



NOW HIRING

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 support research focused 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, climate change, water resilience, and water policy in the Great Lakes region. 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 2026-27 *Bruce Postdoctoral Fellow in Canadian Water Politics and Policy* builds on the foundations of the Bruce Fellowships and is 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 research at the interface of scholarship on environmental politics, water politics, political economy, international relations, 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 be committed to leading-edge scholarly and policy contributions through national, international, intergovernmental and inter-institutional initiatives; scholarly and policy publications; and contributions to public forums, media and social media. The ideal Bruce Postdoctoral Fellow is someone who has an interest in focusing their research on next generation water politics and freshwater issues facing Canada in the coming decades. The Fellowship provides an opportunity to publish works in progress but embark on an exciting new research agenda. The Bruce Postdoctoral Fellowship also provides a unique opportunity to mentor Bruce Fellows and be engaged in a diverse range of future-oriented research projects and partnerships.

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

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

- political economy of water
- water sovereignty, international relations and diplomacy
- geopolitics of water
- water, 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 futures and stewardship
- water and human rights
- water, food, energy nexus challenges
- freshwater as a political, economic, social, cultural and strategic resource.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Skills

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

Qualifications

- Knowledge of political systems, political institutions, environmental politics, economics, international relations and public policy demonstrated through a strong 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 policy and communications considered assets
- Self-starter able to conduct research independently and collaboratively
- Prior experience with research collaborators, and mentorship of graduate and/or undergraduate students considered an asset
- 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
- Excellent project management and organizational skills with the ability to plan, organize, manage and complete projects and initiatives
- Excellent written, oral communication and presentation skills
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to work as part of a team and diversity of people/cultures.
- Commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Position and Application Details

The Bruce Postdoctoral Fellowship is a full-time position with an annual salary of \$70,000 plus benefits. The position will start in Spring/Summer 2026 for a period of one year with the possibility of a second-year based on 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 with flexible hybrid work arrangements.

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 policy research interests and alignment with goals of the Bruce Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2 letters of reference including contact information for referees.

Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2026 or until the position is filled. Application packages 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. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

[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. 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's [Strategic Research Plan 2025-2030](#)

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.

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.