DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Inspiring Minds

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Funded MA project on climate justice and guest workers in Atlantic Canada

The research project "Warming oceans, changing livelihoods" is recruiting a funded MA student for the Dalhousie's Master of Arts program in **Social Anthropology** to conduct research on the intersection of climate change and temporary foreign workers programs in Atlantic Canada. The project is part of the Dalhousie-based project Climate Justice: Values and Vulnerabilities, which is in turn part of the Transforming Climate Action Research Program.

Project

Climate change, especially ocean climate change, is a pressing issue that disproportionately impacts vulnerable and marginalized populations. Temporary foreign workers in Atlantic Canada, coming primarily from Mexico, Guatemala, the Caribbean, and the Philippines through government-sponsored programs are a particularly relevant case to study this phenomenon. This project will explore how climate change impacts the livelihoods and living conditions of migrant agrifood-sector workers throughout their employment journey away from their home countries. Students' projects will focus on one of the following questions:

- How do warming oceans and climate change influence the motivations, livelihoods, and experiences of temporary seafood processors in Atlantic Canada?
- How do temporary migrant workers in Atlantic Canada experience climate change-related health risks and outcomes?

Data collection will employ mixed methods, including in-depth interviews, observation and surveys. The research may entail travelling in Atlantic Canada. Quantitative and qualitative data will paint a picture of the experiences of agrifood-sector migrant workers in the region and the health consequences they face due to changing climate and livelihoods.

Master of Arts (MA) programs at Dalhousie University's Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology (SOSA)

Students selected to join this project will have to enroll in the MA in Social Anthropology offered at the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology (SOSA) at Dalhousie. Our Master of Arts program draw on the strengths of our two disciplines—sociology and social anthropology—by recognizing their distinct intellectual and methodological heritages, while emphasizing how they complement each other. SOSA MA students study theory, research methods and design, and conduct research culminating with a thesis. Students typically complete the program within 24 months.

The students joining this project will be supervised by Dr. Liz Fitting. They will benefit from close collaboration with a multi-disciplinary team of professors, students and researchers involved with the research project Climate Justice: Values and Vulnerability (TCA cluster 3.4).

As a U15 university, Dalhousie is one of the top research universities in Canada and the largest in the Atlantic region. Situated in the historic city of Halifax along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, Dalhousie is a wonderful place to live and study. More information on the SOSA programs at Dalhousie University can be found on our website.

Funding and start date

The selected MA student will be funded through a combination of scholarship and research assistantships relevant to the project, adding up to CAD$27,500 annually, for each of two years, starting in September 2027. Research costs, including travel, if required, will be covered separately by the project. The CJV2 phase II budget is currently under review and the MA scholarship and research assistantship depends on its approval (in spring 2027).

Qualifications

- A minimum of A- (GPA 3.7) average or higher over the last two years of full-time study, preferably an undergraduate honours degree in the corresponding discipline of the program (Anthropology)
- Experience in qualitative research methods
- Excellent analytical, writing and communication skills
- Strong interest in themes such as precarious labour, the environment and political ecology, migration, the food system
- Ability to work and collaborate across disciplines

Desirable skills:

- Additional language skills, especially Spanish

How to Apply

Interested students should email Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Fitting at elizabeth.fitting@dal.ca **by December 1st, 2026,** attaching the following:

- Statement of interest (one page max.)
- Curriculum vitae
- Unofficial transcripts
- Writing sample (fifteen pages max.)

Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Students selected for this funding opportunity must also apply for admission to Dalhousie's Faculty of Graduate Studies and to the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology to commence studies in **September 2027.** The deadline to apply is January 15, 2027.

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.
We are all Treaty people.
We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.