



NSERC Canadian FloodNet – Ontario Climate Consortium Internship Program

Terms of Reference

As part of the FloodNet Strategic Network Enhancement Initiative (SNEI), NSERC is funding a series of internship positions for Masters, Doctoral and Post-doctoral researchers, collectively called ‘highly qualified personnel’ (HQP) at agencies partnering with FloodNet. A special internship program has been arranged with the Ontario Climate Consortium (OCC) for FloodNet HQP to conduct meaningful knowledge translation of research.

The OCC is a collaborative organization comprised of universities, municipalities and conservation authorities which functions as a centre of expertise providing research and analysis to municipalities, conservation authorities, and the broader public sector. The OCC works on projects related to climate data, climate change vulnerability and risk. As such, the staff members at the OCC have specific expertise translating technical scientific information for operators and decision makers working in water management. The FloodNet-OCC Internship program was designed to capitalize on this expertise.

Program Overview

- Unlike conventional long term (~4 month) internships, HQP will be hosted at the OCC for relatively short periods of approximately 2 weeks with opportunities to extend or return to the internship as necessary.
- The goal of the internship will be to provide a product describing current FloodNet research, technical methods, or to provide background information in a format that is accessible to a non-academic audience. As such the goal is communication of current knowledge not undertaking new research tasks.
- Each intern will have a defined project to produce an output useful for translating an aspect of FloodNet research to a product accessible by the operational community.
- FloodNet HQP will provide the technical expertise for the output and OCC staff will support the HQP in refining communication and providing an operator/policy maker context.

- The output of the internship (most likely a report) will be made available by the OCC and archived in the OCC website, as well as the United Nations University – Knowledge & Information Management (KIM) system.
- Expenses related to travel to the OCC office in Toronto and accommodation can be claimed through the FloodNet Admin Centre. The OCC will provide office space and staff time to help with the internship.
- To apply send a short (approx. 1-2 paragraph) outline of your proposed product to the FloodNet Manager (floodnet.manager@mcmaster.ca) who will then coordinate with OCC.
- **Note: This program does not exclude the possibility of a conventional research internship with OCC.**

Project Examples

Some examples of potential projects based on FloodNet research are provided for context. These ideas have not been completed (yet) and are merely suggestions taken across Themes. They are not exhaustive, exclusive and outputs need not be reports.

- A technical report contrasting the AMS and POT approach to flood frequency analysis.
- A report describing the sources of uncertainty and how they can be accounted for in hydrological modelling.
- A report to summarize research on the relationship between floods and nutrient discharge.
- A report communicating trends of extreme precipitation in the specific regions of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.