UBC Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference)
Foster a positive and cohort-based learning environment for undergraduate students

We aim to hire one postdoctoral teaching fellow (0.2 FTE) with a strong interest in developing their educational leadership and research training skills in the context of interdisciplinary sustainability science research. This postdoctoral teaching fellow is a part-time position, which must be in addition to an existing postdoctoral research fellowship at UBC. There is flexibility to divide the appointment between two Fellows (in time and in duties), though preference will be given to candidates who would be able to both develop and implement the course. The Fellow will be appointed for up to one year (with the possibility of renewal), with an anticipated start date of June 1st, 2019. The Fellow will primarily report to Professors Amanda Giang and Hannah Wittman in IRES. There will be regular and scheduled interactions between the Fellow and supervisors, and a formal mentorship and professional development plan will be co-developed at the beginning of the appointment.

Applicants should hold a PhD in an area relevant to socio-ecological systems and sustainability science, very broadly defined. They should have experience in interdisciplinary research, and ideally familiarity with, or interest in learning more about, a range of research methods (for instance, qualitative, quantitative, field-based, experimental, modelling, data analytic) and topics. Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively in teams is required. They should have experience in at least one of the following areas, and enthusiasm for all: teaching and mentoring (not only in classrooms, but also in other formal and informal community, volunteer, and organizing contexts); curriculum development; project management and co-ordination; knowledge mobilization and communications.

The application package should contain the following elements: cover letter; curriculum vitae; contact information for three references, and any other pertinent information (e.g., links to relevant data scientific work or evidence of teaching effectiveness). The cover letter should specifically address how this position relates to the applicant’s experience and career aspirations, and the applicant’s commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. The application should be sent to amanda.giang@ubc.ca and Hannah.wittman@ubc.ca as a single combined PDF file with subject line: PURE Fellow Application. Applications will be reviewed as they arrive; those received by May 24th, 2019 will receive full consideration.

Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nations, Metis, Innu or Indigenous person.