



The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University is currently seeking student applicants for 1 student Research Assistant for their community health project based in the Stò:lō Territory, Chilliwack, BC.

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) is a research and outreach institute based on KPU's Richmond, BC, campus. Through our integrated program of applied research, extension programming, and community engagement, we investigate and support regional food systems as key elements of sustainable communities. We focus predominantly on British Columbia but also extend our programming to other regions. More information is available at www.kpu.ca/isfs.

Farm to Healthy Communities Research Project

This project is in partnership with Joy Farms (Skowkale First Nation, Stò:lō) and Stó:lō Nations (Skowkale, Tzeachten, Squiala, Aitcheltz and Yakwekwioose). The project goal is to develop and evaluate a food delivery model that connects community members to local vegetable farmers within their communities. This will allow us to assess whether providing vulnerable community members with fresh vegetables improves their diet and helps address food related health challenges. Participants will be recruited and assigned to one of four 4 study groups based on choice. Data collection will include height, weight and waist circumference measures, health data including a finger prick blood sample, quality of life related questions, and dietary quality assessments. This data will be collected at the beginning and at the end of the program (about 6 months). In addition, there will be ongoing data collection about food expenses and food utilization. This weekly and monthly on-going data collection will be brief and take about 3-5 minutes every week.

The ISFS conducts food systems related research, the results of which are submitted to stakeholders such as local government and First Nations, producers, policy makers, community organizers etc. As a result, ISFS is searching for a student who has the drive to participate in practical, professional and impactful research.

Position Description: Research Assistant

Wage: \$15-20/ hour (depending on experience and qualifications)

Hours: Approximately 10-15 hours per week *

Contract: Casual Service Contract, May, 2019 to October, 2019

Supervisor: ISFS Research Associate, Community Lead, and ISFS Director

* Under certain circumstances, hours may be subject to flexibility. Please specify if you require such an accommodation.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Coordinating and facilitating the process of enrollment, group assignment and data collection.
- Transcribing one-on-one interviews and focus groups, inputting and analyzing data, coding qualitative data, attending meetings with the research team, and providing regular support to peer researchers and leaders.
- Communicate regularly with supervisors to refine methodology based on participatory approaches and assess progress.
- Follow up with program participants as required.
- Review interdisciplinary literature and assist in literature reviews.
- Prepare reports, briefs and communications as required.
- Work as a team member to address challenges, communicate progress and complete research goals.

Qualifications

The successful applicant for this position must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Be familiar with Indigenous traditions, culture and protocol
- Upper level undergraduate or master's student.
- Have excellent communication skills for interaction with research peers and community members.
- Have the ability to think critically and strong sense of initiative.
- Ability to coordinate between research staff, regional stakeholders and project participants.
- Ability to effectively and independently manage time and produce high quality work within project deadlines.
- Excellent organizational skills and the ability to work independently and as a team member.
- Positive, professional and collaborative attitude and demeanor.

The following will be considered assets:

- Citizen of the Stò:lō Nation or member of other Indigenous communities
- Knowledge of community health and food systems
- Ability to drive

To apply for this position, please submit your cover letter and resume to Payal Batra (Research Associate, ISFS) at payal.batra@kpu.ca by the application deadline of April 25th, 2019.