



Graduate Research Fellowship (MS) in Large River Ecology River Studies Center University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

A Graduate Research Fellowship is available for a student pursuing a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Biology (Aquatic Science Concentration), studying the ecology of large wood in the Upper Mississippi River (UMR). Depending upon background and interest, the successful applicant will be expected to develop a research project investigating the distribution and ecological role of wood in large rivers. Faculty members from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse River Studies Center (RSC, <https://www.uwlax.edu/center/river-studies/>) are investigating how hard structures such as wood support secondary production (microbes, macroinvertebrates and/or fish) in the main channel border habitats of the UMR. The M.S. student's research should facilitate this larger project goal but could focus on other ecological attributes of wood in the system, e.g., structure and function of the biofilm or macroinvertebrate communities associated with these wood substrates.

The UWL River Studies Center was established in 1972 to facilitate the University's scientific involvement with environmental and resource-management issues pertinent to the Upper Mississippi River. The Center has since expanded its research activities to other aquatic resources in Wisconsin, the Upper Midwest, and the nation, providing research opportunities to nearly 160 graduate students and more than 300 undergraduates. The Center has become nationally recognized for its investigations of non-point source pollutants in rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands.

Anticipated Support: In-state (Wisconsin) tuition, an annual stipend (\$20,000) plus health insurance and may be renewable for an additional year.

Starting Date: June 2021

SPECIAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS (Please read carefully):

ALL POTENTIAL APPLICANTS MUST CONTACT: Dr. Eric Strauss, Department of Biology and the River Studies Center, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601, USA; email estrauss@uwlax.edu

New Applicants: Selection will be based on undergraduate coursework and grades (GPA) and letters of reference from at least three persons with knowledge of the applicant's potential for research. Students with proven experience in analytical instrumentation and collection of environmental samples are encouraged to apply. More information about the graduate application process for the UWL Biology Department can be found at <https://www.uwlax.edu/grad/biology/application-process/biology-other-concentrations/>. Please note in your application that you are interested in the **Large River Graduate Research Fellowship**.

Individuals with Who Have Already Applied to UWL: Individuals that have already applied to the UWL Biology graduate program for the 2021-2022 academic year **can** be considered for this fellowship. Please contact the Biology Graduate Program Director, Dr. Anita Davelos, adavelos@uwlax.edu, to express your interest in the Large River Graduate Research Fellowship. Your application materials will then be shared with the Large River Graduate Research Fellowship review committee.