

MS Research Assistantship in Aquatic Ecosystem Ecology, Western Washington University

Project Summary

The Institute for Watershed Studies at Western Washington University invites applications for a MS Research Assistantship on a funded project to examine changing nutrient dynamics in Lake Whatcom, the drinking water source for >100,000 people, and its surrounding watershed. The Institute for Watershed Studies (<https://diatom.cenv.wvu.edu/>) has collected data on the lake for three decades as part of a long-term monitoring program, in addition to tributary and stormwater sampling. This monitoring program offers a rich dataset to explore patterns and mechanisms of nutrient changes through time, with the potential to use lake hydrodynamic models and/or experiments to further understand biogeochemical dynamics. The candidate will have numerous opportunities to enhance their career by working with other scientists and professionals. More can be found about the lab here: <http://aquaticcecolab.weebly.com/>

As part of the Research Assistantship, the candidate will contribute to long-term monitoring efforts, including conducting field sampling on lakes and streams, laboratory analyses for water quality metrics, and data entry and verification.

Assistantship

- A competitive stipend is available for two years, with additional support possible. The second year of funding is conditional based on student academic standing and project progress.
- Tuition waiver is included for both in-state and out-of-state students.
- Health insurance costs will be covered.
- Project-related expenses will be covered.
- Funding to present graduate research at a professional conference.

Ideally, the candidate would start in fall 2023.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have:

- An undergraduate degree in ecology, watershed science, environmental science, or a related field, with a GPA of 3.0 or above in undergraduate coursework.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Knowledge of and experience working in freshwater ecosystems, including field sampling and laboratory analyses.
- Some background in computer programming.

Potential students should review the application guidelines and deadlines for the MS program in the Department of Environmental Sciences (<https://cenv.wvu.edu/graduate-programs-information-page>).

To Apply

Send a single PDF to Dr. Angela Strecker (strecka2@wwu.edu) with:

- CV/resume
- Letter of interest describing your experience, qualifications, and research interests
- Unofficial transcripts

- Contact information for three references

Please send materials by December 1 for full consideration.

Western Washington University, with over 16,000 students in seven colleges and the graduate school, is nationally recognized for its educational programs, students and faculty. The campus is located in Bellingham, Washington, a coastal community of 90,000 overlooking Bellingham Bay, the San Juan Islands and the North Cascades Mountain range. The city lies 90 miles north of Seattle and 60 miles south of Vancouver, British Columbia. Western is the highest-ranking public, master's-granting university in the Pacific Northwest, according to the 2022 U.S. News & World Report rankings. Western Washington University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer committed to assembling a diverse, broadly trained faculty and staff.