



Queen's Experimental Ecology & Ecotoxicology

We study pollution to find new ways to protect the health of our lakes and wetlands

QE3 Research Group welcomes applications for a **PhD Student** and **Postdoctoral Fellow** to study *“Interactions between Food Web Complexity and Microplastic Pollution in Freshwater Lakes”*



Project Description: Many freshwater organisms are known to assimilate microplastics – an emerging global pollutant. Few studies have investigated the movement of microplastics in aquatic food webs, but transfer of plastics between trophic levels likely occurs. Microplastics are known to elicit sublethal effects through physical and chemical mechanisms, but effects on higher levels of biological organization are poorly understood. This project examines how the fate and effects of microplastics in freshwater ecosystems are potentially modulated by food web complexity. Manipulation experiments to test this hypothesis will be conducted at a new outdoor research facility designed for experimental ecotoxicology located at the [Queen's University Biological Station](#).

Academic Environment. The successful applicants will join the [QE3 Research Group](#) directed by [Dr. Diane Orihel](#), Assistant Professor and Queen's National Scholar in Aquatic Ecotoxicology. Applicants can be affiliated with either the [Department of Biology](#) or [School of Environmental Studies](#) at [Queen's University](#), one of Canada's top universities.

Funding. This research project is funded by an NSERC Discovery Grant. Guaranteed stipend for PhD students is \$24,800 CAD per year. Salary support for PDF is at least \$45,000 CAD per year. Applicants are expected to apply for eligible scholarships and fellowships. Positions must be taken up in 2021, but the exact start date is flexible.

Essential Qualifications:

1. For the PhD Position, the applicant must have a MSc in Ecology, Limnology, or Ecotoxicology; For the PDF Position, the applicant must have a PhD in Ecology, Limnology, or Ecotoxicology
2. Experience in designing and conducting field experiments
3. Advanced quantitative and statistical skills
4. Track record of publication in peer-reviewed scientific literature

Application Process. To apply, please send the following by email (with the exact subject line “QE3 PhD Position 2021” or “QE3 PDF Position 2021”) to Dr. Diane Orihel (diane.orihel@queensu.ca) by **October 1, 2020**:

- (a) Cover letter: stating the position you are applying for (PhD or PDF), explaining why you are interested in this project and our research lab, describing how you meet each essential qualification, plus anything else you wish to share.
- (b) Curriculum vitae
- (c) Transcript (most advanced university degree only)
- (d) Contact information for three references (must include affiliations with official work email addresses)
- (e) PDFs of your scientific publications (accepted or published in peer-reviewed journals)

Incomplete applications will not be considered and only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

The QE3 Research Group strives to be an equitable, diverse, and inclusive research community where everyone is welcomed, supported, and empowered to grow to their fullest potential. We encourage applications from Indigenous, Black, and other equity-seeking persons.