

## Recruitment Description

In partnership with [Long Point Biosphere Region](#), we are seeking to fill two well-funded Master's positions in the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability that focus on the conservation and protection of ecosystem services, including understanding community perspectives about protection efforts. The projects will be further refined based on student interests and the needs of the Long Point Biosphere Region.

### Position 1:

Local communities engage with the land for farming, hunting, recreation, and other activities, yet there is a strong push by Norfolk County towards economic development in the area for housing and industry. Understanding community perspectives of the land around which they live is integral to encouraging local municipal governments and community groups in supporting inclusion of natural heritage features in strategic planning initiatives. To that end, we plan to investigate community perspectives, values, and priorities for the surrounding land, including perspectives on ecological conservation and economic development, and compare those community perspectives to local efforts of ecosystem conservation and that of economic development.

### Position 2:

Norfolk County has a rich biodiversity, with over 25 percent forest cover including old growth Carolinian and trout bearing cold water streams. This makes it a key location for both conservation and for recreational activities, such as small-mouth bass fishing in Long Point Inner Bay. To that end, the project will examine how to quantify, in whole or part, the economic value of the ecological goods and services provided by our natural heritage features of forests, prairies, and wetlands.

The School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability offers competitive funding packages for domestic MES students, along with resources for field work. Eligible applicants will be receive [guaranteed funding](#) over two years of up to \$30,782, and also receive supplementary funding support for field research and/or research assistantships. Applications by February 1, 2024 are strongly encouraged, although applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

For additional information or to express interest in either position, please contact Leah Jones-Crank ([ljonescrank@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ljonescrank@uwaterloo.ca)).