GOCO POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS

2026–2027

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Ocean Frontier Institute, & Stanford University

Program Description

We invite applications for three postdoctoral positions: one based at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) in the USA, one based at the Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI) in Canada, and one based at Stanford University. Together these positions will form a three-member research cohort advancing innovation in marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR), Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), and ocean–climate observations.

The three postdoctoral scholars or fellows will serve as both scientific innovators and organizational connectors across institutions. Their collective efforts will be organized under the **Global Multi-Scale Ocean Carbon Observatory (GOCO)** framework—an institutional partnership guiding the alignment of research, infrastructure, and mission across WHOI, OFI, Stanford, and other partnering institutions. We note that each host institution uses a different name for this position. At WHOI, this position is a Fellow and distinct from the WHOI Postdoctoral Scholar Program. Candidates are welcome to apply for both opportunities.

The postdocs will be advised by a team of Principal Investigators (PIs) and advisors across the institutions and collaborate closely with the GOCO team. Together, the postdocs will be part of an international team collaborating on shared research that accelerates ocean-climate observations and scalable, verifiable, and equitable ocean-based carbon removal, with emphasis on Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement (OAE). The team will conduct fundamental and applied research to improve understanding of biogeochemical and ecosystem responses to OAE, while developing and testing approaches for field-based MRV, testbed coordination, and finance and governance innovation. This integrated framework ensures that research is scientifically rigorous, environmentally responsible, and globally impactful, supporting a coherent multi-institutional strategy for advancing ocean-climate observations and evaluating ocean-based climate solutions.

- The **WHOI-based fellow** will focus on topics related to modelling and researching ship-based dispersal pathways, open-ocean MRV and ecosystem feedback, as well as US East Coast testbed development through the **Ocean Vital Signs Network (OVSN)**.

- The **OFI*-based scholar** will focus on the scientific design for ocean-climate observation, data governance, and blended finance strategy to support the launch of a pilot North Atlantic Ocean carbon observatory to support mCDR and climate forecasting aligned with the Transforming Climate Action (TCA) research program, the North Atlantic Carbon Observatory (NACO), and GOCO.

- The **Stanford-based scholar** will focus on developing coastal outfall mCDR solutions, including community engagement, policy innovation, and the societal integration of marine carbon dioxide removal, as well as environmental and social impact assessments.

Eligibility

Applicants must be new or recent (within three years) recipients of a doctoral degree with interests in ocean sciences, engineering, or allied fields. Candidates with expertise in carbon cycle science, marine chemistry, MRV tool development, governance, stakeholder engagement, finance/strategy, or related areas are especially encouraged to apply.

Stipend and Support

- Appointments are for 18 months (WHOI), 24 months (OFI) and 12 months (Stanford).
- Annual stipend:
  - WHOI: at least $71,000 USD, plus relocation allowance, health and welfare coverage, and modest research budget.
  - OFI: at least $70,000 CAD, plus Canadian employment benefits and a $10,000 travel or research stipend.
  - Stanford: $80,000 USD, plus benefits and travel funds.
- Each postdoc will be hosted within a relevant WHOI or OFI department/research group, and within the Oceans Department at Stanford with office and laboratory space and dedicated mentorship.

Application Process

Applicants can apply for the OFI, WHOI or Stanford opportunities as outlined below:

OFI
Applications to be hosted by an OFI TCA partner institution in Canada must be submitted by December 1, 2025, in alignment with the TCA International Postdoctoral Fellowship call and focused on the NACO/GOCO research objectives. Required materials can be found online at https://www.ofi.ca/opportunities/fellowships/international. Questions about the OFI postdoc application process or NACO/GOCO research objectives can be sent to ofi@dal.ca.

WHOI
Applications to be hosted at WHOI must be submitted by **January 5, 2026**, for consideration for the 2026–2027 awards. Application requirements and materials can be found here: https://go.whoi.edu/special-postdoctoral-fellowships

Required materials include:

- Completed application form;
- Current CV or resume;
- Three letters of recommendation (non-WHOI/OFI/Stanford);
- A plain-language summary of research experience (with emphasis on PhD training); and
- A statement of research interests addressing how your research would contribute to both the WHOI-specific topics and broader GOCO goals listed above.

Awards will be announced in **February 2026**, with start dates available between March 1 and December 1, 2026.

Stanford
Applicants should submit a cover letter summarizing their interest in the position and relevant experience, a CV, and contact information for three references to micheli@stanford.edu and rmalpani@stanford.edu by January 15, 2026. Materials required include:

- Completed application form;
- Current CV or resume;
- Three letters of recommendation (non-WHOI/OFI/Stanford); and
- A plain-language summary of research experience (with emphasis on PhD training).

Awards will be announced in **February 2026**, with start dates available between March 1 and December 1, 2026.

Further Information

Details and application forms are available here:

- WHOI Academic Programs Postdoctoral Fellowship web page: https://go.whoi.edu/special-postdoctoral-fellowships
- OFI Transforming Climate Action International Postdoctoral Fellowship web page: https://www.ofi.ca/opportunities/fellowships/international
- Stanford Doerr School Sustainability Accelerator GHG-R flagship web page: https://sustainability-accelerator.stanford.edu/piloting-partnerships-uniting-world-ocean-alkalinity-enhancement

*The Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI) includes all Transforming Climate Action (TCA) institutional partners: Dalhousie University, Memorial University, L'Université du Québec à Rimouski, and Université Laval'.