YORK U UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF HEALTH
School of Global Health

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2 X Research Assistants 1 YEAR each, extension
Global Health and Food Systems

Job Information

Position Title	2 x Research Assistant – Global food systems and policy - Qualitative
Category	Research Assistant
Supervisor(s)	Dr. Tarra L Penney, tpenney@yorku.ca
Hourly wage	$18-26/hour - depending on degree status/experience
Hours per week	Full or part time available
Application deadline	May 19th, 2023
Start Date	June 1st, 2023
End Date	May 31st, 2024
Unit	Global Food System and Policy, School of Global Health, York University https://globalfoodsystempolicy.org
Location	Keele Campus, York University

About Global Food Systems & Policy Research

Transitioning toward healthy, sustainable and equitable food systems is at the center of many of the shared health challenges being faced across the globe. The prevention of chronic disease, pandemics and antimicrobial resistance, as well as building resilience against the impacts of climate change, are just a few. The Global Food System and Policy Research group are conducting research across a range of projects that explore the role that food systems and policy have in building a more healthful and equitable future. We also are working with partners at WHO Europe to build capacity in the use of systems approaches for disease prevention and global health research, much of our research use these innovative methods to support evidence-based policy.

We engage in highly collaborative research that values global partnerships and the generation and integration of evidence to inform policy using multiple methods, including qualitative, quantitative and systems methods. We work with the WHO European Office for Prevention and Control of NCDs, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. We also partner with other researchers from a range of academic disciplines such as social science, law, economics and environmental science and partners across multiple country contexts spanning the Global North and South including Canada, UK, Australia, Philippines, DRC, China, Senegal, Haiti, India, Palestine and Ghana.

Our research is therefore multi-disciplinary, multi-country and committed to building and supporting authentic and equitable partnerships and conducting responsible, inclusive and responsive research.

Purpose of the Position

Two full- or part-time research assistant will be appointed for **approximately 12 months**, with the possibility of extension, to support research activities across a range of projects. As a research assistant, the candidate will work with **Dr. Tarra Penney and her team** to conduct a range of research activities in projects related to improving food systems for **pandemic prevention and anti-microbial resistance; the role of colonial histories in shaping the food system; and the use of systems approaches for disease prevention**. Activities include qualitative data collection (i.e., interviews and workshops), analysis, system mapping, and evidence synthesis. The candidate will receive training on systems approaches for disease prevention and the use of analysis software as necessary (e.g. Dedoose, Covidence etc.), and will be provided with the opportunity to contribute to other activities to further develop their research skills.

Key Responsibilities

- Qualitative data collection – contribute to conducting interviews and focus groups related to food system and global health research
- Qualitative data analysis – support qualitative coding of data via a collaborative coding platform (i.e., Dedoose)
- System mapping or network analysis – supporting the development of causal loop diagrams to visualize food-related systems, or code interviews to help understand institutional networks
- Evidence synthesis – support searching, identifying, coding and summarizing peer-reviewed literature as part of ongoing systematic scoping reviews, using a collaborative platform (i.e., Covidence)
- Managing peer-reviewed literature using the group bibliography software (i.e., Zotero)
- Attend and actively participate in weekly team meetings and other project meetings as required
- Supporting research administration and coordination as needed

Skills

Essential skills

- Completed a research method course as part of degree
- Demonstrated interest in global health and/or food systems research
- Demonstrated skills in qualitative data collection and evidence synthesis
- Experience working with people from a variety of backgrounds, cultures, languages
- Ability to work as part of a team and also independently
- Highly organized and excellent time management skills
- Strong writing and communication skills, especially professional email etiquette and presentation skills

Desirable skills

- Conducted research, preferably qualitative research
- Experience using analysis software including Dedoose, Covidence, Zotero etc.

- Interest and knowledge of food policy
- Interest and knowledge of systems thinking and complexity science
- Speak another language, French, Spanish or other

Training that will be available

- Systems methods and approaches for disease prevention
- Use of Dedoose software for qualitative analysis
- Use of Covidence software for evidence synthesis

Educational Qualifications

Training/Experience Required
Essential
- Applicants have an Undergraduate degree in the health sciences, social sciences or other relevant discipline

Desirable
- Applicants have a Graduate degree in the health sciences, social sciences other relevant discipline

Terms and Conditions

This research assistant position based in the School of Global Health will be approximately 1 year with the potential to renew. Could start as early as June 1st, 2023 with an end date of May 31st, 2024.

The role has the potential for hybrid working that can be explored. Applicants outside of the Toronto area are able to apply but need to have the legal right to work in Canada.

We welcome applications from all qualified individuals, including, but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, visible minorities (racialized), Indigenous Peoples and persons of any gender identity and sexual orientation. York University is committed to a positive, supportive, and inclusive environment. Applicants from diverse programs of study are also encouraged to apply.

How to Apply

To apply for this position, please submit the following documents:
  i.   A detailed cover letter explaining your suitability for the position;
  ii. An updated CV with 2-3 references; and
  iii. A writing sample of your choice.

Applicants should direct their application to Dr. Tarra Penney at **tpenney@yorku.ca** by [May 19th, 2023], with the subject line: **Research Assistant Application – Global food systems and policy**.