Fully funded PhD studentship

Diffuse pollution in the coastal zone: contamination from waste filled seawalls.

Queen Mary University of London - School of Geography and the **Environment Agency**

The School of Geography Queen Mary University of London is seeking to appoint one fully funded studentship commencing September 2012. The School of Geography at Queen Mary University of London is internationally recognized as a centre of research excellence and was ranked joint 1st amongst UK Geography departments in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.

Project outline
Rising sea level and an increased frequency of coastal storm surges will result in an increased risk of flooding and erosion of low-lying coastal areas and their defences. Some areas of low lying land (particularly in Essex) were contaminated following the coastal floods of the 1950s when coastal sea defences were rebuilt and strengthened using waste material either to infill the coastal defences or through coastal landfill located directly behind defences. These contaminated low-lying areas and coastal defences are now very vulnerable and there is a potential for diffuse pollution to be released to the marine environment. The overall aim of this PhD is to explore sustainable management options for these coastal defences under current scenarios of climate change. The objectives of the PhD are 1) to assess the nature and extent of contamination in coastal sea walls in Essex, 2) to examine the potential for diffuse pollution to enter the coastal zone under climate change scenarios and 3) to advise the Environment Agency on sustainable management options. In addition to the thesis, the student will also have to attend project meetings and deliver datasets and interim reports at agreed times to the Environment Agency.

The Award
The project will be funded by the Environment Agency and the studentship comprises the full cost of fees and £16000 (approx) per year maintenance for 3 years. In addition, the successful candidate will receive a Research Training Support Grant from the School of Geography to help with field work, equipment, conference attendance and other costs associated with their research.

Candidate Profile
The candidate should have;
- A first class or upper second class honours degree in Environmental/Earth Science, Geography, Chemistry or a cognate discipline.
- Knowledge of: environmental chemistry/pollution (particularly inorganic and/or organic contaminants) (essential); coastal, marine or aquatic environments (desirable); and coastal management (desirable).
- Experience of practical work in both the field and laboratory.
- Quantitative skills (e.g. statistics and/or modeling).
- Ability to be self-motivated and well-organized, to deliver to deadlines and to respond to constructive criticism.
- Willingness to take a full part in the QMUL postgraduate community, and the research activities in the School of Geography at QMUL.
- A full driving licence and appropriate postgraduate qualification or experience would be desirable.

This studentship is open to suitable qualified candidates from the EU and applicants should normally have been resident in the UK for 3 years. If you are unsure about your eligibility please contact our Postgraduate Administrator Jennifer Murray (j.c.murray@qmul.ac.uk) before application.

Application Deadline
The closing date for applications is **5 pm Friday 15th June 2012**. Applicants should be available for interview in the week beginning **July 2nd 2012**.

How to Apply
Step 1. Candidates should complete an official QMUL College Application form and submit it directly to College. The form may be completed on-line or as a paper based application. Forms are available here: http://www.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgrcoursefinder/index.html (click 'Apply for Research Degrees', then Choose 'Geography' in the A-Z list of research opportunities). Please ensure you complete the correct form. The School currently only accepts applications for Semester 1 starts. Please use the PhD Physical Geography Semester 1 Start form. There are two versions of this form – one for full time and one for part time study. Only applications for full-time study will be considered.

Step 2. For your application to be processed you must attach the following additional materials:
- Degree transcripts
- Two references from your previous academic institution(s) (on headed paper). If you have left university it is acceptable to provide one academic and one employer reference.
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)/ Resume
- Statement of Purpose (1000 words) which should explain why you are interested in undertaking the programme of research and what experience and skills you would bring to the post. The statement should also include details about previous research experience and training and anything else that you feel is relevant.

As the research project is already clearly defined, applicants are required to submit the statement of purpose instead of a research proposal.

Step 3. To be considered for this studentship your application must be received by QMUL's Admissions and Recruitment Office no later than **5 pm Friday 15th June 2012**.

Step 4. All short-listed applicants will be interviewed (either face-to-face or, in the case of overseas candidates, by telephone) and applicants must be available for interview in the week beginning **July 2nd 2012**.

Step 5. Submit your documents and inform the School of your submission. Submit your application either on-line or as a paper version to: The Admissions and Recruitment Office, Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, United Kingdom. When you have submitted your application to College, please let our Postgraduate Administrator Jennifer Murray (j.c.murray@qmul.ac.uk) know that you have done so. This enables the School to keep a close eye on your application.

Further Details
For further details about the School please visit www.geog.qmul.ac.uk. To discuss the project contact Dr Kate Spencer (k.spencer@qmul.ac.uk).