



MSc Position: Older Adults, Urban Nature, and Community-Engaged Research

The *Urban Nature Design Research Lab* (*under_lab*; <https://park.forestry.ubc.ca/>) at the University of British Columbia is recruiting one MSc in Forestry student for an expected May 2027 start. The student will join FATE (From Access to Experience: Exploring Embodied Accessibility of Urban Greenspaces in Later Life), a SSHRC-funded project examining how older adults access, use, and experience urban nature in Metro Vancouver. The project is community-engaged and interdisciplinary, with UBC and SFU collaborators in forestry, planning, gerontology, and health.

The Opportunity

The student will join FATE during an active phase of fieldwork and analysis in summer 2027, learning the project's methods and community partnerships. They will then develop and lead their own MSc thesis. We are particularly interested in how older adults use and experience urban parks and greenspaces, including how park types, design features, social dynamics, programming, and other on-site conditions shape engagement. The exact topic will be developed with the student based on their interests and project needs.

Who We're Looking For

- Genuine interest in aging, urban nature, equity, and/or community-engaged research
- Evidence of initiative and independence through research, coursework, professional practice, or community-based work
- Strong organizational and communication skills, including comfort with participant-facing work
- Interest in developing your own research questions and scholarly identity
- Experience with qualitative methods, community-engaged research, and/or spatial analysis is an asset but not required.

We encourage applications from students in urban forestry, planning and design, urban studies, landscape architecture, geography, and related fields. Professional master's students are also welcome.

Funding and Support

The position includes a funding package consistent with UBC Faculty of Forestry & Environmental Stewardship requirements, plus lab space, computer access, and conference travel support. Students will be supported in applying for scholarships and teaching assistantships.

How to Apply

Please email Dr. Keun Park (keun.park@ubc.ca) by **September 18, 2026**, for priority consideration. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Please include:

- 1) A one-page statement describing your research interests, relevant experience, and motivation for applying
- 2) CV/resume
- 3) One piece of research or academic writing you are proud of

If you have any questions about the position or fit, please feel free to contact Dr. Keun Park.