



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Western College of Veterinary Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MICROBIOLOGY
USASK.CA/WCVM

52 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK
S7N 5B4, Canada
Telephone: (306) 966-7210/966-7232
Facsimile: (306) 966-7244

MSc in **Strain diversity and infection phenotype of the Lyme disease pathogen** Department of Veterinary Microbiology, WCVM, University of Saskatchewan

Position: One MSc position is available in an NSERC-funded research lab at the University of Saskatchewan to investigate how strain diversity of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the tick-borne pathogen that causes Lyme disease (LD), influences the infection phenotype in the rodent host. We will use experimental infections with a lab LD system (mice, ticks) and different strains of *B. burgdorferi* to study the relationship among pathogen life history traits such as pathology, pathogen tissue burden, and transmission. The MSc student will work closely with a PhD student who is working on a complementary project.

Location: The University of Saskatchewan is one of the 15 top research universities in Canada. The WCVM is the premiere veterinary school in Western Canada and has state-of-the-art facilities. The Faculty in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology are biologists and veterinarians who study pathogens and parasites across a wide range of biological disciplines (molecular biology, physiology, and ecology). The Voordouw Tick & Lyme Lab has research funding from NSERC and the SHRF.

Job requirements: The position requires an independent, highly motivated, enthusiastic, and scientifically curious individual with an interest in the following fields: infectious diseases, microbiology, immunology, ecology, or evolutionary biology. The candidate will learn a diversity of skills including molecular techniques (qPCR, ELISA, Western Blots), working with rodents, statistical data analysis, and writing scientific papers. The applicant must have a BSc in biology (or a relevant discipline). The candidate is expected to apply for internal scholarships.

Start date: The position is available as early as May 2020. The salary is set by the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and the University of Saskatchewan College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Application requirements: Please submit: (1) a 1-2-page cover letter indicating your research interests and why you are interested in the position, (2) your CV (including a list of publications), (3) University transcripts, and (4) two letters of reference. Submit your complete application package via email to: maarten.voordouw@usask.ca. The application deadline is 31 December 2019 (or until the position is filled).

Professor Maarten J. Voordouw
Department of Veterinary Microbiology, WCVM, University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Visit our website: <https://researchers.usask.ca/maarten-voordouw/>