

## Looking for master's student to join the department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics at the University of Guelph on a project linking people and pixels

Interested in doing mixed methods research integrating interviews with remote sensing and GIS + fieldwork abroad? Always wanted to discover other parts of the world? Interested in digging deeper to understand how crises such as Covid-19 affect places and people? Join my newly created lab at department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics at the University of Guelph, see here [my university profile](#). I am looking for a master's students to work on a SSHRC-funded project entitled "Life in the time of Covid: urban flight and the social-ecological transformations of rural Greece" with a start date of either April/May 2024 or Fall 2024. The student will complete a social-ecological research project on the implications of crisis-led counterurbanisation (i.e., moving out of cities into rural areas) for rural island communities and ecosystems. More specifically the student will quantify land use changes on the island and relate those to interviews with community members. The project may include fieldwork in Greece.

A background in remote-sensing and GIS as well as an interest in social sciences and/or integrative fields such as sustainability, resilience; familiarity with mixed methods including qualitative research methods (e.g., interviews and focus groups) and quantitative methods (e.g., experience with remote-sensing/ GIS); interest in working in a foreign country and to familiarize oneself with other cultures and ways of being; Interest in rural or urban-rural dynamics; knowledge of Greek; would all be considered assets. If you feel interested or passionate about those topics and do not have all these experiences, please apply anyways, being motivated and curious are the main requirements.

If admitted, students will receive funding following our department's graduate [financial support policy](#). I unfortunately do not have funds to support international master's students unless they obtain their own scholarship (see [here](#) for international students that did their undergraduate at UoG). Funds for fieldwork, conference attendance and other opportunities for professional development may also be available and will be allocated based on the needs of the student and the research project.

Our department and I strive to foster collaborative and genuinely supportive spaces that value diversity and wellbeing in research and in our personal lives. I strongly encourage application from people that have been under-represented in higher education. This includes people from equity-deserving groups as well as people actively engaged in efforts towards more equitable, diverse, and inclusive communities (for e.g., through social movements and grassroots activism). I not only encourage these applications but also want to emphasize that these diverse visions would be an asset to our research group as they challenge and transform the nature and praxis of research, that is, what is researched and how to go about it.

Prospective applicants should contact me via email – [kbenessa@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kbenessa@uoguelph.ca) - and include:

- A brief statement outlining their interests and qualifications in relation to the proposed project.
- An unofficial transcript
- A resume or CV
- Writing samples (e.g., class essays, reports)
- Contact information for two references

Note: I receive many applications so *only those best fitted to the position will be contacted, approximately by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

Sincerely

Karina Benessaiah, Asst. Prof Human Dimensions of Global Change, Dept. Geography, Environment and Geomatics, University of Guelph