

## Graduate Student Assistantship (M.Sc.)

**Supervision:** Dr. Kevin Sibley, Professor and Dr. David Percival, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences.

**Location:** Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, NS, Canada.

**Project:** Wild Blueberry Leaf Bioactive Compounds Profile Response to Cultural Management Practices. The M.Sc. student will be involved with the scientific study of the environmental, cultural plant-management practices, and physical handling factors suspected of influencing plant biochemistry, expression, and stabilization of bioactive compounds found within wild blueberry leaves. The objectives of this project are three fold: i) determine optimum leaf harvest timing window under standard cultural management practices that yields maximum quantity of bioactive compounds, ii) determine the impact of leaf nitrogen status on bioactive compounds content, and iii) investigate leaf disease management technologies to enhance leaf bioactive compounds content. Activities will include both laboratory and field work related to the above.

**Qualifications:** Applicants must possess a B.Sc. honors degree (or equivalent) in Agriculture or Chemistry or Biology, meet the entrance requirements for the NSAC/Dalhousie M.Sc. program, and have a minimum first class GPA (80%, A- or 3.7) in the last two years of undergraduate study in order to be eligible for an NSERC-Industrial Postgraduate Scholarship (IPS). Strong written and oral communication skills in English, strong laboratory and analytical skills, and a mechanical aptitude are considered desirable assets.

**Stipend:** \$16,500 annually for a two-year period. However, the selected candidate who successfully obtains an NSERC-Industrial Postgraduate Scholarship (IPS) will receive \$21,000 annually for two years. ([http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/IPS-BESII\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/IPS-BESII_eng.asp))

**Start Date:** September 2010 or sooner

**For Information about this position contact:** Dr. Kevin Sibley at [ksibley@nsac.ca](mailto:ksibley@nsac.ca) or Tel: 902-893-6712.

**For Graduate Program Information and to make an application contact:** Marie Law at [mLaw@nsac.ca](mailto:mLaw@nsac.ca) or Tel: 902-893-6502 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 the NSAC in conjunction with Dalhousie University.**