



Fighting Floatables Field Research Assistant Positions

The Toronto Harbour is a city favourite! It provides open green space with waterfront views, and is home to cultural events, live entertainment, and craft exhibits. Unfortunately, the beautiful scenery also comes along with something else... litter. The objective of the U of T Trash Team's [Fighting Floatables](#) project is to prevent and clean up floating plastic and other anthropogenic litter in our beloved harbour through collaboration with local stakeholders. The activities under this position will clean our harbour and inform upstream solutions via data collection to determine the sources, pathways and sinks of plastic pollution. This project is in close collaboration with [PortsToronto](#), [Toronto and Region Conservation Authority](#), City of Toronto, [Waterfront BIA](#), and [Osprey Initiative](#) and is part of the [Toronto Inner Harbour Floatables Strategy](#) and [International Trash Trap Network](#). This summer we are looking to fill up to **eight** field research assistant positions.

Position Description:

In this role, field research assistants will work as part of our Fighting Floatables project – helping empty our trash traps (e.g. Seabins, LittaTraps, LitterGitter, Waste Sharks), manual skimming of litter, and quantifying and characterizing litter collected via established protocols. In addition to these tasks, field research assistants will also help make sure data is recorded and saved into the appropriate databases and participate in outreach and communication. No prior field experience is needed, but research assistants are expected to be comfortable getting dirty and working outside (rain or shine) with their hands. Field research assistants will work May through August, with the opportunity to continue until November.

Position Details:

- Up to 8 positions.
- All work will occur during the day, and hours will vary from 15 - 25 hours per week (roughly 4 – 5 shifts per week).
- This work will mostly occur in the field, in the Outer Harbour Marina, Don River, and on the Toronto Waterfront. When working in the field, you will always be with another field research assistant.
- Work will occur on weekdays and weekends – with a set schedule that shifts each week. Field research assistants will not be expected to work on holidays.
- The work will occur rain or shine, as long as conditions are safe.
- Training will be provided as will some field equipment: t-shirts, life jackets, waders, gloves, etc... Research assistants are expected to have their own field clothes (layers, rain jackets, rain pants, clothes that can get dirty) and closed-toe shoes.
- Some sites are easy to access by TTC, but others are easier by bike or car. As such, the ability to ride a bike or drive is required.
- Hourly rate is set at the work-study rate at U of T \$15.50/hr + an additional 4% = \$16.12/hour

The Field Research Assistant will:

- Work on weekdays and weekends around a set schedule
- Be comfortable handling anthropogenic litter, and working outdoors in all weather conditions conducting field work
- Be comfortable talking with the public about plastic pollution and the research
- Spend some time working on their personal computer at home logging data
- Be able to carry up to 10 kg

Application Process: Please send a one-page cover letter describing why you would like this position and why you are qualified for it, as well as your CV or resume. Send to Chelsea Rochman at chelsea.rochman@utoronto.ca by Friday March 17, 2023.