



CO-OP

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY B.SC.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND CONSERVING THE WORLD'S WILDLIFE



Advancing your conservation goals

We invite you to consider hiring a student from the Conservation Biology Co-op Program to help achieve your conservation goals.

Co-op students from Trent University bring scientific understanding, skills, and motivation to the workplace. As part of their university degree, they assume 4-month, 8-month, or 12-month work positions — assisting in the lab or field, writing reports and proposals, or managing data.

You will find the details here. If you are looking to expand your conservation efforts, give us a call.

Sincerely,

James Schaefer
Professor

Benefits to your workplace

Our students are prepared to further conservation practice in the workplace. At Trent University, students learn to speak to citizens and practitioners about effective, evidence-based conservation measures. They gain hands-on experience and exposure to scientific and societal issues. Through workshops, they learn the norms of professional practice. And these students are ready to apply their skills and knowledge to help achieve conservation goals.

These students learn from Trent faculty who are productive researchers and effective conservationists. Faculty instruct students on the key concepts — in conservation genetics, population ecology, species-at-risk policy, evolution, and the theory and practice of resource management. Students' skills in solving problems and communicating science are advanced in order to best convey scientific knowledge to non-specialists.

At Trent, students by the time they graduate are expected to understand:

- Theoretical principles of ecology and evolution
- Endangered species legislation, regulatory instruments, and international conservation conventions
- Organismal biology, systems of classification, and species' responses to environmental change
- Genetic basis for adaptation to modern environments
- How to work with a team to promote mutual goals in conserving biodiversity
- How to detect and diagnose population declines and estimate probabilities of persistence

Admission to the Program is competitive. Each student must maintain high academic standing to remain in the Program. The Co-op entails three mandatory, paid work terms — each is 4 months or 16 weeks or 640 hours. These terms can run consecutively.



Interested in hiring a Co-op student?

The format of employment is varied and flexible. The work should be meaningful for the host organization while enabling the student to develop professional skills under the guidance of an on-site mentor or supervisor.

Host agencies can submit a job posting to the Placement Officer, highlighting student skills and development.

Examples include:

- Assisting with field or lab studies, analyzing research findings, preparing reports;
- Assisting with restoration, or long-term monitoring of populations or ecosystems;
- Evaluating land-use strategies consistent with conserving habitat;
- Liaising with government, the community, NGOs, and landowners;
- Helping with the maintenance of ecological data; and
- Securing funding for research and conservation projects.

How is a co-op set up?

Host agencies submit a job posting. The posting will be displayed on the Trent University job board and will be open only to Conservation Biology Co-op students. Resumes are sent directly to the host agency, who decide whom to interview. Offers are made and accepted through the Placement Officer. Some students receive more than one offer, so agencies may be competing for student interest.

Below is a sample timetable. Contact the Placement Officer if you wish to hire a student outside these timelines.

Period of employment	Job postings made available	Interviews	Start of the work placement
Fall semester (September- December)	June 1	Before September 1	First or second week of September
Winter semester (January – April)	October 1	Before January 1	First or second week of January
Spring/Summer semester (May – August)	February 1	Before May 1	First or second week of May

Getting ready to start a co-op

Prior to the work term, the student completes a Co-op Approval Form, signed by the employer and sent to the Placement Officer. Additionally, students will have completed Trent University training modules - Workplace Health and Safety Awareness, Workplace Violence and Harassment, WHMIS, Animal Care, and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities.

During and after the co-op

The Placement Officer is available to answer your questions and to assist you with any challenges that may arise. At the end of the co-op, the agency supervisor completes a simple performance evaluation that is sent to the Placement Officer.

Want to know more?

Jennifer Kerswill, Biology Department Placement Officer, Peterborough campus, Trent University

Email: jkerswill@trentu.ca, Office: Life & Health Sciences Building D223

Phone: 705.748.1011 x 7808