

University of
Lethbridge



Department of Biological Sciences
4401 University Drive
Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada
T1K 3M4
Phone: 403.329.2245
Fax: 403.329.2082

Faculty of Arts & Science

Two M.Sc. student positions available in potato pathology

Two M.Sc. positions are available in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Lethbridge (Alberta, Canada) to study major potato diseases that present economic concerns to the potato industry.

One M.Sc. project will focus on *Fusarium* dry rot disease development in potato, including identification and characterization of *Fusarium* species responsible for causing potato dry rot in Alberta, assessment of pathogenicity of *Fusarium* isolates to major potato cultivars and their sensitivity to commercially available and new fungicides.

The second M.Sc. project will focus on the presence and population levels of the major causal agents of potato early dying (PED) complex (also known as *Verticillium* wilt). The work will include surveys of commercial potato fields for PED, genetic characterization of *Verticillium* isolates for aggressiveness, and establishment of region-specific infectivity model and threshold(s) for initial inoculum of the pathogens in soils at which disease can develop.

The projects will involve work in both a laboratory and field setting, as well as intensive collaboration with other plant pathologists. Travel to potato fields across Southern Alberta will be required. The ideal candidates should have knowledge of plant pathology, plant science, and molecular biology, with good academic standing. Experience in potato cultivation and agronomy will be beneficial. Interested students are encouraged to send a CV, unofficial university transcripts, and a brief statement of research interests to Dr. Dmytro Yevtushenko (dmytro.yevtushenko@uleth.ca). Applicants should have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 (based on the uLethbridge 4.00 scale) on the last 20 graded university-level term courses. Applicants with GPA of 3.5 are offered the SGS Tuition Scholarship, which fully covers the Tuition Fees. International applicants must provide acceptable evidence of English Language Proficiency (ELP) for graduate students. Please find information on the application procedure at www.uleth.ca/graduate-studies/.