

FUNDED MSc position

MarCoast Ecosystems Integration

Socio-economic Reuse of Water in Arid Lands

The Marcoast Ecosystems Integration Lab at the Technion, headed by Professor Michelle Portman, has a fully-funded position in a project that seeks to research impediments to the re-use of treated waste water (i.e., secondary treatment) for agricultural, home and commercial use in arid, desert areas.



The Project

The position is part of a project funded by the Middle Eastern Regional Cooperation program. The project focuses on improving and promoting irrigation water availability throughout the Mideast region, and in particular in developing countries where access to desalination is limited; the approach used will be a new technology: managed aquifer recharge. The project will be led by Michelle Portman, head of the MarCoast Lab, from the Technion's Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning however, it will involve close collaboration with students and researchers of the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The student will be enrolled in the planning track. S/He will be responsible for applying empirical social-science research methods to determine how willing residents living in rural areas of Jordan and Israel are to use water from the managed aquifers for agriculture and in their homes which will be the basis for the development of environmental and water reuse policy for the irrigation sector. A limited understanding of the technology will be required, however, interaction with water engineers is necessary.

The MarCoast Lab is located within the <u>Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning</u>, at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology Haifa, Israel. Candidates are expected to move to to devote full-time to studies in the planning program and on the research; they must also be a full and active member of the lab.

What is offered

Once the student has completed a MSc research proposal and it is approved, the student will be eligible for a full MSc research stipend and not allowed to work outside the Technion, unless s/he obtains special approval. The stipend will cover all related expenses (including any and all travel) related to conducting the research, delivering the MSc thesis and the publication and presentation of one academic journal article, including any publishing, editing or revision costs. The student will have at his or her disposal a modest travel budget for the general purposes of collecting data and presenting research outputs at international venues.

<u>Selection criteria</u> The successful candidate must fulfill some, but not all, of the following criteria:

- Background in social-economic and/or geographic and earth sciences
- A passion for resource conservation and environmental protection
- Experience using GIS and/or R/STATA/SPSS a plus
- Some experience with academic presentations
- Experience writing academic papers and/or professional reports
- Ability to meet the Technion acceptance criteria for MSc studies.
- Full proficiency in English or be a native speaker
- Recommended: some knowledge of reading and writing in Arabic.

How to apply

Please send a motivation e-mail letter along with your past degrees' transcript(s). Please send a note with "MSc MERC" as the subject of the e-mail and send to michellep@ar.technion.ac.il

The position will be open until filled

