

## Qinglin Li

### PhD of Biology (Ecology track), 2006

Since 2008, Qinglin is an Analyst for the Carbon Modeling and Forest Inventory, Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations in British Columbia, , Canada. The main tasks of his position include data analyses, modeling, and research, with a focus on forest ecosystem dynamics and carbon cycling. He also serves as liaison with federal government and universities. Prior to his current position, he worked as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the Department of Environmental Science, University British Columbia, Kelowna, Canada (2007-2008) and as a senior Landscape Ecologist at the Timberline Natural Resource Group Ltd. Kelowna, Canada (2006-2008).



Qinglin studied in the Department of Environmental Sciences (DES) at The University of Toledo (UT) from 2002 to 2006 and earned his M.S. (equivalent) degree in GIS and Applied Geographics and Ph.D. degree in Environmental Sciences. During his study, he learned the most through conducting independent research supervised by the DES faculty. In addition, the skills and field experience he gained while participating in research projects also helped him secure a career path. “Rewarding”, he says, while asked about the working and studying experience at UT. The DES program offers a variety of topics such that students have a great opportunity to work with people from diverse fields and to form collaborations. All these experiences helped him develop skills of profession and communication that, he points out to be, “the personal character and potential that employers are seeking”.

Qinglin recommends current students to dedicate themselves to programs that they really like and are willing to spend time with.

“Students should train themselves to be an expert in time management and focus on the area they are really interested in”.

He also encourages DES students to get acquainted in areas of innovative technologies as early as possible by enrolling in relevant courses or seeking opportunities for internship or volunteering. He believes that “learning these technologies and skills often takes time and practice”. He suggests that “one can only learn the skills through the process of knowing, understanding, and applying the skills again and again”. Lastly, Qinglin advises graduate students who consider academia as their future career “to publish your research works as early as possible because the experience of publication will help you develop your career connections and build your confidence in the professional fields”