



Postdoctoral Fellow in Coastal Hazards and Risk Analysis

Coastal communities face many hazards, ranging from oil spills to coastal flooding and the longer-term threats of climate change. The goal of the newly initiated Marine Environmental Observation Prediction and Response (MEOPAR) Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) is to improve Canada's ability to manage and respond to risk in the marine environment, through disaster response and risk reduction tools as well as suitable adaptation measures.

POSITION

MEOPAR is seeking a highly qualified researcher to fill a Postdoctoral Fellow position in Coastal Hazards and Risk Analysis, working with Dr. Stephanie Chang at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. This position contributes to the social science modeling capacity in the MEOPAR Prediction Core, which is developing tools that can support research projects across the NCE and that are relevant to coastal communities across Canada.

The successful candidate will undertake research to develop and implement indicators of socio-economic risk in coastal communities, with an initial focus on coastal flooding. This research involves three main efforts: (i) development of empirical datasets and models of how coastal disasters affect communities, with an emphasis on physical damage and economic impacts; (ii) development of a suite of risk indicators that reflect multiple dimensions of coastal hazard, vulnerability, risk, and resilience; and (iii) pilot testing and assessment of the risk indicators.

The postdoctoral fellowship will begin as soon as possible and will be awarded for a one-year period with possibility of renewal. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will be someone who:

- Has expertise in GIS and working with spatial data (ideally, including spatial statistical analysis and working with remote sensing imagery)
- Is adept at gathering and synthesizing spatial and statistical data from a variety of sources
- Has experience developing and running computer simulation models (ideally, HAZUS or other models of physical and socio-economic impact of natural hazards)
- Has experience in quantified risk analysis
- Has knowledge of coastal communities, including issues associated with coastal hazards, coastal vulnerability, and marine-related social and economic activities
- Has strong interest in conducting interdisciplinary, applied research
- Holds a Ph.D. in a relevant field, with experience in interdisciplinary research
- Has demonstrated high productivity in producing peer-reviewed publications
- Works well both independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team
- Has strong time management and organizational skills, and
- Is able to communicate effectively with researchers in various disciplines as well as non-academic members of governments, communities, and the private sector.

APPLICATION

Applicants should submit a c.v., two to three representative publications or papers, a statement of research interests, and three reference letters by email to Dr. Stephanie Chang (stephanie.chang@ubc.ca) with "MEOPAR PDF" as the subject line. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2013. Please address any inquiries to Dr. Chang.