

## MSc Position available in Litzgus Lab at LU

### **Response of at-risk turtles to environmental change to inform industry biodiversity mandate**

We are seeking a highly motivated and hardworking individual with an interest in Species-at-Risk turtle ecology to undertake a field-based thesis project in partnership with Bruce Power. The project is funded by an NSERC Collaborative Research & Development grant. The graduate position will be in the lab of Dr. Jackie Litzgus (<https://laurentian.ca/faculty/jlitzgus>), **starting January 2019**.

Quantifying the ways that animals respond to changing natural environmental conditions can inform how they will respond to changes induced by human activities. By studying these animal responses in such "natural experiments", scientifically-informed biodiversity, habitat restoration, and mitigation plans can be developed for Species At Risk that occur in areas where industrial activities impact the environment. One such contemporary environmental change has been the increase in water levels in the Great Lakes as part of the long-term natural cycling of lake levels. This MSc project will examine the population viability, spatial ecology and nest site selection in a local population of turtles in response to the changing water levels of the lake. The collaborative project will provide important ecological information to directly assist Bruce Power's efforts to realize their biodiversity mandate.

#### **Qualifications and Requirements**

- BSc in Biology with at least an 80% GPA
- Knowledge of herpetology and ecology
- Familiarity with radio telemetry and GIS considered an asset
- Enjoys working outdoors and is able to work for long hours in difficult weather conditions (bugs, rain, extreme hot and cold weather, etc.), in good physical condition
- Organized with excellent attention to detail (for data recording)
- Ability to work in a team setting, both in a leadership role and as a team member
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Valid driver's license

*We will consider all applicants, but preference will be given to Canadian citizens.*

Please email your **resume**, (**unofficial**) **transcripts**, and a **cover letter** detailing your background, interests, and why you should be considered for the position to Dr. Jackie Litzgus ([jlitzgus@laurentian.ca](mailto:jlitzgus@laurentian.ca)) with "Bruce Power turtle project" in the subject line.

Applications will be considered as they are received.

The deadline for applying is **1 October 2018**.