

Job posting: Research Assistant (Border Control Feasibility Study)

Casual Research Assistant: 2022-2023

Email: tracy.kirkham@ontariohealth.ca, tracy.kirkham@utoronto.ca

Project and Job Description

The Occupational and Environmental Health (OEH) Division at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH), in collaboration with the Occupational Cancer Research Centre (OCRC) has several student opportunities to work under the supervision of Dr. Tracy Kirkham (Associate Director and Scientist; OCRC; Assistant Professor, DLSPH) and Dr. Paul Demers (Director and Senior Scientist, OCRC; Professor, DLSPH). OEH is seeking highly motivated students to assist in conducting a feasibility study to investigate cancer risks among Border Control Officers (BCOs).

This feasibility study will investigate the availability/access/quality of employment data for BCOs to determine the suitability to link it to cancer registries. The study will also investigate what carcinogens BCOs are exposed to on the job by collecting historical data, evaluating the literature, and by developing and deploying a survey to former and current BCOs about their workplace exposures. The research assistant(s) will work on one or more aspects of the project depending on skills, experience, and interest; however, this will be a collaborative project.

Job Duties

Job duties will depend on what portion of the project the student is hired to work on. Some of the tasks may include:

- Conduct literature searches (cancer risks, occupational exposures to carcinogens), summarize articles into data extraction sheets, summarize findings in written format.
- Liaison with union/employer representatives to assist in the identification and quality evaluation of employment data.
- Attend meetings with union/employer representatives.
- Assist in the development of a questionnaire to identify/measure carcinogen exposures among BCOs.
- Use RedCap software to format questionnaire for survey deployment.
- Clean questionnaire data using R software.
- Under guidance of the research team, independently perform statistical analyses of questionnaire datasets and interpret findings.
- Create graphics for presentations/reports.
- Provide research updates at team study meetings.
- Assist in report preparation and presentations.
- Potentially contribute/prepare a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal.

Education, Experience, Qualifications

The successful candidate(s) should:

- Be a currently enrolled master's or PhD (preferred) student at DLSPH.
- Have at least one year experience in research, public health research; a focus on epidemiology or occupational health preferred.
- Have strong oral and written communication skills.
- Be able to work independently, as well in a team environment.
- Previous experience communicating with working groups, unions, and employers an asset.

Compensation will be \$20-\$30 per hour, depending on experience. Working hours are flexible depending on student availability, agreed on with the supervisor(s). Employment can go until December 2023, with potential of extension.

Position will remain posted until all positions filled.