



2-YEAR POSTDOC POSITION IN MICROPLASTICS RESEARCH

Earth & Environmental Sciences

University of Windsor

WaterWorks JPI has funded a multi-national program including modellers, economists, social scientists and ecotoxicologists, working in a consortium to determine the impacts of microplastics in agrosystems and stream environments (IMPASSE). Sites in Sweden, Canada and Spain are being investigated to quantify loads of microplastics reaching agricultural soils through the application of biosolids, with laboratory experiments being conducted to assess the implications of the microplastics for soil and freshwater organisms.

The University of Windsor seeks a postdoctoral researcher to investigate the spatial and temporal variability in sources and transport pathways of microplastics through agricultural systems and downstream freshwater environments; with a focus on development of standards in sampling and analyses procedures. The initial 6 months of research will involve conducting field sampling at pre-specified locations within the Lake Simcoe watershed, with subsequent work in laboratories within the Earth and Environmental Sciences department, at the University of Windsor.

Job description:

- Conduct monitoring of microplastics at select sites within the Simcoe watershed, Ontario, within streams, soils, and biosolids
- Manage preparation and analysis of microplastics in all samples
- Data analysis and writing of high scientific articles and reports
- Organisation and attendance at stakeholder meetings

Specific requirements:

The University of Windsor is looking for a candidate with a PhD in environmental chemistry, environmental sciences or similar; who is capable of working independently and is interested in developing knowledge in an emerging discipline. Analytical chemistry skills are important; prior experience with Raman Spectrometry is required. Previous involvement with analysis of microplastics is not necessary, though is preferred. The ability to use Microsoft Excel with a high level of competence is necessary, and proficiency in other statistical data packages (including but not limited to SPSS, R, Matlab) is desirable. The ability to communicate well is important, both when working with a large research team, and when cultivating relationships with multiple stakeholders. Experience with managing field studies (though not necessarily microplastics collection) is required.

Miscellaneous info

From August - December 2017 field work will be focused within the Simcoe basin. The applicant will be expected to live within reasonable (hourly) travel distance to the field sites for this time period. Subsequent work will be conducted at the University of Windsor.

Closing date: Once position is filled.

Please forward your confidential cover letter, resume and contact details of three referees, as soon as possible. Applicants are asked to forward their documents electronically to: Jill.Crossman@uwindsor.ca