



Dept. Forest & Conservation Sciences  
University of British Columbia  
2424 Main Mall  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4  
Unceded xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Territory

## **MSc position: 'Community Perceptions of Safeguards from Forest Landscape Restoration Initiatives', Faculty of Forestry**

### **Background**

The climate and biodiversity crises have called attention to the restoration and conservation of ecosystems and landscapes as nature-based solutions that protect critical ecosystem functions for society. However, there is also concern that such actions can cause harm to people and livelihoods, and displacement of local communities and Indigenous peoples from their lands. The aim of the research project, 'Safeguarding what and for whom? Community perceptions of social safeguards in forest landscape restoration' is 1) to assess community perceptions of safeguards from landscape restoration projects, and 2) develop locally-appropriate guidance on the application of safeguards and principles to enhance inclusive and equitable outcomes of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), while balancing multiple objectives and potential trade-offs. The M.Sc. student will conduct research related to the first objective and aim to lead a peer-reviewed publication from this research.

The project, funded through a Social Sciences Council of Canada Insight Development Grant, will focus on conducting in-person and online interviews or focus groups, collecting and analyzing the qualitative data from the in-person/online focus groups, and writing and disseminating results. The position may involve local or international travel, and any costs for travel will be covered through the research grant.

The M.Sc. student will join the vibrant [Land & Livelihoods Lab](#) in the Department of Forest & Conservation Sciences, and work under the co-supervision of Associate Prof. [Jeanine Rhemtulla](#) and Research Associate Dr. Veronica Lo.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Survey design and data collection in the field, with potential field visits
- Data analysis and interpretation.
- Reporting on and disseminating results (thesis, publications, and presentations).

### **Qualifications**

- BSc. in Forestry, Geography, Land and Food Systems or a related discipline
- Strong interest in restoration, conservation and livelihoods
- Familiarity or experience in qualitative methods, data analysis and statistics
- Excellent communication and teamwork skills
- Excellent time management skills and ability to work independently
- Ability to speak Spanish is an asset, but not required

### **Benefits**

- Opportunity to work on a research project with direct policy relevance
- Networking with researchers from the Forest & Conservation Sciences Department



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- Collaborative and supportive research environment.
- Access to facilities and resources.
- Salary of \$30,000/year and support for scholarships.

### **Application Process**

Please submit your application (CV, cover letter outlining motivation and experience, academic transcripts, and contact information for three references) or inquire to [veronica.lo@ubc.ca](mailto:veronica.lo@ubc.ca) and [Jeanine.rhemtulla@ubc.ca](mailto:Jeanine.rhemtulla@ubc.ca). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Successful candidates will apply for admission to UBC Forestry's MSc program (September 2025 intake).