

Edina Illyés – AFS-OC President-Elect Candidate

My name is Edina Illyés and I am a recent PhD graduate from the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC), where I studied historical freshwater fish dispersal following the Last Glacial Maximum and contemporary spread of fishes to and from urban stormwater ponds, supervised by Professor Nick Mandrak. Beside biogeography and freshwater fishes, I am very passionate about membership engagement, outreach, and hands-on, experiential learning; and, I have been an active member of UTSC and AFS-OC. At UTSC, I volunteered in diverse roles, including activity facilitator during various outreach events, serving on the organizing committee of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Research & Discovery Conference and the VII Doctoral Environmental Science Colloquium, and organizing events, such as guided and behind the scenes visits to the Royal Ontario Museum with the UTSC Fossil Club. Having the privilege of serving as the President of the AFS-OC Student Subunit during the 2025-2026 academic year, I gained a better understanding of the society's organization and work. I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and as the President-Elect, I would like to be more involved with AFS-OC and in the diverse initiatives of the organization, including membership engagement and organizing the 2027 Annual General Meeting. And I would be honoured to serve on the Executive Committee for the 2026-2027 year if given the opportunity.