Tips to get a job in Aquatic Sciences

When
January 3rd 4:00 – 6:00pm

Cost
FREE

What
The panel discussion will provide opportunities for current students and/or recent graduates to engage in discussions with early career scientists and professionals who have recently made the transition from academia to work place or professionals who are involved in, or are familiar with, the hiring process of their institution/organization. Students will benefit by discovering which skills and qualifications are important to highlight on their CV and learning tips for interview preparation. For new students, they will benefit from understanding which skills they may need to develop throughout their studies, and which qualifications are sought after by employers.

Format of the event
Students will be invited to ask questions or submit their questions via social media during the session. Students may also submit questions prior to the event to facilitate the beginning of the discussion and help to focus the discussion around the students’ interest.

To submit your questions in advance, please email: kcoleman@yorku.ca

Coffee, tea, and snacks will be offered during the 15-20 minutes break!
Panelists

**Dr. Tim Johnson (Ph. D.)**
Research Scientist – Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF)

Tim conducts food web and fisheries research throughout the Great Lakes, in order to study the effects of ecosystem change (e.g. invasive species, climate change, etc…) on the structure and function of aquatic food webs.

With over 25 years of experience with OMNRF, Tim has contributed to the hiring of technical and research staff, and seen a number of his graduate students and staff secure employment at government agencies. Tim

**Dr. Brian Cumming (Ph. D.)**
Professor and Head of the Biology Dept. – Queen’s University

Brian’s research focuses on the use of paleolimnological techniques to study how ecological and environmental change occurs in lakes over decades to millennia, from both natural (e.g., climate) and human-based stressors (e.g. acidic deposition), and is the co-director of the Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Lab.

Brian has experience in hiring at least seven faculty as part of his role as the Director of the School of Environmental Studies, and more recently as the Head of Biology, and can give some advice on how to prepare for a career in academia.

**Dr. Jennifer Korosi (Ph. D.)**
Assistant Professor, Department of Geography – York University

Jenny’s current research focuses on ecological and biogeochemical change of aquatic ecosystems, encompassing a broad range of ecosystem types across Canada.

As a new faculty addition to the Department of Geography at York University, Jenny can give insight into her successes and speak to the challenges of finding employment in academia and beginning her research program. Jenny can also discuss her involvement in the hiring of new faculty at York.

**Mr. Anthony Merante (M.Sc.)**
Specialist, Freshwater Program – WWF-Canada

Anthony is a trained ecologist, with strong emphasis and experience in aquatic ecosystems (marine and freshwater) as well as their interaction with the terrestrial ecosystem.

From a master of science at l’Université du Québec à Montréal to specialist in the Freshwater Conservation program of WWF-Canada, Anthony knows a lot about the cross sectoral reality of working beyond academia using a science degree.
Dr. Neil Hutchinson (Ph.D.)  
President and Principal Scientist – Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd.

Neil has 40 years of experience as an aquatic scientist in both the public and private sector and, for the past 9 years, as the president and principal scientist at Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. He has applied his knowledge to research, monitoring, policy development, environmental assessment, and peer review projects across Canada and is recognized as a national expert in water quality.

Neil’s extensive and varied experience in the aquatic sciences makes him an ideal addition to this panel.

Dr. Yolanda Morbey (Ph.D.)  
Associate Professor, Biology Dept. – Western University

Yolanda’s research integrates evolutionary theory and empirical studies to investigate the adaptive timing behaviour of migratory fish,

Yolanda has experience in both government and academia, as a Research Scientist with the Ontario Government and an Associate Professor in Biology at Western University. Yolanda has long advocated for gender equity in science. Yolanda’s insights into self-advocacy as a woman in science will be a valuable addition to our panel.

Dr. Nicholas Mandrak (Ph.D.)  
Associate Professor – Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Toronto Scarborough

Associate Professor and Director of a professional Master’s program in Conservation and Biodiversity at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Nick is also the co-chair of the Freshwater Fishes Species Subcommittee of COSEWIC and President of the AFS Canadian Aquatic Resources Section. Prior to joining academia, Nick worked as a Research Scientist and Executive Director at Fisheries and Oceans Canada, where he developed and implemented an endangered species program, and a national Centre of Expertise for Aquatic Risk Assessment of aquatic invasive species.

Nick can discuss his experience in academia and public sector, comparing research vs. professional graduate programs, and the importance of professional engagement.

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