The Department of Environmental Science at Western Washington University in Bellingham Washington is seeking applications for a Master’s of Science student to study intertidal ecology within Indigenous managed ecosystems (clam gardens) in the southern Gulf Islands with Dr. Marco Hatch.

**Required qualifications:** Applicants must be able to travel to Canada and meet the departmental standards for admission listed here [https://huxley.wwu.edu/ms-environmental-science](https://huxley.wwu.edu/ms-environmental-science) Additional desired qualifications include, experience with marine science, small boat experience, prior work with Indigenous people, ability to work in a diverse work setting.

**About the opportunity**

There has been a recent call for sustainability scientists to evolve from the traditional model of knowledge generation to a “use-inspired research” framework, where cutting-edge science is used to provide solutions that will help the world achieve its sustainable development goals. The Indigenous people of North America have long held this interconnected eco-cultural world view and applied this knowledge to the sustainable management of natural resources, yet we in academia have failed to learn from this wealth of traditional knowledge. A prime example of this in coastal systems has been the sustainable management of traditional clam gardens. Clam gardens are an ancient form of mariculture that has provided food security for Indigenous communities of the Pacific Northwest for millennia. Briefly, a clam garden is constructed by creating a rock terrace at the low tide line that results in the accumulation of sediment on the landward side. Over time this levels the beach profile and increases optimal habitat for clam growth. Clam terraces promote biodiversity and together these ancient features support the production of ecosystem services. Through the active management and restoration of clam gardens there is an inherent benefit to coastal ecosystems, communities, and human wellbeing. This project will explore the role that clam gardens have playing shaping ecology for thousands of years and how clam gardens could provide a culturally relevant form of marine management and climate adaption. **Specifically, this project will create a mechanistic understanding of how Indigenous marine management alters the environment and responds to changing climate and engage Indigenous students through culturally grounded research and education.**

**For Prospective Students**

- Full applications are due to the graduate program by February 1st at [https://huxley.wwu.edu/graduate-application-information](https://huxley.wwu.edu/graduate-application-information)
- Before applying please contact Marco Hatch at marco.hatch@wwu.edu. Please include a CV, unofficial transcripts, description of your professional and research interests, relevant experience, why this opportunity is of interest, and any questions about the position.
- WWU is an equal opportunity employer and underrepresented and minority groups are encouraged to apply.