

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The Climate Change Adaptation Tracking Collaborative (ATC)

INTRODUCTION:

Given our changing climate, adaptation will be necessary. Despite increasing research on vulnerability and adaptive capacity, there remains limited knowledge on whether adaptation is taking place and how it can be monitored, evaluated, and tracked. The Adaptation Tracking Collaborative (ATC) is a new collaboration between McGill University, Wageningen University (Netherlands), UCLA (USA), and the Notre-Dame Global Adaptation Index (ND-GAIN) (USA). The ATC aims to develop new and innovative approaches to comparative governance metrics for adaptation. We seek a full-time Research Assistant to contribute to this research program and play a central role in conceptualizing, designing, and piloting the adaptation metrics.

DUTIES/ RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Research Assistant position is a unique opportunity for an emerging researcher to gain experience in project management, data collection, environmental policy analysis, conceptual planning, data analysis, and working with a dynamic international research team. The RA will work independently under the guidance of Drs. Berrang Ford and Ford, supervised by Alex Lesnikowski (Project Coordinator). The position will have 3 key phases/duties, totalling approximately 12-18 months:

PHASE 1: Conduct a scoping analysis and review of existing methodological approaches to global metrics and indices (July-Sept. 2016, 3 months)

PHASE 2: Synthesize collaborator input, adaptation and policy theory, and methodological approaches to develop a protocol, policy code book, and study design strategy for data collection. (Oct. 2016 – May 2017, 8 months)

PHASE 3: Conduct, and play a facilitation role, in implementing pilot data collection. (approximately June-Aug. or Dec. 2017)

The position is paid and full-time, and will be primarily based at McGill University in Montreal, with travel to California, Minnesota, and/or the Netherlands. The position will be filled for Phase 1, with renewal opportunities at the beginning of Phases 2 and 3. The position will begin June/July 2016 or shortly thereafter. International applicants will be considered.

REQUIREMENTS:

We are seeking a researcher with a masters degree or higher in geography, economics, environment, policy studies, computer science, international development or related field, whose has an interdisciplinary academic background. Familiarity with quantitative analysis or someone quantitative-inclined (e.g. epidemiology or economics training) is an asset, as is exposure to international development and policy analysis. Position requirements include:

- A masters degree or higher in geography, economics, environment, policy studies, computer science, international development or related field. Candidate must have an interdisciplinary academic background/ experience.
- Familiarity with, and interest or experience in, the human dimensions of climate change research.
- Experience or demonstrated familiarity working with social or environment indices or metrics, or comparative measures of social policy.
- Experience with mixed methods research (qualitative and quantitative methods).
- Experience conducting literature reviews (experience with *systematic* literature reviews is an asset).
- Capable of taking initiative and working independently; excellent organizational skills.
- Willing to travel (up to 50% of time). This requirement is negotiable (please mention travel flexibility in cover letter).
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Reading fluency in foreign languages is an asset, but not required (e.g. French, Spanish, Russian, Mandarin).

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO APPLY:

Contact or submit applications to: Alex Lesnikowski (Alexandra.lesnikowski@mail.mcgill.ca)

Interested and qualified applicants, please submit a detailed Cover Letter and CV.

We will evaluate applications beginning June 1st (applications accepted until June 15th, 2016).