

Call for an MSc student in Environmental Studies

Local indicators of climate change impacts on urban food gardens.

Requisite: Student of the Master in Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability (MEISAES, ICTA-UAB), fluent in English and proficient in the local language of the study site (to be determined).

Description: This call is offered within the framework of the ERC funded project LICCI "Local Indicators of Climate Change Impacts. The Contribution of Local Knowledge to Climate Change Research" (<https://licci.eu/>). The main objective of this research project is to show the potential of Indigenous and local knowledge systems to improve our understanding of local climate change impacts on physical, biological, and socioeconomic systems. As part of the LICCI project, a group of researchers are developing a specific protocol to study impacts of climate change and adaptations in urban food gardens in Sant Cugat del Vallès and Vilafranca del Penedès (two middle-size peri-urban towns in Catalonia), conducting interviews and focus groups to understand 1) what climate change impacts the gardeners observe, and 2) what they do to adapt to these impacts (especially looking at crop diversity and management in the gardens).

Objectives: The proposed Master thesis will be based on qualitative data collected with an adaptation of the LICCI data collection protocols (Reyes-García et al. 2020, Labeyrie et al. 2020, <https://licci.eu/research-tools/>), designed to understand:

- a) Which are the Local Indicators of Climate Change Impacts (LICCI) perceived by urban food gardeners?
- b) Which local adaptation strategies to climate change impacts (LACCI) have urban food gardeners implemented?

The student is expected to conduct 20-25 in-depth interviews and 2-3 focus groups per study site (ideally conducting fieldwork in two sites).

The analysis of these data will constitute the core of the students' Master thesis.

Technical details: The thesis will be directed by Petra Benyei and Laura Calvet-Mir, researchers at the LICCI project. Other members of the LICCI team might also provide support. We expect that a revised version of the MSc Thesis could be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication (e.g., Ecology and Society, Agriculture and Human values).

Opportunities: The MSc student will be part of a research team working on interdisciplinary social-ecological research at ICTA-UAB, benefitting from direct interactions with a number of highly-qualified international researchers (<http://www.laseg.cat/en> and <https://licci.eu/>).

If you are interested on writing your MSc thesis on this topic, please contact

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Deadline: 29th January 2021