

## Funded Master's Researching Community Perspectives on Ecosystem Services

In partnership with [Long Point Biosphere Region](#), we are seeking to fill one well-funded Master's position in the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability that focuses on understanding community perspectives about ecosystem services and conservation efforts. This position will begin Fall 2025 or earlier. The project will be further refined based on student interests and the needs of the Long Point Biosphere Region.

### Project Description:

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.

The School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability offers competitive funding packages for domestic MES students, along with resources for field work. Eligible applicants will receive [guaranteed funding](#) over two years of up to \$31,773, and also receive supplementary funding support for field research and/or research assistantships. Applications by February 1, 2025 are strongly encouraged, although applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

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

