

Posting Date: September 20th, 2023



Geography & Planning
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

JOB POSTING – POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Area of Research: Food Environments / Nutrition / Public Health / Health Geography

Overview of the Position:

You will be joining Dr. Michael Widener’s research group in the [Department of Geography and Planning](#) at the [University of Toronto – St. George](#) as a main contributor to the multi-site HEALthy Eating and Supportive Environments (HEAL); a Pan-Canadian Study, led by P.I. Professor Rachel Murphy at the University of British Columbia. Co-Investigators Professor Leia Minaker (University of Waterloo) and Professor Nancy Ross (Queen’s University) will also provide mentorship and supervision. This study will provide novel insight into Canadian adults’ diet quality, nutrient and food intake, and how they are shaped by the retail food environment. The two primary aims of the study are to:

- 1) Evaluate associations between the food environment and diet quality in terms of alignment with the CFG-2019, at the community, provincial and national level in Canada.
- 2) Examine whether associations between the retail food environment and diet quality vary by a) built and social environment factors and b) individual chronic disease risk factors.

The hired postdoctoral fellow will lead an update and the dissemination of the [2018 Canadian Food Environment Dataset \(Can-FED\)](#), a pan-Canadian dataset of the food retail food environment at the Dissemination Area level based on food outlet data from the Statistics Canada Business Register. The postdoctoral fellow will also use the updated Can-FED data, representing the state of food retail in Canada after disruptions caused by the emergency period of the COVID-19 pandemic, to:

- 1) Understand changes in the geography of the food retail environment since 2018, including possible impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- 2) Work with the entire research team to analyze associations between the retail food environment and dietary assessments of ~950,000 participants in the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow’s Health (CanPath) study.

We are seeking a single candidate for an initial two-year term, with the possibility of renewing for an additional two years. The postdoctoral fellow will have office space at the University of Toronto - St. George (downtown) campus. The successful candidate will have opportunities to collaborate with geography, public health, and nutrition researchers in the HEAL study, across multiple departments and universities (e.g., UBC, Waterloo, Queen’s). The University of Toronto is a globally ranked research university that offers [postdoctoral fellows](#) the highest levels of opportunity for professional and scholarly training, network development, and the opportunity to engage with stakeholders throughout Toronto and beyond.

Description of Duties:

The successful candidate will lead the update of the Can-FED dataset, conduct primary research in the HEAL project, be lead-author on journal articles and conference presentations, and provide mentoring through collaboration with graduate and undergraduate students in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, and Queen’s University. Updating the Can-FED dataset may require a temporary stay in Ottawa to access the Business Register at Statistics Canada.

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Required qualifications:

- PhD degree in geography, public health, planning, or related field awarded within past 5 years;
- Extensive knowledge of food environment research, built environment and health research, health geography, and geographic information science (GIS);
- Demonstrated experience with quantitative methods, statistical analysis, and GIS;
- Demonstrated experience in data management and scripting (R, Python preferred);
- Demonstrated experience leading research publications;
- Excellent written and oral communication in English;
- Excellent personal time management, project management and organizational skills;
- Ability to pass a criminal record check in Canada and any countries in which the candidate has resided for more than six months over the last five years.

Preferred qualifications:

- Previous experience working with CanPath data;
- Previous experience working with Statistics Canada microdata;
- Canadian Permanent Residency or Citizenship.

Salary: \$64,000 / year + benefits

Please note that should the minimum rates stipulated in the collective agreement fall below the rates stated in this posting, the minimum rates stated in the collective agreement shall prevail.

Application instructions

All individuals interested in this position must submit a cover letter and short research statement (approximately two pages in length, combined), a CV, and contact information for two references to Michael Widener (michael.widener@utoronto.ca) by the closing date. Please email materials in a single PDF with the subject line: **HEAL PDF Application**.

Closing date: Screening of applications will commence on **November 15th, 2023**, and continue until the position is filled.

Supervisor: Professor Michael Widener

Expected start date: January 2024 (with some flexibility)

Term: 24 months

FTE: 1 Full-time equivalent

The normal hours of work are 40 hours per week for a full-time postdoctoral fellow (pro-rated for those holding a partial appointment) recognizing that the needs of the employee's research and training and the needs of the supervisor's research program may require flexibility in the performance of the employee's duties and hours of work.

Employment as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto is covered by the terms of the CUPE 3902 Unit 5 Collective Agreement.

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The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.