Exploring New Issues:
PICS Graduate Fellowships Call 2017

Application Guidelines

Faculty members resident at one of the four PICS consortium universities are invited to apply for graduate-fellowship support for exploration of novel issues that focus on climate-change adaptation or mitigation. Proposals must focus on climate solutions, be relevant to British Columbia, and engage stakeholders/knowledge users in the design and development of the research.

PICS’ current five research foci are: energy efficiency in the built environment; low C transportation futures; carbon stewardship in BC’s forests; BC natural gas development; and integration of the western Canadian electrical grid (PICS Research). Proposals for Graduate Fellowships related to these five topics will not be excluded from consideration, but PICS especially encourages applications that embrace other topics that fall under the broad climate-change solutions challenges that face society. Topics that we are particularly encouraging applications for include clean technologies and innovations that can be commercialized and adopted globally; effective adaptation options especially for small and medium business, indigenous communities, and high risk populations; and effectiveness indicators for GHG reduction policies.

Applications may only be submitted by continuing (tenured or tenure-track) faculty members. If subsequently recommended for funding, the faculty member will recruit and nominate a suitable student to hold the fellowship. Only one fellowship will be provided to each successful faculty researcher in this competition. Up to five fellowships will be awarded in 2017 for support at the Masters or PhD level.

Note: prospective graduate students do not apply directly to PICS, but are encouraged to discuss research projects with potential faculty supervisors, who will be the applicants in this competition.

Selection Process

- Project proposals are to be submitted electronically to PICS on the application form provided on the PICS Graduate Fellowship page. Evaluation will be based primarily on: a) the broad fit to the PICS mandate (described in our Missions and Objectives); b) the potential impact, in the context of developing solutions for adaptation or mitigation, and c) presenting a strong case that the issue to be addressed may have unrecognized importance or potential that requires investigation.
Important Dates for Faculty Applicants

Project proposals must be received by midnight, Monday, January 16, 2017. Please send your application as a pdf file to picsadmn@uvic.ca. Late applications will not be accepted. A confirmation of receipt will be sent by email.

Adjudication results will be announced in early February, 2017.

Once a project proposal is recommended for funding at either the Master’s or PhD level, the successful faculty researcher will nominate a suitable graduate student for fellowship support by forwarding the student’s CV to picsadmn@uvic.ca. Successful applicants will have until January 2018 to recruit a suitable student.

Fellowship awards may be taken up as early as May 1, 2017 should the student be in a position to begin research then. However, it is anticipated that most new fellows will take up their positions in September 2017.

Eligibility

Researchers who apply for student fellowship funding must hold a continuing faculty appointment (tenured or tenure-track) at one of the four PICS universities: SFU, UBC, UNBC or UVic.

Students who receive fellowship funding must be enrolled in full-time graduate studies at one of the four PICS universities.

Level of Support

There are three levels of fellowship support available to students:

- PhD – $21,000 per year for a maximum of three years
  Masters – thesis or extended project required – $18,500 per year for two years
  Masters (single year)– project required – $4,000 per year for one year

Fellowships are not intended to support students who already hold a major fellowship from another agency. However, they can be used to provide top-ups to a maximum total annual support level of $38,000 for PhD students and $28,000 for Master’s students.