



Wilfrid Laurier University
Faculty of Science
Department of Biology

Date: **November 10, 2021**

The Position

The Department of Biology at Wilfrid Laurier University invites applications for a Tenure Track Assistant Professor position, subject to budgetary approval. We are seeking a **Molecular Systems Biologist** working with non-human experimental systems in the area of **Food Safety, Security and Sustainability** to begin July 1, 2022.

The Department of Biology is a dynamic subunit within the Faculty of Science, with leading researchers in many fields and a commitment to building collaborative interdisciplinary research partnerships to address complex and diverse issues. *Food Safety, Security and Sustainability* has been identified as an area of emerging research strength for the department. We seek to build capacity in this area, add expertise in systems biology, and enhance connections with our area of established research strength, *Ecosystems in a Changing Climate*.

The future of our food sources is being challenged on a number of fronts including, a changing climate, spread of invasive species, anthropogenic disturbance, increasingly resilient/pathogenic microbes, and an expanding human population. These factors have led to an elevated threat to the safety, security and sustainability of our food supply. ***In response to this, we are seeking an Assistant Professor using a fundamental systems biology approach to directly address current and emerging questions with potential applications in food safety, security and sustainability.*** The use of technologies such as proteomics, metabolomics, NextGen sequencing and RNASeq (among others) combined with computational/mathematical approaches to process large data sets and model complex biological systems would be highly desirable. Examples of priority areas under the systems biology focus may include, but are not limited to, using non-human experimental systems to study the interactions between higher organisms and the environmental microbiome (*e.g.* plant-fungal-microbial interactions), the genomic basis of complex crop traits, microbial persistence trends in our food supply chain and/or the impact of a changing climate on nutrient cycling by organisms in terrestrial or aquatic biomes.

About Laurier Biology

The Department of Biology offers undergraduate degrees in Biology, Environmental Science, and Water Science & Environmental Health, as well as an MSc program in Integrative Biology and a PhD program in Biological and Chemical Sciences (in conjunction with the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry).

The department values equity, diversity and inclusion and is involved in a number of efforts and initiatives to promote these values, including participation in the federal [Dimensions](#) program aimed at addressing systemic barriers in research, and initiatives such as the [Mama Aki summer camp](#) for Indigenous youth, as well as the [Anne Innis Dagg lecture series](#) that celebrates the career and accomplishments of its namesake and promotes women in science. The ability of applicants to integrate

or expand these equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives within their research program would be desirable. To learn more about the Department of Biology, our programs, initiatives and current faculty research interests, please visit the Biology [program landing page](#).

The successful applicant will have access to extensive shared research infrastructure in the [Laurier Science Research Centre](#) and the [Centre for Cold Regions and Water Science](#) (CCRWS), which help to foster collaborative research programs. Cold regions and water science research have become a strategic focus of the University and are supported by substantial lab and field-based infrastructure and a growing complement of faculty focused on these broad areas of research.

In keeping with Laurier's long-standing reputation for teaching excellence, the successful candidate will teach undergraduate courses in Biology, and should have a strong interest and ability to develop and teach courses in their particular area of expertise. They will be expected to contribute to the supervision and training of highly-qualified personnel (HQP), including graduate and undergraduate students, through their research program and their participation in graduate programs. Finally, they will be active in service to the university and their scholarly community.

Qualifications

To be considered, applicants must possess a PhD in Biological Sciences, or a related discipline, with relevant post-doctoral experience using a molecular systems biology approach to study issues related to food safety, security and sustainability. The successful candidate will have a strong record of research productivity that demonstrates the potential to develop an independent, externally-funded research program.

How to Apply

To apply, applicants should submit:

- Cover letter;
- Detailed *curriculum vitae*;
- Research statement (maximum 4 pages) that should introduce and contextualize the proposed research program, describe long and short-term objectives, methodologies (including instrumentation and infrastructure), impact and significance, and highlights of contributions to date, which may include non-traditional forms of scholarship;
- Statement (maximum 1 page) describing approaches used to promote equity, diversity and inclusion through research or other means;
- Teaching and Training statement (maximum 2 pages) outlining teaching philosophy, experience and interests, and the HQP training philosophy;
- PDF copies of up to three scholarly publications that demonstrate contributions to the field;
- Contact information (name, address, phone, email) of three referees willing to provide letters of reference.

Application packages should be combined into a single PDF document addressed to Dr. Matt Smith, Chair, Department of Biology, Wilfrid Laurier University, and submitted by email to bioadmin@wlu.ca. Applications will be accepted until **December 17, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. EST**.

Applicants are encouraged to address any career interruptions or special circumstances that may have affected their record of research and teaching, in accordance with SSHRC and NSERC definitions and guidelines.

Diversity and creating a culture of inclusion is a key component of [The Laurier Strategy](#) and Laurier's [Strategic Academic Plan](#), and it is one of Laurier's core values. Laurier is committed to employment equity and increasing the diversity of faculty and staff; the university welcomes applications from qualified individuals of equity-deserving groups. Indigenous candidates who would like to learn more about equity and inclusive programming at Laurier are welcomed to contact the Office of Indigenous Initiatives at indigenous@wlu.ca. Candidates from other equity seeking groups who would like to learn more about equity and inclusive programming at Laurier are welcome to contact Equity and Accessibility at equity@wlu.ca.

Members of equity-deserving groups must self-identify to be considered for employment equity. Candidates may self-identify, in confidence, to Dr. Anthony Clarke, Dean of Science (ajclarke@wlu.ca). Further information on the equity policy can be found [here](#).

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, per Canadian immigration laws, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. To comply with the Government of Canada's reporting requirements, the University is obligated to gather information about applicants' status as either Permanent Residents of Canada or Canadian citizens. Applicants need not identify their country of origin or current citizenship(s); however, all applicants must include one of the following statements in their cover letter:

I am a current citizen or permanent resident of Canada;

I am not a current citizen or permanent resident of Canada

Laurier strives to make our application process accessible and provides accommodations for both applicants and employees as outlined in Policy 8.7 <https://www.wlu.ca/about/governance/assets/resources/8.7-employment-accommodation-policy.html>. If you require assistance applying for this position, would like this job posting in an alternative format, or would like to discuss accessibility and accommodations during the recruitment process please contact rmacneil@wlu.ca.

The Faculty of Science wishes to thank all applicants for their interest. All applications shall be reviewed and considered under the criteria established by the Search Committee and a short list of candidates shall be interviewed. Only those applicants selected for the short list will be contacted.