

The Geoffrey F. Bruce Postdoctoral Fellowship in Canadian Water Politics and Policy

Geoffrey F. Bruce was a diplomat and Canadian federal public service leader who believed deeply in the imperative of Canadian leadership and multilateral cooperation as national priorities to protect the environment and ensure the sustainability of Canada's freshwater resources. Geoffrey Bruce left an important legacy through his career. He led the Canadian Delegation to the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972, was instrumental in efforts to establish Stockholm program on the environment, was the Canadian Representative to the UN Environment Agency and played a central role in the establishment of the Brundtland Commission (*Our Common Future*) in 1983. He held several diplomatic positions related to the environment and transboundary freshwater resources.

In honour of her late husband's career, commitment, and legacy related to the environment and water resources in Canada and on the international stage, Erika v.C. Bruce established the [Bruce Fellowship in Canadian Freshwater Policy](#) at Toronto Metropolitan University. Since 2017, 18 Bruce Fellows have received funding support for their Masters and PhD research projects on a wide range of topics related to freshwater policy in Canada. The establishment of the inaugural Bruce Post-doctoral Fellowship in Environment and Water Policy 2022 was another generous commitment by Erika Bruce to focus on open water data and water policy. Bruce Fellows are already having 'ripple effects' as Canada's next generation of water policy leaders and practitioners in positions at the federal, provincial and municipal levels and in non-government organizations working on environment and freshwater policy.

Dr. Carolyn Johns has been leading the Bruce Fellowships since 2017. She is one of Canada's leading water policy scholars and has several research projects focused on water governance, policy analysis, policy implementation and innovation. She serves on the International Joint Commission's Water Quality Board, is a Senior Fellow at Massey College, and the lead social science researcher on the Global Centre for Climate Change and Transboundary Waters.

The 2026 *Bruce Postdoctoral Fellow in Canadian Water Politics and Policy* builds on the foundations of the Bruce Fellowships and is also supported by the Faculty of Arts and the Office of the Provost to recognize the investments and commitment of Dr. Erika Bruce related to establishing TMU as Canada's leading institution on water politics and policy over the next 10 years.

Position Description:

The *Bruce Postdoctoral Fellowship in Canadian Water Politics and Policy* is a unique position in Canada established to attract a leading-edge researcher to conduct applied research and generate innovative ideas and recommendations related to Canadian water politics and policy. The Postdoctoral Fellowship is an exciting opportunity for an emerging scholar who wants to engage in applied research contributions at the interface of scholarship on water politics, political economy, foreign policy, Canada-US relations, public policy and public administration.

The ideal Bruce Postdoctoral Fellow should aspire to be one of Canada's next generation policy leaders and scholars. The candidate should have solid academic foundations related to water politics and policy; be committed to leading-edge scholarly and policy contributions through national, intergovernmental and inter-institutional initiatives, scholarly and policy publications and submissions; and make contributions to public forums, media coverage and social media commentary related to water politics and policy in Canada. The ideal Bruce Postdoctoral Fellow is someone who values high-quality scholarly research and a career that focuses on next generation water politics and freshwater issues facing Canada in the coming decades. The Bruce Postdoctoral Fellowship also provides a unique opportunity to mentor Bruce Fellows, be engaged in a diverse range of future-oriented, applied research projects and partnerships, and apply for additional research and project funding from a variety of sources.

This postdoctoral fellowship prioritizes candidates with backgrounds in political science, political economy, law, foreign policy, diplomacy, and geopolitical dimensions of Canadian freshwater politics and policy.

Other examples of eligible areas of research include (but are not limited to):

- political economy of water
- geopolitics of water
- water sovereignty, international relations and diplomacy
- water and political institutions and agreements
- politics of freshwater protection and sustainability
- transboundary water politics and governance
- climate change and water politics
- Indigenous leadership and engagement in water politics and governance
- water, food, energy nexus challenges
- water innovation and sustainable industrial/commercial/agricultural water use
- water data, technology and security
- freshwater as a political, economic, social, cultural and strategic national resource.

The successful candidate will engage in a research agenda focused on the geopolitical, political economy and national priorities related to Canadian water politics. Research will focus on Canadian freshwater in the global political context; sovereignty, diplomacy, international agreements and intergovernmental relations related to Canada's freshwater. The successful candidate will work with Dr. Carolyn Johns on research projects, publications, communications and other initiatives to further develop the Bruce Fellowships. The candidate will also have the opportunity to play a leadership role in organizing the Bruce Fellowships national conference on freshwater politics and policy in Canada in 2027 at Toronto Metropolitan University, celebrating 10 years of the Bruce Fellowships.

[Toronto Metropolitan University](#) is located in the heart of Canada's largest city. With its unique applied history and its distinctly urban campus on the shores of Lake Ontario in the Great Lakes region, TMU features a culture that's innovative and features several interdisciplinary graduate programs related to environmental sustainability and water policy and related interdisciplinary research institutes such as the Urban Water Research Centre.

Description of Postdoctoral Fellowship Roles and Responsibilities

Research – initiate, lead and execute leading-edge research projects on Canada's freshwater politics and policy in global, international and domestic contexts. Work as part of a research team focused on current and future-oriented research projects at the interface of politics, economics and public policy. Author and co-author peer-reviewed publications, policy reports, policy briefs, policy submissions, presentations, webinars, media articles, and social media posts.

Project Coordination - coordinate, initiate, and facilitate research projects in partnership with Bruce Fellows, faculty members, graduate students at TMU and in partnership with other universities, government agencies, academic networks, and non-government and private sector partners from project development, research design, to execution, implementation and communication of research findings related to freshwater politics and public policy challenges in Canada.

Knowledge Mobilization for Policy Impact – work with the Supervisor, Bruce Fellows, other graduate students, Faculty of Arts communications staff, TMU Urban Water Research Centre, other research centres, external research partners, policy organizations and practitioner associations to disseminate and mobilize knowledge related to various applied policy research projects including developing outreach publications; playing leading role in national conference and other outreach events and programs; present and participate at policy and practitioner conferences, present and participate in public forums and discussions; and make submissions and contributions to national media and social media.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Skills

Candidates must have successfully completed their doctoral dissertation (PhD) since 2023 or have a scheduled doctoral defence date confirmed in writing by their supervisor.

Students from political science, political economy, international relations, public policy or law are encouraged to apply. Applications from other social science disciplines will also be considered including: economics, environmental studies, geography, business, and interdisciplinary studies provided they have strong foundations in Canadian environmental policy.

Qualifications

- PhD in related field completed since 2023
- Extensive knowledge of political systems, political institutions, water politics, economics, international relations and public policy backed by a solid academic background, research, publication and communications track record.
- Passion for applied research projects, and policy-oriented work at the nexus of environment and water; complex environment and water politics challenges; water law, policy and regulation; political economy, geopolitics, international trends and relations related to freshwater
- Proven research expertise and methodological skills including research design, quantitative and qualitative data analysis; law, policy and regulatory analysis
- Related experience working on environment, water politics, water policy and/or policy communications considered assets.
- Demonstrated experience and success in managing and executing applied research projects
- Self-starter able to prioritize and function both independently and collaboratively; able to work as part of a political science and multidisciplinary research team.
- Prior mentorship experience with research collaborators and graduate and/or undergraduate students considered an asset
- Demonstrated coordination skills with a strong track record for developing positive relationships and the ability to effectively plan, organize and support collaborative research and communication strategies.
- Ability to develop and maintain cooperative and productive working relationships with external partners and/or stakeholders supporting applied research
- Excellent project management and organizational skills with the ability to plan, organize, manage, monitor, and complete, projects and initiatives and effectively manage people as part of research teams
- Ability to communicate effectively in English, both verbally and in writing.
- Excellent presentation skills
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to deal effectively with a diversity of people/cultures.
- Commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Position Details

The Bruce Postdoctoral Fellowship is a one-year position with an annual salary of \$70,000 plus benefits. The position will start in Spring 2026 for a period of one year and includes the possibility of a one-year renewal and extension based on available funding and a performance review. The position requires engagement in research projects, initiatives and events in person and using online technology. The candidate must be able to work in Toronto, Canada.

TMU is on a transformative path to become Canada's leading comprehensive innovation university. Integral to this path is the placement of equity, diversity and inclusion as fundamental to our institutional culture. Our current [academic plan](#), *Transforming Futures 2025-2030*, outlines our core values and we work to embed them in all that we do. TMU welcomes those who have demonstrated a commitment to upholding the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion and will assist us to expand our capacity for diversity in the broadest sense. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been historically disadvantaged and marginalized, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples from Canada, Indigenous peoples from North America, racialized people, persons with disabilities, people who identify as women and/or 2SLGBTQ+. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, applications from candidates eligible to work in Canada will be given priority.

Application Requirements:

Interested applicants should submit an application package including:

- a CV/résumé
- copies of academic transcripts
- 2-page statement of qualifications, description of proposed water politics and applied policy research interests and alignment with goals of the Bruce Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2 letters of reference including contact information for referees.

Applications will be reviewed starting February 15, 2026 and accepted until March 15, 2026 or until the position is filled. Applications should be submitted to Dr. Carolyn Johns, cjohns@torontomu.ca

The candidate will work under the supervision of [Professor Carolyn Johns](#) and be affiliated with the Bruce Fellowships Program, the Faculty of Arts, the Department of Politics and Public Administration, the Urban Water Research Centre and other research centres and graduate programs at TMU. If you have any questions about TMU or the position, please contact Professor Johns. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Toronto Metropolitan University's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

- We encourage all First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples or Indigenous peoples of North America, to self-identify in their applications. If you are an Indigenous applicant and require support during the recruitment process, please reach out to James McKay, Indigenous HR Lead at james13@torontomu.ca.
- Toronto Metropolitan University is committed to the principles of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and aims to ensure that independence, dignity, integration and equality of opportunity are embedded in all aspects of the university culture.
- We will provide an accessible experience for applicants, students, employees, and members of the Toronto Metropolitan University community. We are committed to providing an inclusive and barrier-free work environment, starting with the recruitment process. If you have restrictions that need to be accommodated to fully participate in any phase of the recruitment process, please reach out to Human Resources by visiting torontomu.ca/human-resources/askhr/.
- All information received in relation to accommodation will be kept confidential.