

Ways for Knowledge Clients to Engage Scholars

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The School is a diverse collection of scholars, both senior (the professors) and junior (the students), ready and willing to engage with people and organizations with specific knowledge needs related to natural resources and the environment. We have a wide range of mechanisms for engagements between us, as knowledge developers, and clients, as knowledge users. Those mechanisms are described below. Potential clients (see selected list below for recent and current clients) are strongly encouraged to contact professors at the School to discuss their specific knowledge needs and how they might be addressed by scholars at the School. To identify which professors to speak with, please visit the [research strengths](#) page on our website.

1. Thesis research. A centrepiece of the School's academic programming is the [Master of Environmental Studies \(MES\)](#). In that two-year degree, students undertake a thesis research project that represents original scholarship of a quality that can be published in refereed journals. The research agenda for each student is uniquely and jointly set by the student, the supervisor, and the supervisory committee. However, MES students often undertake projects where the research question is set by a client external to the university. This approach is warmly welcomed at the School. Ideally, the knowledge client will fund such research through a grant or contract with Dalhousie University. The supervisor normally administers the funds and serves as the project's Principal Investigator. The School tries to ensure that every MES student has two years of stipendiary/scholarship funding as well as operating expenses adequate to the particular project undertaken. Stipends are normally in the range of \$15-20K per year.

Professors in the School also supervise PhD candidates enrolled in Dalhousie's [Interdisciplinary PhD](#) program. These candidates are expected to engage in original research substantially beyond the scope of a master's project. The research questions for PhD candidates can also largely be driven by specific client's research needs. The candidates normally spend at least 3-4 years undertaking their research. Stipends for PhD candidates are valued, at minimum, in the \$20-25K per year.

The School does not, at the moment, have its own undergraduate degree. However, professors are often requested to supervise the [honours thesis of undergraduate students](#) in various programs (e.g., those in the Faculty of Science's Environmental Science Program). These too can be linked to the knowledge needs of clients. Undergraduate students do not normally get research stipends although they can be hired in the summer between their third and fourth years of study to engage in thesis-related work. Outcomes of undergraduate thesis research are occasionally of high-enough quality to be submitted to a refereed journal.

As clients consider the thesis-research model for meeting their knowledge needs, they are reminded that while the research money is spent almost entirely on stipendiary and operating support for graduate students, the professors involved - especially the supervisor - will be investing a considerable amount of time and intellectual capital into the project. Such investments are usually made as part of the professor's normal research duties that are financially supported by Dalhousie University.

2. Internships and Project Reports. The School offers a course-based graduate degree called the [Master of Resource and Environmental Management \(MREM\)](#). MREM students are required to secure an internship during their third term of study (i.e., May through August). Internships are work placements with organizations (e.g., government departments, non-government organizations, businesses) that do resource and environmental work. Many of the MREM students engage in research activities for their internship employers.

During the fourth (final) term of the MREM degree, taken in autumn, students develop an MREM Project Report that represents a scholarly treatment of some interesting and important aspect of the internship work. MREM students who engage in research during their work term usually write up the research results as the main component of the Project Report. Because the report is ideally linked integrally with the work-term experience, it stands to reason that the report should contain knowledge of direct use by the work-term employer. The School welcomes opportunities for MREM students to undertake client-driven research during their internship placements and project reporting.

3. Tri-Course Projects. The curriculum for the MREM includes a set of three integrated courses taken during the winter term. The courses each cover one key set of dimensions of resource and environmental management: biophysical, socio-political, and law and policy. As a requirement of all three courses, MREM students form into groups of 4-6 people and address a contemporary resource or environmental issue in Nova Scotia (or elsewhere if desired) across all these dimensions. The [group projects](#) may well be scoped in collaboration with a client who desires scholarly insight into a pressing problem. When this happens, operating expenses (e.g., travel for consultations or interviews) could be covered by the client.

4. Projects in the Course “Management without Borders”. All graduate students in the Faculty of Management take an autumn course together that looks at management issues in a cross-disciplinary fashion. Students join into groups of 4-6 people, preferably from different Schools, and address specific management problems brought to Dalhousie by Nova Scotia organizations. Costs to clients are usually nominal, similar to those for the Tri-Course Project described above. For more information about this opportunity, please contact [Jenny Baechler](#), the Course Coordinator.

5. Engagement of Professors. Sometimes projects require the direct and intense involvement of senior scholars. When such projects are small, they are often accomplished through consultancies with specific professors. When they are larger, they are usually accomplished through a research grant or contract with Dalhousie University. The professor becomes Principal Investigator of the grant or contract and usually hires students as research assistants or associates to undertake some of the research tasks.

Examples of Recent/Current Knowledge Clients

Private Sector: Aker BioMarine of Norway; Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia; Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.; Ecopetrol S.A. of Colombia; Nova Scotia Power Inc.; Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Foundations: International Seafood Sustainability Foundation; Salamander Foundation; Resource Recovery Fund Board; Sage Environmental Program

Governments: Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Agriculture and Agrifood Canada; Halifax Regional Municipality; Nova Scotia Department of Energy; Nova Scotia Department of Rural Development and Tourism; Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources; Nova Scotia Department of Environment; Kejimikujik National Park & National Historic Site of Canada