

Call for applications for PhD opportunities in Infrastructure Integration and Multi-modality

We invite expressions of interest in pursuing doctoral research for **two well-funded PhD positions** in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment at Concordia University to start in **September 2025**.

Background

The global transportation sector has long been known to be one of the largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters, and takes second place in that regard behind the utility sector. Decarbonizing Canadian cities is essential to meet climate commitments, with urban mobility playing a critical role. The rapid expansion of electrified mass rapid transit systems across Canada presents a transformative opportunity. The heart of the project is to examine how rapid transit systems that are being deployed or currently in stages of planning and development are located in the Canadian urban context. Multimodal integration has arisen as a key normative goal of transport policy. There is now a vast literature of last/first mile integration that is associated with transit projects. We seek to investigate the kinds of multimodal integration actively fostered or disrupted. This requires a deep qualitative study that considers infrastructures and their effects within a context of use once they have been deployed on the ground.

We are seeking two PhD students to work in the domain of multi-modality in the context of mass-rapid transit infrastructures in Canadian cities. While the exact focus of the PhD research is to be decided, the students will have the opportunity to work closely with transit advocacy groups to align their projects with specific needs of different transit users and communities.

Successful applicants will conduct research that contributes to “Transforming Canadian Cities: Toward Equitable and Decarbonized Urban Transportation through Electrification, Automation, Shared Use, and Transit-Oriented Development,” a four-year research project funded by Volt-Age, a research unit funded by the Canada First Excellence Research Fund. Students will apply to join Concordia University’s doctoral program in Geography, Urban and Environmental Studies and will receive assistance in applying for admission. If admitted, they will be supervised Govind Gopakumar. Each admitted PhD student will receive a fellowship valued at \$35,000 per year for four years, as well as additional funding to support their doctoral studies.

Qualifications

We are seeking candidates with:

- a master’s degree
- a strong academic background, including familiarity with the including familiarity with the geography or planning of transportation, urban mobility, and sustainability and equity.
- experience in using qualitative and mobile research methods
- ideally, a proven track record in conducting relevant research

Application process

Those interested should email Govind Gopakumar (govind.gopakumar@concordia.ca) by June 15, 2025, explaining why they are interested in and suitable for this doctoral research program.

The following materials should be attached: a letter of application that explains their interest; a CV, including qualifications; the names of two academic referees; unofficial academic transcripts; and up to two samples of critical, analytical writing (such as published articles).