

Graduate Student (M.Sc.) Assistantship

Development of Novel Techniques to Trace the Decay of Degradation Resistant Proteins in Soils and Compost Systems

Supervision: Dr. G. W. Price, Innovative Waste Management Research Chair

Location: Dalhousie University and NSAC, NS

Project: The proposed research program aims to examine soil burial and composting systems as decontamination mechanisms for Degradation Resistant Proteins (DRP), such as prions, and to develop a risk assessment model related to the potential environmental persistence and transport of DRP based on both laboratory and field observations. The successful graduate student will develop skills working with current protein biochemistry analytical techniques, as well as gain technical expertise in environmental management and disease agent control technologies. This research initiative is a collaborative effort of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Industry partners.

Qualifications: Applicants must possess a minimum of a B.Sc. honours degree in agriculture, biochemistry, microbiology, soil science, environmental sciences, or a related field. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last two years of study is required for admission. Interest in and knowledge of protein biochemistry and management of organic wastes entering the environment would be a strong asset. Strong written and oral communication skills are expected of the successful candidate.

Stipend: The successful candidate will be eligible to receive \$16,500 (or \$19,500 for Ph.D.) per year for two years (three years for Ph.D.). Partial tuition reimbursement may be available for eligible candidates. (A maximum stipend of up to \$21,000 per year for two years may also be available for eligible candidates through the NSERC Industrial Postgraduate Scholarship (IPS) Program.)

Start Date: Immediately with a January, May or September 2008 official start date in the M.Sc. or Ph.D. program.

To Apply:

For additional information on the research and to submit the application, please contact: Dr. G. W. Price, Innovative Waste Management Research Chair, Department of Engineering, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, P.O. Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3, Canada; E-mail: gprice@nsac.ca; Phone: +1 902 896 2461 or +1 902 890 0559

For Graduate Program Information:

For further information about the M.Sc. Program at NSAC contact Marie Law at mlaw@nsac.ca or visit the NSAC web site at <http://nsac.ca/research/graduatestudies/>.

The Master of Science program with a specialization in agriculture is offered by NSAC in conjunction with Dalhousie University