



Inviting *Expressions of Interest*

For

Peer Mentors for Transdisciplinary International Learning Lab 2025

The international and intercultural research training program, [TRANSECTS](#), is seeking to identify a graduate student who would be willing to serve as a peer mentor during the [Transdisciplinary International Learning Lab \(TILL\) in 2025](#). The TILL will run from **April 14 to June 20, 2025**, in partnership with the [Garden Route Biosphere Reserve](#) (GRBR).

TILL 2025 will focus on Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the GRBR. We estimate 15-18 students from universities in Canada, Germany, and South Africa will participate and will break into small groups to address this focus. One peer mentor will work with a group of mentors, both as a team and individually, to support student groups in this project. The TILL will consist of classroom and field-based learning and will require that mentors are able to use their knowledge and experience in transdisciplinary research and/or allied approaches (e.g., participatory/action research) to guide student groups.

Expectations of the Peer Mentor:

The peer mentor will be expected to:

- Work as a team to prepare for the TILL (e.g., group meetings, syllabus and programme development and review, Foundational Course webinar development).
- Help prepare for and participate in online training with students (5-6 modules delivered over a 2-week period from mid- to late-April 2025).
- Be onsite for the **duration** of the TILL, offering leadership, mentorship, and support (May 3-June 20, 2025).
- Produce a short Peer Mentor report after the TILL for TRANSECTS and the GRBR.
- Following the TILL, participate in reflection activities and a focus group (either in person or online) to support our efforts to monitor, evaluate our learning, and improve our teaching practice.

Costs:

Expenses for travel and living in the region will be paid by *TRANSECTS*. Additionally, the peer mentor will be provided a stipend to support the cost of incidentals, including food not provided during the TILL. The peer mentor will be housed with the students in a shared accommodation in Nature's Valley, South Africa. The peer mentor will have a private room, a shared bathroom, and shared cooking facilities. The peer mentor may be required to share a room for portions of the TILL.

Benefits:

There are many benefits to participating as a peer mentor including deeper understanding of the Biosphere Region of the TILL; networking with scholars, practitioners, and students working on a broad range of sustainability topics and projects; gaining first-hand experience of Biosphere Regions, and strengthening your international networks. It is an excellent experience to include in your CV.

If you are interested in serving as a peer mentor during the TILL 2025, **please send a one- to two-page letter to express your interest, along with your CV, with attention to Ms Marlis Merry at transects@usask.ca by August 23, 2024.** Ms Merry can also answer any questions you have. Please see below for details about the expectations of mentors, the subject of the TILL, and the attributes we will be seeking when building a mentoring team.

The selection of one peer mentor will be made by the *TRANSECTS* Program Steering Committee by the end of September 2024. Those eligible for the peer mentor role include TILL alumni who will be active graduate students during the anticipated TILL dates or students who have fulfilled their degree requirements but await convocation. We will be seeking a person who can be part of a broader mentoring team with individual expertise that supports the needs of the TILL, ensures diversity of expertise and experience among mentors, demonstrates an understanding of the functions and practices of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves/Regions, seeks to broaden their knowledge of sustainability through intercultural learning, shares a commitment to student learning, demonstrates a range of TD-relevant skills and competencies, and a willingness to participate throughout the timeframe of the TILL. Experience in facilitation processes around social learning, conflict management, reflective practice, etc., would be considered an asset. **Please address these criteria when writing your expression of interest.**

TRANSECTS is committed to employment equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are dedicated to recruiting individuals who will enrich our work and learning environments. We are committed to providing accommodation to those with a disability or medical necessity. If you require an accommodation to participate in the recruitment process or at the TILL, please notify us and we will work together on an accommodation request.