

# Apply for the University of Waterloo's Provost's Program for Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Scholars and work on the "Retreating From Risk (RFR): Decision-supports for the equitable implementation of retreat to build climate resilience" (NFRF-I-funded) project

Are you a recent PhD graduate with an innovative and community-minded spirit, and a passion for tackling hazards and climate change-related challenges? If you've graduated between August 1, 2020 and now, or are on track to complete your PhD by September 1, 2025, we invite you to apply for two years of funding support under the University of Waterloo's prestigious Provost's Program for Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Scholars (PPIPS). This is your chance to contribute to groundbreaking community-engaged climate adaptation research while enhancing skills relevant to your professional journey.

**Why Apply?** Successful candidates will join the "[Retreating from Risk \(RFR\): Decision-supports for the equitable implementation of retreat to build climate resilience](#)" project. As part of this transformative initiative, you will play a vital role in shaping strategies that promote climate resilience and adaptation in Canada, the USA, and Indonesia, working with municipal and First Nations partners.

**Opportunities Available:** If you are successful in the PPIPS competition, you will have the chance to engage with the RFR project and international team in one or more of the following capacities:

1. **Project Management Support** - Help oversee project timelines, events (e.g., workshops, webinars), financial reporting, and other administrative tasks.
2. **Communications and Toolkit Development** - Craft impactful messaging and resources for community leaders, practitioners, and stakeholders.
3. **Research** - Conduct leading-edge managed retreat research that advances project objectives, including cross-case analyses.
4. **Community Outreach and Engagement** - Build relationships with First Nations, municipal governments, not-for-profit organizations, and stakeholders to support communities in adapting to climate change.
5. **Knowledge Mobilization** - Work collaboratively to ensure that project findings are communicated to diverse audiences in culturally-appropriate and inclusive ways (e.g. academic publications, presentations, multi-media outputs, and policy briefs).
6. **Student Support** - Support Master's and PhD students working on the RFR project to advance their own research (i.e., through student committee membership, informal mentoring, research methods guidance, etc.).

**Compensation:** As outlined in the [Provost's Program guidelines](#), the salary for this position is set at \$70,000 per year for two years plus a \$5,000 research fund. Additionally, there may be opportunities for salary augmentation through the RFR project, subject to discussions once the results from the PPIPS competition are released. **Important Note:** To be considered for this exciting opportunity, you **must first apply for and be successful in** the PPIPS competition, after which discussions regarding specific project roles and potential salary top-ups will take place.

**Ideal Applicant (roughly in order of importance):** 1. Recent graduate (1/8/2020 to 1/9/2025) of a Geography, Planning, Public Administration, Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Environmental Studies, or Engineering program (or other relevant programs) 2. Project management experience, 3. Familiarity with large team-based research projects 4. Competencies and technical skills related to communications and knowledge mobilization. 5. Previous experience in managed retreat, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, community-based research methods, and/or decision-support frameworks is an asset, but not required.

**Eligibility:** All qualified candidates regardless of citizenship status are encouraged to apply; however, **Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.**

## Application Process:

**Step 1:** Email [Dr. Brent Doberstein](mailto:bdoberst@uwaterloo.ca) (bdoberst@uwaterloo.ca) CC'ing Sharmalene Mendis-Millard ([sharmalene.mendis-millard@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:sharmalene.mendis-millard@uwaterloo.ca)) **by October 31, 2024**, explaining your disciplinary and employment background in the areas mentioned above, and clearly indicating both your PhD graduation date and how you meet the PPIPS eligibility requirements. Please provide a recent CV and unofficial graduate transcript.

**Step 2:** If Dr. Doberstein endorses you, apply for [PPIPS](#). NOTE: Dr. Doberstein will help you identify an appropriate co-supervisor (likely one of the RFR faculty from UWaterloo).

Apply now and embark on a fulfilling journey that combines your academic expertise with meaningful community-engaged climate action and helps you gain marketable experience and skills. For detailed application instructions and eligibility requirements, visit: [Provost's Program for Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Scholars](#).

Join us in retreating from risk and building a resilient future!