



## PHD STUDENTS, LEADERSHIP FOR THE ECOZOIC, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

The University of Vermont (UVM) in Burlington, Vermont seeks PhD students for Fall 2025 to comprise the sixth cohort of Leadership for the Ecozoic ([L4E](#)) fellows. This cohort will join the current L4E community of over 40 PhD fellows at UVM and McGill University in Montreal, Quebec.

L4E offers exceptional graduate students the opportunity to collaborate in enabling a socially just transition to a mutually enhancing human-Earth relationship. The UVM node of L4E focuses on [Ecological Economics](#) and related transdisciplinary fields. We particularly seek applicants to the UVM program in Sustainable Development Policy, Economics and Governance ([SDPEG](#)). We will also accept applicants to other programs at UVM on the condition that candidates identify an advisor aligned with the principles of the ecozoic and of ecological economics and willing to actively contribute to the L4E initiative.

Successful candidates will receive four years of funding to pursue their PhD while actively engaging in the L4E inter-university network via coursework, workshops, webinars, retreats, and other collaborative activities. We will arrange tuition waivers for candidates accepted to the SDPEG program, and will request waivers in other programs as needed, but these are not guaranteed. UVM L4E students will receive broad, transdisciplinary education in the biophysical, institutional, behavioral and ethical foundations of the human economy, and training in the policies, practices and theories required to promote a socially just sustainability transition. Students will collaborate with L4E counterparts in McGill University's Anthropology for the Ecozoic ([A4E](#)) node.

We are recruiting 2 PhD students for the Fall 2025 L4E cohort. For one, we encourage applicants who are interested in ecological economics, degrowth, transformative systems change, and related interests through the SDPEG program. For the other, we are collaborating with the [Institute for Agroecology](#) and encourage applicants who are interested in Transformative Agroecology, also through SDPEG as the degree-granting program. See the IfA joint call with L4E [here](#).

### **About Leadership for the Ecozoic:**

The Ecozoic represents a vision for the future founded on mutually enhancing relationships between human societies and the planetary community of life, which in turn will require socially just and mutually enhancing relationships among humans. L4E, based at McGill University and the University of Vermont, works toward that vision by: (1) advancing transdisciplinary scholarship in select doctoral programs to educate and empower new leaders for the Ecozoic; (2) co-creating a global research-to-action network to heal and restore Earth's life support systems and to define and foster a different mode of inhabiting the Earth,



respectful of life's myriad ways of knowing and being; and (3) mobilizing and focusing higher education resources and communication on mitigating multi-faceted, human-induced, planetary declines in life support capacity. See the [L4E Strategic Plan](#) for more information.

L4E aims to establish a "global campus" that brings together an expanded community to envision, disseminate, and implement socially just pathways towards the Ecozoic. To realize this vision, L4E has begun to establish a set of Network Strategy Centers (NSCs) in partnership with universities, NGOs and existing global networks. We focus on implementing, communicating, and advocating for paradigm shifting outcomes through internships, action-research projects, long-term partnerships and strategic communications. The two NSCs already established are Anthropology for the Ecozoic at McGill and Ecological Economics at UVM.

L4E students will have access to a wealth of world-class scholars across the university studying the interactions among ecological, social, and economic systems. Applicants for the L4E fellowships may apply for an additional Graduate Fellowship at the Gund Institute for Environment. The Gund Institute brings scholars and leaders together to accelerate research, uncover solutions and tackle the world's most pressing environmental issues.

**Diversity Statement:** Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion are core values for L4E. We believe diversity of lifeways and of lifeforms leads to resiliency and we celebrate the power in our community of diversity relating to gender, race, socioeconomic status, culture, language, nationality, religion and other ways of being, knowing and expression.

**Qualifications:** Acceptance to a UVM PhD program and dedication to the goals and principles of the L4E initiative.

**Application:** Interested L4E applicants should familiarize themselves with the [L4E Strategic Plan](#) and the [L4E website](#) and are requested to submit the following:

- 1) a 2-page cover letter (please indicate if you are applying for the IFA fellowship)
- 2) a CV
- 3) a 2-page statement of research interest
- 4) the completed L4E [Recruitment Questionnaire](#)

Please submit these documents to Joshua Farley ([ifarley@uvm.edu](mailto:ifarley@uvm.edu)), Joe Ament ([jament@uvm.edu](mailto:jament@uvm.edu)), and Matt Burke ([Matthew.Burke@uvm.edu](mailto:Matthew.Burke@uvm.edu)) with the Subject line "L4E Application" by December 1, 2024. You do not need to apply to UVM at this stage. In mid-December, selected candidates will be encouraged to apply to UVM through the university



system. Acceptance to UVM is not guaranteed but is HIGHLY likely once the application to L4E has been selected.

Applicants applying to the UVM **Sustainable Development, Policy, Economics and Governance (PhD)** program should be aware of the following:

**Contact information:** 205 Morrill Hall, (802) 656-0009

**Fall Deadline:** Rolling; January 15 for funding

**Additional Requirements:** GRE optional; completion of a master's degree in a related field; completion of undergraduate level statistical methods course, completion of one graduate level course in research methodology, completion of one graduate or upper undergraduate level course in micro or macro economics

**Coordinator:** Asim Zia

[Website](#)

L4E applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for a [Gund graduate fellowship](#). In your statement of interest for the Gund Fellowship, indicate that you are interested in L4E.

Applicants interested in **McGill University A4E** should contact Colin Scott [colin.scott@mcgill.ca](mailto:colin.scott@mcgill.ca) (copy to [dina.spigelski@mcgill.ca](mailto:dina.spigelski@mcgill.ca)). Applicants to McGill must identify an advisor in the Department of Anthropology and apply by December 1, 2024.