

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

TRANSFORMING CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH LAW INITIATIVE

Position: **LLM**

Project: **Aquaculture Law and Policy - Unlocking Just Ocean-based Climate Solutions**

Project background

The [Marine & Environmental Law Institute](#) (MELAW) is internationally recognized for excellence in marine and environmental law teaching and research. MELAW is housed in the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University and carries out research and consultancy activities. MELAW also directs the [Marine & Environmental Law Program](#) (MELP) academic specialization.

MELAW is a member of Transformative Adaptations to Social-Ecological Climate Change Trajectories (TranSECT), a part of the CFREF-funded Transforming Climate Action¹ initiative. TranSECT is an interdisciplinary large research project aimed at developing innovative adaptation solutions to the profound impacts of climate change on the coastal areas of Eastern Canada. Conducted in collaboration with teams from the Université du Québec à Rimouski, Université Laval (Québec), and Dalhousie University (Halifax), TranSECT focuses on understanding and solving complex socio-ecological system (SES) issues arising from the convergence of local and global challenges in the context of climate change.

Within TranSECT, MELAW's goal is to address the evolving law and policy landscape for ocean-based solutions to climate change and to identify incremental and transformative law and policy reforms needed for equitable, just, and sustainable ocean climate action, with a focus on impacts on and opportunities for coastal social-ecological systems.

Aquaculture offers solutions to climate change for both adaptation (e.g. increasing food security, providing alternative livelihoods, strengthening coastal resilience) and mitigation (cultivation of macroalgae for carbon sequestration). There is a need to understand whether the Canadian and provincial legal and policy frameworks enable the development of aquaculture as a climate change solution, including through appropriate regulatory incentives, and the effectiveness of environmental and social safeguards to ensure that such developments are sustainable, resilient, and just.

Terms of reference for LLM

Term: 1 year [September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026]

Role and tasks in the project: to complete an LLM thesis designed to clarify the Canadian and provincial (Atlantic provinces) law and propose transformative regulatory or policy reforms for

¹ Transforming Climate Action: <https://www.ofi.ca/programs/transform-climate-action>.

sustainable, resilient and just aquaculture as a mitigation and adaptation solution. Possible areas of focus include aquaculture and food security or sovereignty, offshore macroalgae aquaculture, restorative/regenerative aquaculture, or aquaculture as a nature-based solution. Other research interests that address aquaculture law and policy in the context of climate change are also welcome.

The successful applicant is expected to synthesize the findings of the LLM research in a policy brief and/or other document(s) for dissemination to a wider audience. He/she is also expected to participate in TranSECT project activities and contribute to interdisciplinary dialogue.

Qualifications: JD or equivalent, with optional specialization in marine, environmental or Indigenous law.

Remuneration: \$30,000 scholarship

Supervision

The successful applicant will work under the supervision of Patrícia Galvão Ferreira, Associate Professor, and Cecilia Engler, Postdoctoral Fellow.

Where to apply and by when

ALL of the following documents, as per the [How to Apply](#) webpage, should be received by Shannon Langton (lawgrad@dal.ca) no later than **January 15, 2025** to be considered for the project:

- All post-secondary transcripts (virtual is acceptable)
- 2 letters of reference, must be sent by the referee
- Curriculum Vitae
- Motivation letter, stating why you are interested in the Schulich School of Law and MELAW, and how you hope your work will contribute to the Transforming Climate Action Through Law project.
- Written thesis proposal (please visit webpage for additional details)

Applicants may also wish to apply for supplementary funding support through Dalhousie's [Harmonized funding](#) process, also due **January 15, 2025**. Only those applicants who are able to study in Canada, and able to relocate to Halifax, NS for September will be considered. The successful applicant will be required to officially apply online and pay the \$115 application fee before admission can be processed.

Dalhousie University commits to achieving inclusive excellence through continually championing equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. The university encourages applications from Indigenous persons (especially Mi'kmaq), persons of Black/African descent (especially African Nova Scotians), and members of other racialized groups, persons with disabilities, women, and persons identifying as members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and all candidates who would contribute to the diversity of our community. For more information, please visit www.dal.ca/hiringfordiversity.