



# Dr. Stacey Lee-Jenkins

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## **Introduction**

Stacey Lee-Jenkins is an accomplished individual with years of research experience, and a passion for teaching and mentoring others. She believes that both her education and research background, as well as her passion for helping others through mentoring and training has helped her to excel in her work at the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). Employees at NSERC are strong individuals who have a diverse range of skills. Stacey speaks both official languages (English and French) and highlights the importance of language fluency in both of these languages when applying for government jobs, especially when you seek promotions within the federal Public Service.

## **Education**

Stacey has a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Marine and Freshwater Biology from the University of Guelph, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Biology from Carleton University. During both her undergraduate and graduate degree, she participated in various activities and was a member of different societies. She especially enjoyed her experience as a teaching assistant during her graduate studies and mentoring both new and returning teaching assistants.

## **Work experience**

Stacey worked as a laboratory and field research assistant for Dr. Gord McDonald's



Fish Physiology and Behaviour Laboratory (Department of Zoology) at the University of Guelph and this experience sparked an interest in her to pursue graduate studies with Dr. Jean-Guy Godin's Behavioural Ecology Laboratory (Department of Biology) at Carleton University. She has many years of experience as a teaching assistant at the Carleton University and as a teaching assistant mentor for new and returning teaching assistants. She was a part-time professor at Algonquin College teaching various biology lectures and laboratories. She was a Contract Instructor for Human Physiology course at Carleton University. Stacey worked for Environment Canada as a Contract Research Associate on project development and implementation on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on vertebrate wildlife for nine months, prior to joining NSERC. She has been working with NSERC for four years now. She first began her career there as a Program Officer for the Mathematics and Statistics Discovery Grants Evaluation Group, and has taken on additional responsibilities as an Acting Team Leader for the Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Research Grants Division. Recently, Stacey has been promoted as Senior Program Analyst within the same division. While Stacey may not be working in the field of Biology now at NSERC, she found that the transition to working with a variety of natural sciences and engineering communities was not difficult and believes that all the same training and skills that she has learned over the years apply to her current role.

### **Advice on graduate studies**

Stacey believes it is important to pursue your research passions because when things get difficult [during your research] you need to remind yourself of why you started in the first place and more importantly, what this experience will give you.

### **General comments on career and life**

Stacey believes that life is often never as we plan and that in the end many things happens for a reason. In addition, she thinks that it is important to take care of yourself. High-achieving individuals have a tendency to work until they are burnt out, and this is



not ideal. It is important to take strategic breaks and to remember that some rest is important to help you better succeed and achieve work-life balance.

### **More advice about NSERC**

Stacey looked for job opportunities with NSERC on her own. To find job postings, she searched the government websites and recommends others who are interested in applying to do the same. She would like to emphasize that it is important to stay motivated and determined as she did not get shortlisted for the first job with NSERC that she applied for but that she did not let that deter her from applying for other positions, and it is important to keep trying.