

## Ocean Frontier Institute

BECOME - Benthic Ecosystem Mapping and Engagement

**Funded PhD Position: Cross-cultural understanding of benthic ecosystems in Nova Scotia:**  
Benthic Ecosystem Mapping and Engagement (BEcoME), Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI)

Department/Unit: Marine Affairs and School of Planning, Dalhousie University

Location: Halifax, NS

Deadline for application: 20 March, 2021

**BEcoME description:** BEcoME (Benthic Ecosystem Mapping and Engagement) is a major project of OFI (<https://www.ofibecome.org/>). BEcoME aims to build a holistic understanding of the benthic ecosystem and its response to threats like climate change, to support decision-making for marine protection and resource stewardship. Activities of BEcoME focus on integrating and interpreting seafloor data collected using innovative mapping technology and contributed through local and Indigenous knowledge of the marine environment to visualize the benthic ecosystem at large and small scales.

The sub-project WP 1.1: **Cross-cultural understanding of benthic ecosystems in Nova Scotia** is seeking a doctoral student to work under the supervision of Dr. Claudio Aporta (Marine Affairs) and Dr. Patricia Manuel (School of Planning). The sub-project is a collaborative undertaking among the multi-disciplinary research team and industry, community, and Indigenous organizations.

**Position Summary:** The candidate will be admitted through the Interdisciplinary PhD (IdPhD) program. The PhD student will undertake research at the intersection of social science and geographic information science or information technology, within a thematic context of exploring the nature of knowledge (scientific and local) of benthic environments in selected sites in Nova Scotia, as well as the mechanisms of knowledge and data visualization and mobilization.

**Requirements:** The ideal candidate must hold a graduate degree, will have training in the social sciences (graduate or undergraduate in, for example, human geography, planning, marine management, anthropology, sociology, among others) and additional training or demonstrated experience in geo-visualization and/or information technology. Experience working with marine resource or other natural resource users and/or participatory engagement techniques are assets.

The IdPhD program has a minimum entry requirement of A- (3.7) GPA at the senior undergraduate and graduate degree level. Please visit the IdPhD website of the Faculty of Graduate Studies for admission requirements, application procedures and deadlines: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/gradstudies/idphd.html>.

**Funding:** 30K per year for three years. The IdPhD degree program typically takes longer than three years to complete. Students should plan for four years and will be encouraged to work with supervisors to seek additional funding through scholarships.

**Start date:** The successful candidate will ideally enrol in the IdPhD program for the September 2021 Fall term.

**Send Expressions of Interest to Dr. Aporta ([claudio.aporta@dal.ca](mailto:claudio.aporta@dal.ca)) and Dr. Manuel ([patricia.manuel@dal.ca](mailto:patricia.manuel@dal.ca)).** Include a letter (maximum one page); a CV; the names and contact information for three potential referees; and unofficial transcripts from undergraduate and graduate study. Expressions of Interest will be reviewed when received until the deadline, March 20, 2020. The decision about which candidate will be supported must be made before submission of an application to Dalhousie Faculty of Graduate Studies. *Early expression of interest is strongly recommended.*

**Additional information:** Dalhousie University is committed to fostering a collegial culture grounded in diversity and inclusiveness. The university encourages applications from Indigenous persons, persons with a disability, racially visible persons, women, persons of a minority sexual orientation and/or gender identity, and all candidates who would contribute to the diversity of our community.