

Funded MA Student Opportunity
Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Graduate Program
University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, Canada



Dr. Wigglesworth at Teapot Mountain in British Columbia.

Project Title: “Reclaiming Nature Spaces: Structures of resistance to historical marginalization in outdoor culture.”

Project Members: [Dr. Courtney Szto](#) (Queen’s University), [Dr. Jennifer Wigglesworth](#) (University of Northern British Columbia), [Dr. Layla Cameron](#) (University of British Columbia - Okanagan); [Jacqueline Scott](#), PhD Candidate (University of Toronto)

Application Deadline: March 15, 2024 (or until appropriate candidate is selected)

Start Date: September 2024

Faculty: Faculty of Environment, University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)

Project Description: In 2018, Latria Graham wrote for Outside magazine: “We might not be in national parks, but we’re at the lake, at private campgrounds close to home, and in state parks...I’m able to do everything my ancestors couldn’t – that’s the structure of my resistance.” Racialized people, women, the LGBTQ+ community, disabled people, and those who identify as fat have all created grassroots programs to support each other in a constellation of resistance against what outdoor culture has historically been: white, able-bodied, heterosexual, male. This project seeks to uplift and amplify these structures of resistance by learning from and with the very people who are doing what their ancestors could not do.

As part of a 5-year SSHRC Insight Grant, we are coordinating a multi-sited project with the following objectives: (1) amplify the work of traditionally marginalized groups who (re)claim space in outdoor culture, (2) challenge dominant narratives that reproduce the white heteropatriarchy and tend to recolonize outdoor culture, and (3) learn how these groups navigate, negotiate, resist, and interpret recreation on stolen land (or for Indigenous groups - colonized land) as a way forward. This project is for those who live their resistance in the outdoors by taking up space.

With these objectives in mind, we are looking for **one (1) Master’s student** and one (1) Doctoral student to support the grant with their own thesis projects. The Master’s student will work with Dr. Jennifer Wigglesworth at the University of Northern British Columbia, and the Doctoral student will work with Dr. Courtney Szto at Queen’s University.

We are looking for a Master’s student who:

- Identifies as Black, Indigenous, racialized, non-gender conforming, LGTBQ+, fat, and/or disabled.
- Preference for First Nations, Metis, or Inuit applicants.
- Loves the outdoors OR would like to get into outdoor culture.
- Works well in a team environment.
- Ideally, has a background in recreation and leisure, First Nations studies, kinesiology, health studies, cultural geography, sociology, cultural studies, or a similar degree.
- Is looking to conduct a critical qualitative thesis project.
- Is able to live in Prince George, British Columbia at least until coursework is complete.

University of Northern British Columbia’s Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Entry Requirements

- Evidence of successful completion of an undergraduate degree.
- English Language Comprehension tests results are required for those whose first language is not English. French-speaking Canadians and Canadian First Nations language speakers are exempted from this requirement. Students who have completed a degree program

entirely in the English language at a recognized institution from a country approved by UNBC where English is an official language may be exempted from this requirement. The following English Language Proficiency test results are accepted: TOEFL, IELTS, CAEL, CELPIP, MELAB, Pearson Test (PTE), and Duolingo.

Funding

The successful candidate will receive a \$15,000 CDN stipend per year for 2 years (2024-2025). Master's students in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Graduate Program are automatically considered for a Graduate Entrance Research Scholarship valued at \$17,500, and, if a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident, can apply to the British Columbia Graduate Scholarship Program valued at \$17,500.

Application Procedure

Prospective Master's student applicants should email Dr. Jennifer Wigglesworth (jennifer.wigglesworth@unbc.ca) with the following items:

- Current curriculum vitae (What is this? Learn more [here](#))
- Unofficial transcripts
- 1 term paper with professor's comments attached
- Contact information for two academic references
- 1 page proposal (12pt font): Detail your project idea/research question and the outdoor group that you would like to work with (if applicable); your positionality; outdoor interests/expertise.

Please write "Funded Master's Application" in the email subject line. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for a Zoom interview with Dr. Wigglesworth and Dr. Szto. Note that the successful applicant will still need to apply to the Master's program at the University of Northern British Columbia.

About the University and its Community

UNBC's Prince George campus is located on the traditional unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh, near the geographic centre of British Columbia. Since its founding in 1990, the University of Northern British Columbia has emerged as one of Canada's best small research-intensive universities, with a passion for teaching, discovery, people, and the North. Prince George is a city of 74,000 people with an international airport. Prince George is a 9-hour drive, or 1-hour flight, north of Vancouver, and a 8-hour drive, or 1.5-hour flight, west of Edmonton. Please visit the following sites for more information about life in Prince George and the cost of living:

- [Move Up Prince George](#)
- [Prepare For Canada](#)

Contact Info

Questions and Master's applications can be sent to Dr. Jennifer Wigglesworth (jennifer.wigglesworth@unbc.ca). Those interested in the Doctoral student opportunity should email Dr. Courtney Szto (c.szto@queensu.ca).