

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title	Rural Homelessness Outreach Intern – 2 Positions
Department/School	Selkirk Innovates & Health and Human Services
Reports to	Jayne Jones, Faculty Researcher & Nursing Faculty (TBD)
Employee Group	N/A
Pay Grade	\$21.20/hr + 4% in lieu (for current college or undergraduate students) \$22.86/hr + 4% in lieu (for recent graduates or graduate students) (Mileage during outreach work will be reimbursed.)
Total Hours	Up to 420 hours. One position is a Mitacs Internship and a total of 420 hours within six months is needed. The other position is more flexible with total hours and less than 420 hours is possible.
Work Term	Starting June 2024 (flexible start date).
Location	In the communities of Castlegar, Trail, and Nelson, with some time based out of intern’s home office.
How to Apply	Submit resume and cover letter as attachments to Jayme Jones at jjones1@selkirk.ca by end of day March 31 or until the positions are filled. Email subject line to read: “Application: Rural Homelessness Outreach Intern” See cover letter instructions on page 3.

POSITION SUMMARY

These are two student internships specifically designed for students from Selkirk College to:

- Develop professional competencies related to their course of studies
- Transfer their classroom understanding of academic concepts to on-the-ground community needs.

Two interns will be hired to work as a pair. At least one intern will be from the nursing program, the other may be from social work or rural pre-medicine. The interns will work with both Selkirk Innovates, the applied research and innovation division of Selkirk College and the School of Health and Human Services. These internships are part of the [Bridging Rural Homelessness and Well-being: A Sustainable and Collaborative Regional Response project](#).

These outreach roles will fill a gap through the summer months when student outreach is not provided as part of regular college programming.

These internships will take place in various locations throughout Castlegar, Nelson, and Trail, with some work to be done from the student’s home office. The role will involve connecting with street involved clients in a variety of community settings where clients are known to congregate. This may include city streets, back alleys, parks, and service provider locations. Outreach interns will have two core roles: 1) support clients with basic needs (as per duties and responsibilities below) and 2) conduct research to inform decision-making that better supports those experiencing, or at risk of homelessness in the region. Safety procedures will be clearly laid out to ensure student safety.

Successful applicants will be required to enroll in the Selkirk Innovates' applied research internship training program, which currently does not have a fee.

These internships are possible thanks to funding by the Social Science and Humanities Council of Canada, Mitacs, City of Castlegar, City of Nelson, and City of Trail.

"Nursing outreach is an amazing opportunity to connect with the disenfranchised population in each community. I learned how to deescalate difficult situations in real time, manage critical medical situations such as overdoses, and provide education and supplies to the unhoused population and to the general public. I love working with this population and bridging the gap between the unhoused and the medical system. Working with the OAT team in Trail is amazing and the outreach team in Nelson, and you will feel like you're part of the team and actually making a difference while spending time outside! Since it is just you and your partner, you can cultivate your leadership and decision-making skills, which prepares you to be crucial advocates and allies to the unhoused and substance using populations within the healthcare system. It is very rewarding to be a part of this project and be part of the change we are all hoping to see."
~ Pier Briggeman, Selkirk College/University of Victoria Bachelor of Nursing 4th Year Student

"Working as a research intern for this project was both challenging and rewarding. Data collection and report writing built on previous knowledge and skills and, with the guidance of my supervisor, those skills and my confidence with research have improved. Through outreach, I was able to gain insight into each person's unique situation, giving me important perspectives on the practice of healthcare delivery to those experiencing homelessness." ~ Christina Wahlers – Selkirk College Rural Pre-Med Graduate 2023

COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

The diversity of our workforce is at the core of our innovation and creativity and strengthens our research and teaching excellence. In keeping with our strategic commitment to Diversity and Inclusion, Selkirk College strives to embody the values of respect, collaboration and diversity, and has a strong commitment to employment equity.

Selkirk Innovates seeks qualified candidates who share our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, who will contribute to the diversification of ideas and perspectives, and especially welcomes applications from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, members of racialized communities ("visible minorities"), persons with disabilities, women, and persons who identify as 2SLGBTQ+.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establish and maintain rapport and meet with street clients in a variety of identified settings
- Work with clients to help identify and address individual health needs and priorities
- Provide advocacy as needed to support health needs of individuals
- Provide interpersonal /relational support to individuals
- Provide referral to health services as identified (i.e. hospital, clinics, housing, social work, mental health services, detox services etc.)
- Collaborate with other service providers, including field guide, to help coordinate client care when necessary, including but not limited to communication/documentation/ ensuring of client confidentiality
- Provide basic harm reduction supplies and appropriate educational support (condoms, syringes, filters, sterile water, tourniquets, cookers, ascorbic acid, pipes, etc.)
- Provide basic clothing items and hygiene items (as available).
- Provide basic vitamins and food provisions (as available).
- Provide basic first aid and skin hygiene (as available).
- Be prepared to provide SAVEME protocol and utilize naloxone appropriately
- Ensure necessary supplies are available and restocked. Notify supervisor when stock is low.
- Collect data as approved through research ethics (specific research instruments still to be developed)

- Support research analysis and report writing, as needed.
- Prepare and deliver a presentation to relevant stakeholders on internship experiences and a selection of research results.
- Work both independently and part of the team.
- Capacity to travel to and from various practice sites within all three communities of Castlegar, Nelson and Trail
- Physical ability to carry outreach backpacks while walking throughout community, including during summer hot weather.
- Complete Mitacs Accelerate Internship paperwork and reports (one internship position only)

QUALIFICATIONS

- Interest and knowledge in supporting the marginalized population in Castlegar, Nelson and Trail.
- BLS/CPR First Aid training and certification
- Naloxone “train the trainer “certification
- Strong grounding in and understanding of trauma informed practice and compassionate care modalities
- Well versed in harm reduction approaches and the implementation of harm reduction strategies
- Sound understanding of scope of practice and role clarity
- Strong computer skills in Microsoft Office Suite (Word and Excel).
- Some experience with quantitative data analysis, including basic descriptive statistics.
- Strong oral communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal, time management, and organizational skills.
- Demonstrated experience working independently and as part of a team.
- Proven ability to complete tasks under pressure and be flexible. Ability to prioritize work and meet deadlines.
- Access to personal computer with internet access and a suitable home workspace.
- Candidates should be either nursing, social work or rural pre-medicine students. (At least one position must be filled by a nursing student.)

RESUME AND COVER LETTER INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants are required to submit a resume and cover letter as attachments. The cover letter should include the following:

- Summary of why the applicant is interested in the position.
- Explanation of how the applicant’s skills and experience are relevant to the position.
- Explanation of how the applicant meets the required qualifications.

Cover letters can be up to two pages in length. Your cover letter will be reviewed as a sample of your writing and communication skills.