



Recruiting two Environmental Observation and Informatics (EOI) Fellows

Summary

The University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) and Conservation International (CI) are recruiting two Master of Science Fellows to support an interdisciplinary project on assessing the impact of global markets and national policies on forest carbon and social outcomes funded by the NASA Land Use/Land Cover Change program. The project combines remote sensing data analysis with field work, spatial econometrics, and socioeconomic surveys in the Guiana Shield region of South America. This will generate science-based evidence to guide policy makers and practitioners for effective and scalable natural climate solutions that benefit nature and people. More information about the project can be viewed here (<https://lcluc.umd.edu/projects/impacts-global-markets-and-national-policies-forest-carbon-trajectories-and-social-outcomes>).

The EOI Fellows will be part of an interdisciplinary team that includes scientists from multiple geographies and backgrounds. The EOI fellows will collaborate with the team of scientists in collecting forest biomass/forest inventory and socioeconomic datasets that will include travel to Guyana and Suriname, and linking these field data to remotely sensed data (primarily satellite imagery).

The Fellows will join the Environmental Observation & Informatics (EOI) Master of Science program in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison (www.nelson.wisc.edu/observation). The EOI program is 32 credits completed over 15 months. It is a professionally focused MS where students work directly with a professional organization to complete an independent project. Fellows will be supervised by staff in the Nelson Institute and CI and have the opportunity to contribute to peer-reviewed publications. Students will start the program in June 2021 and graduate in August 2022.

Funding

The students will be funded through a fellowship from UW-Madison. The fellowship includes a monthly stipend for the full 15 months of the program, a scholarship that covers the full tuition costs, and project expenses for travel and data collection. Costs of living, some UW-Madison fees, and health insurance will be paid by the student.

Qualifications

Applicants must meet the requirements for admission to the UW-Madison Graduate School and the EOI program:

- Applicants must have received a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year institution with an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher. Applicants with GPAs below 3.0 may be considered.
- For international applicants whose bachelor's degree is not in English, IELTS or TOEFL scores are required. Please view the [UW-Madison Graduate School requirements](#) for complete information.
- Introductory competency in statistics and GIS, which can be demonstrated through coursework, a certification, or experience.

Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies – Environmental Professional Programs Office

88 Science Hall Science Hall – 550 N Park Street Madison, WI 53706

Phone: +1-608-890-2600 Email: EnviroPros@nelson.wisc.edu



For this fellowship, we seek applicants who can demonstrate the following:

- Strong understanding of GIS concepts and a GIS program, such as ArcGIS or QGIS.
- Familiarity with a programming language (e.g. R, Stata, python, java script)
- Experience conducting data collection, such as quantitative and qualitative surveys, semi-structured interviews, forest inventory data, ground truth data for remote sensing analysis
- Willingness to travel to remote rural field sites.
- Willingness to work with a dynamic interdisciplinary team in generating science-based evidence to inform policy and advance cutting-edge science.
- Understanding of socio-ecological theoretical frameworks; climate change policy; econometrics, diffusion of innovation theory; impact evaluation are desirable skills but not required.

Complete application materials include the following:

1. Resume or CV
2. Statement of interest
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. Unofficial undergraduate transcripts
5. Professional portfolio*
6. GRE scores (requirement dependent on applicants undergraduate degree and experience)*

*Full information for EOI program application requirements can be found at this website:

<https://nelson.wisc.edu/graduate/professional-programs/environmental-observation-informatics/how-to-apply.php>

The EOI program is committed to building and supporting diverse cohorts and strongly encourage applications from candidates of color, historically underrepresented communities and first-generation college students.

How to apply

Applications are due December 1, 2020. Applications are submitted online through the UW-Madison Graduate School online application (<https://apply.grad.wisc.edu>). Applicants must apply for the EOI program for the summer 2021 term.

Applicants should state in their statement of interest that they would like to be considered for the **EOI Fellowship** with Conservation International and address the desired qualifications.

Applicants who are not selected for the fellowship may still be admitted to the EOI program and awarded a scholarship through the program's Tuition Assistance award.

Contact

Please contact Dr. Sarah Graves (sjgraves@wisc.edu) for more information about the project and applying for the fellowship.

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About UW-Madison

The UW–Madison is one of the world’s preeminent research institutions, combining a successful research enterprise with superb graduate education. A public, land grant institution, UW–Madison cultivates curiosity, collaboration, innovation, and leadership in its graduates, preparing the next generation of thought leaders. The campus is located in the capital city of Madison. Built on an isthmus between lakes Monona and Mendota, Madison is renowned for its beautiful scenery. Urban culture, natural beauty, small-town charm – the greater Madison area offers it all.

There’s also plenty to explore beyond the boundaries of the city, whether you get to know a favorite spot in one of Madison’s neighboring communities, or find a new hiking destination elsewhere in the state. For more information about life as a graduate student at UW-Madison visit this website:

<https://gradlife.wisc.edu/>

About Conservation International

For over 30 years, Conservation International (CI) has helped support 1,200 protected areas and interventions across 77 countries, safeguarding more than 601 million hectares of land, marine, and coastal areas. CI is uniquely positioned to catalyze impacts that simultaneously advance scientific knowledge and inform conservation policy and practice. Learn more here

<https://www.conservation.org>