

Jul 31, 2024

RE: CAPI Doctoral Fellowship Program (2024-25) – Policies for Land Use, Agriculture and Nature (PLAN)

Dear Ph.D. candidates,

Building on three very successful previous Doctoral Fellowship Programs, the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI) is pleased to announce its fourth Doctoral Fellowship Program. CAPI is an independent and non-partisan national think-tank, whose mission is to lead policy development, collaborate with partners, and advance policy solutions within agriculture and food. For 20 years, CAPI has provided balanced insight, evidence and policy advice on key emerging issues in agriculture and agri-food.

Program Overview

CAPI's 2024-25 Doctoral Fellowship Program is part of CAPI's larger initiative, **Policies for Land Use, Agriculture and Nature (PLAN)**, supported by the RBC Foundation through RBC Tech for Nature, which aims to support new ideas, technologies, and partnerships to address environmental challenges.

This fellowship aims to develop expertise, original tools, and strategies to address the mounting pressures on Canada's farmland and biodiversity. In an era of increasing geopolitical and trade uncertainty, climate change, and global food security concerns, this program seeks to create a small, dynamic, and innovative cohort of up-and-coming transdisciplinary researchers.

Key Program Features

Duration: One year (2024-25)

Participants: Four Ph.D candidates

Focus Areas: Economic, social, legal, or environmental aspects of land use, agriculture, and nature

Guidance: Advisory committee of subject matter experts, including a CAPI Distinguished Fellow

Funding: \$6,000 per fellow via direct grants, plus travel costs, if required

Deliverables: Individual research paper (10-15 pages), webinar presentation of research findings, participation in advisory committee workshops, one minute "policy pop-up" video summarizing findings, contribution to CAPI newsletter and other communication products (e.g. infographics, Op-eds etc.)

Copyrights: Applicants will not be restricted in publishing their research paper developed under the Fellowship program but must acknowledge the support of the CAPI Doctoral Fellowship Program and RBC Foundation through RBC Tech for Nature. CAPI will retain a non-exclusive license for the use and distribution of Doctoral Fellows' work supported by this program.

The program's outcomes will inform several CAPI reports, which will be widely disseminated to stakeholders in the agri-food sector, ensuring your research has real-world impact.

Research Themes

We seek innovative projects addressing the interplay between land use, agriculture, and nature in Canada. Themes could include:

1. Preserving agricultural lands while meeting growing food demand
2. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity in agricultural landscapes
3. Developing agriculture centered nature-based solutions
4. Analyzing policy tools to incentivize sustainable land use practices (including payment for ecosystem goods and services)
5. Evaluation of policy coherence, or lack thereof, across levels of governments, departments, etc.
6. Exploring Indigenous perspectives on land use.

Key dates

- Application deadline: October 1, 2024
- Fellows announced: October 15, 2024
- Program start: November 14, 2024
- Paper outline due: January 15, 2025
- Final paper due: April 30, 2025
- Webinar presentation: May 22, 2025

Eligibility Criteria

We welcome applicants from diverse disciplines, provided candidates meet the following criteria:

1. Currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program at a recognized Canadian post-secondary educational institution
2. Successfully passed comprehensive exams (if applicable to your program)
3. Ph.D. thesis topic, approved by an advisor, related to agriculture, land use planning, biodiversity, public policy, environmental or Indigenous studies, and/or food security

Relevant areas of study include, but are not limited to:

- Public policy
- Agricultural and biological sciences
- Geography
- Economics
- Environmental studies
- Rural and Indigenous economic development
- Planning
- Sociology

Application Requirements

To apply for this opportunity, please send the following items as PDF file attachments to Elisabeta Lika at (likae@capi-icpa.ca) no later than Tuesday October 1, 2024:

1. An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae, including contact information
2. Cover letter (max one page) demonstrating your interest and qualifications in Canadian agriculture, land use, environmental studies, geography, economics, rural development and planning, sociology and biological sciences, Indigenous relations and/or food security
3. Letter of support signed by your supervisor stating their support for your application
4. Research proposal (max 2 pages) including objectives, short background information, methodology, expected outcomes, and short explanation of how the topic relates to strategies for mitigating the increasing pressures on Canada's farmland and biodiversity

Selection Process

Only complete applications will be assessed. Proposals will be evaluated by a selection committee on a combination of quality, relevance to PLAN themes, originality and innovation of proposed research, potential for policy impact, interdisciplinary approach, as well as the capabilities and qualifications of the Ph.D. candidate to deliver the fellowship requirements within deadlines.

As part of the assessment process, shortlisted candidates may be interviewed by the selection committee. Only successful candidates will be contacted by October 15, 2024.

If you have other questions about this call, please send them to Elisabeta Lika at (likae@capi-icpa.ca). Please note that CAPI cannot provide personalized advice to applicants on the relevance of their research to the Fellowship program themes. We are only able to offer general clarification of the information on the Call for Proposals.

Why Apply

CAPI Doctoral Fellowship Program offers numerous benefits that can significantly enhance your academic and professional development:

- Leverage CAPI's established reputation and extensive network for greater visibility and impact
- Connect with experts, industry leaders, and CAPI doctoral fellows' alumnae network
- Gain experience in policy-oriented research and public presentations
- Enhance your CV with a prestigious fellowship and gain exposure to potential employers
- Influence real-world policy discussions and decisions
- Work within a transdisciplinary network
- Receive guidance from experienced advisors and CAPI's Distinguished Fellow

The Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI)

The Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute is an independent policy think tank focusing solely on the agri-food sector, bringing insight, evidence and creative solutions to agri-food policy makers by creating venues for critical conversations, explaining research results to a broader audience, and being a connector between those who have creative ideas to contribute, and those who are making impactful policy decisions. For more information, visit: capi-icpa.ca

RBC Foundation – Tech for Nature

The 2024-2025 CAPI Doctoral Fellowship Program is supported by the **RBC Foundation** through RBC Tech for Nature and part of CAPI's larger initiative, **Policies for Land Use, Agriculture and Nature (PLAN)**. Together with RBC Tech for Nature, the 2024-25 CAPI Doctoral Fellowship Program will elevate Canada's capacity for agricultural policy development, exploring evidence that leads to policies for land use, agriculture and nature.

Equal Opportunity Statement

CAPI is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment. We welcome applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation. CAPI is an equal opportunity organization and encourages applications from underrepresented groups.

We look forward to receiving your application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler McCann".

Tyler McCann, CAPI, Managing Director