

Nipissing University
Job Description

Job Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Healthy Aging in Rural and Northern Communities

Faculty: Faculty of Education and Professional Studies

Department: School of Physical and Health Education

Salary Level: Annual salary range of \$52,900 to \$60,000 CAD plus 4% vacation pay

Co-Supervisors: Dr. Kristina Karvinen

Length of Contract: 24 months (2 years)

Proposed Start Date: September 1, 2026

Summary of Functions:

The successful candidate will work collaboratively with faculty across disciplines, including education, nursing, social work, Indigenous studies, kinesiology, and community planning, to advance research and knowledge mobilization in areas related to healthy aging, such as, but not limited to, aging in place, community-based elder care, and the development of culturally appropriate supports for older adults in northern and rural settings, including Indigenous communities. This postdoctoral fellow will conduct applied, interdisciplinary, and community-engaged research aimed at understanding the unique health, social, and environmental factors that affect the well-being of older adults in northern and rural contexts. Key areas of inquiry may include but are not limited to: integrated models of care, transportation and mobility solutions, housing and home support strategies, culturally grounded approaches to elder care, healthy aging through active lifestyles, and policy frameworks that support aging in place. Ultimately, the postdoctoral fellow will conduct research that contributes to the design, implementation, and evaluation of community-based initiatives that promote elder well-being, with an emphasis on collaboration with regional health authorities, Indigenous organizations, and rural service providers. Opportunities exist to co-develop and assess educational materials or programs that prepare undergraduate and graduate students for work with aging populations in underserved regions. The postdoctoral fellow will also be encouraged to contribute to knowledge translation activities, lead and co-author peer-reviewed publications, and begin to establish an independent research program in gerontology.

Duties & Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be supporting all aspects of the research project over the duration of the project. Specific duties will include:

- Undertake research activities according to the research protocol.
- Conduct literature reviews, including systematic reviews and syntheses.
- Identify and recruit research participants conscious of diverse, equitable, and inclusive recruitment practices.

- Assess capacity for consent for participating research participants.
- Collect and analyze different types of data using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Coordinate intersecting work packages of the research.
- Present research findings at internal and external meetings and scientific conferences.
- Prepare and format data for scientific publications, including statistical analyses.
- Draft scientific papers.
- Collaborate with other faculty researchers
- Other duties as they may arise.

Qualifications:

Education:

Completed PhD in gerontology, nursing, kinesiology, social or health science, or a related field; near completion (ABD) would be considered.

Training, experience, knowledge & skills required:

- Demonstrated knowledge of gerontology/health aging research.
- Demonstrated ability in collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data.
- Experience with scoping and systematic reviews.
- Commitment to reflective and diversity conscious research practices.
- Experience of secure data tracking and storage.
- Demonstrated experience of using analytical data software and survey software (e.g. NVIVO, SPSS, Qualtrics).
- Evidence of research productivity and outputs.
- Demonstrated knowledge of research processes and principles and the mobilization of research knowledge for practice.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (Teams, Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Demonstrated commitment to ongoing learning and skill development.
- Evidence of excellent oral and written communication skills.
- An ability to plan and prioritize work to meet deadlines.
- A collaborative ethos and a willingness to work proactively to achieve shared goals.
- Ability to work independently.
- Adheres to ethical research standards, respecting individuals' rights and considering societal and environmental impacts. Successful completion of the TCPS Core-2 certificate is mandatory.

Relationships/Contacts

Supervised by: Dr. Kristina Karvinen

Internal:

- Faculty researchers
- Research office

External:

- Community collaborators
- Research participants

Materials Utilized:

- Microsoft Office Suite (Teams, Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and specialized database software
- Videoconferencing software (e.g. Zoom, Teams)
- Event management and project management software (e.g. Event Brite)
- Confidential research participant records
- Confidential research data
- Computers, laptops, printers
- Telephone and voicemail
- Scanner, photocopiers, shredder

Physical/Mental Demands and Working Conditions

- Ability to work on multiple aspects of research projects in parallel.
- Ability to work under pressure and to timelines.
- Ability to work to deadlines.
- Ability to work on different work activities in parallel.
- High degree of visual attention and mental concentration as required as well as ability to respond to deadlines and work under pressure.
- Occasional evening and/or weekend work may be required to conduct research activities.
- Light to moderate mental demands.
- Audio/visual concentration.
- Little physical effort – some standing, minimal lifting (< 20lbs), sitting, walking.