



Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Job Posting Casual Research Assistant

Project Title:

Research Capacity for a Climate Positive Health System: The International Research Network for Climate Positive Care (IRNCPC)

Job Description:

Working with a Principal Investigator and members of the research team, the Research Assistant will have the opportunity to assist with a research project funded by a Connaught Global Challenge Award focused on developing an international research network for environmentally sustainable healthcare. This network will involve interdisciplinary collaboration across three research themes that cover the three main sources of GHG emissions from the health sector – (1) A sustainable medical products ecosystem (e.g., pharmaceuticals, devices, packaging); (2) Sustainable and resilient built healthcare environments, and; (3) Health service and system innovation for sustainable care.

As part of an interdisciplinary team, the Research Assistant will conduct a comprehensive literature review and analysis of academic and grey literature related to the second research theme identified above - sustainable and resilient built healthcare environments. In particular, areas of relevant interest include:

- The role of healthcare organizations as anchor institutions in driving sustainable energy transitions and/or transportation needs
- How built healthcare environments can foster and enable the health and wellbeing of communities in the context of climate change
- The ways healthcare campuses integrate into urban environments and impact broader urban-related climate initiatives
- Opportunities and challenges for reducing the carbon footprint of the built healthcare environment

The Research Assistant will contribute to the drafting and writing of research memos, reports and papers. They will also be expected to attend regular team meetings, as required. This position will be of particular interest to current or recent graduate level students (Master's or Phd) in a related discipline (e.g., Health Policy, Health Studies, Geography & Planning, Architecture, Environmental Science, etc.) who are interested in climate change and environmental sustainability as it relates to the built healthcare environment.

Qualifications:

Education: Current graduate level student (Master's or PhD) or recent graduate in a related discipline (e.g., Health Policy, Health Studies, Geography & Planning, Architecture, Environmental Science, etc.). Preference will be given to current doctoral students or recent doctoral graduates.

Experience:

- Ability to review and summarize academic and grey literature
- Familiarity with various databases (including academic and government) and search engines and the process of conducting searches and reviews
- Knowledge and application of qualitative research methods
- Previous experience working as a Research Assistant or Project Coordinator on a research project/team in an academic and/or hospital environment will be considered an asset

Skills:

- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications (i.e., Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, OneDrive, SharePoint)
- Familiarity with reference management programs (e.g., EndNote, Mendeley)
- Ability to work both collaboratively and independently
- Organizational skills, especially setting priorities, managing time, attention to detail and accuracy
- Interpersonal skills for relationships with fellow team members
- Planning and analytic skills
- Written and verbal communication skills

Rate of Pay: \$25-35/hour, depending on education and experience.

Hours of work: Part-time, 10-15 hours/week for 6 months, with possibility for renewal.

Deadline and instructions to apply: Please e-mail in a single PDF document – (1) cover letter, (2) resume and (3) one writing sample to Sarah Patton, Research Officer, IHPME, sarah.patton@utoronto.ca by January 14, 2022 end of day. Please note applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Early submission is highly recommended.

We thank all applicants in advance for their interest. However, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Project Abstract:

The United Nations has identified climate change action as a key sustainable development goal (SDG 13) and made it clear that to attain that goal we must make climate-positive investments that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in all economic sectors. Health systems are important components of the global economy and the University of Toronto

(UofT) has the potential to become an international leader in the science of climate-positive care. This science will produce the evidence, ideas and innovations required to meet pressing net-zero GHG emission targets, while advancing the net-positive outcomes we expect from health systems. UofT is ideally positioned to lead this effort because of its close working relationship with the health system and because it is home to world-leading experts across the physical, social and health science domains required to achieve the deep interdisciplinary collaboration that can inform the health system's carbon positive transition. Our plan is to enhance research collaborations and training capacity across divisions. This will address the global demand for the new science of climate positive care, driven by growing national net zero health system targets. It will allow UofT to build international partnerships in this area with other global universities, aligned with the President's Three Priorities.

The proposed International Research Network for Climate Positive Care (IRNCPC) will coordinate UofT research and capacity development and build robust national and international connections. The team will:

- (i) Forge a common vision for challenge-led and solutions-focused research effort across the IRNCPC team that will cultivate novel and innovative, cross-divisional collaborative research activity; and
- (ii) Develop interdisciplinary training pathways to create research capacity by fostering trainee interest in innovative interdisciplinary research on climate positive health systems.

The IRNCPC will support excellence in research and innovation, create new cross-divisional institutional capacity, enhance UofT's global profile and have measurable outcomes and impacts.

For more information about this project, please see here:

<https://www.sustainablehealthsystems.ca/connaught-global-challenge>