



HEALTH & COMMUNITY DESIGN LAB

School of Population and Public Health

POSITION NUMBER: 30115
RANK: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
FACULTY: Faculty of Medicine
DEPARTMENT: Populn&PublicHealth,School of

DESCRIPTION

The Postdoctoral Research Fellow position integrates public health, transportation, and urban planning. Housed within the Faculty of Medicine, the School of Population and Public Health (SPPH) is an innovative unit that encompasses many of the health-related groupings at UBC as a collaborative venture. The School is structured around four divisions: Occupational and Environmental Health; Health Services and Policy; Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Public Health Practice; and Health in Populations. The resulting mix of professions and disciplines is seen as a means of connecting individuals and learners to galvanize the relationship between health research, public health and health services and to enhance learning.

This Postdoctoral Research Fellow position is in the Health and Community Design Lab (<http://health-design.spph.ubc.ca>). The Postdoctoral Fellow will work most closely with Dr. Lawrence Frank who is a Professor and the Director of the Lab on a novel new effort to link built, natural, and social environmental features with health outcomes and health care utilization and costs.

This position is part of the Health and Community Design Lab at UBC (<http://health-design.spph.ubc.ca>) and also partly supported by a funded project with broad support and participation with several organizations in the Vancouver region. This study seeks to fill a critical gap by examining the relationships between the built environment and health outcomes and health care expenditures among residents of British Columbia, while building a foundation for similar future analyses across Canada. The study leverages large databases with sample sizes in excess of 30,000 participants with spatial locators and unique information on activity and dietary patterns, health characteristics, perceptions of the built environment, preferences, and health care utilization and costs. A hallmark of the Health and Community Design Lab is that all of our projects are supported with detailed built, natural, and social environmental measures constituting walkability at the parcel level.

The fellowship is funded for up to two years with an initial commitment of one year extendable for another year. The stipend is \$60,000 for the first year and includes a University of British Columbia benefits package.



The primary activities of the Postdoctoral Research Fellow include:

- Analyzing data, present findings, write up results, and coauthoring papers;
- Overseeing masters and PhD level students working in the lab;
- Coordinating with various government agencies who are both funders and end users of the information generated;
- Preparing research reports and peer-reviewed publications
- Presenting papers at academic and professional conferences
- Synthesizing results from the research into policy briefs
- Overseeing an outreach program and set of events where results are presented and discussions over policy actions take place

Required and Desired Qualifications

- Doctorate in environmental health, epidemiology, health promotion, urban planning, transportation planning, geography, civil engineering or a related field.
- Background in linking disciplines such as transportation and health, health geography, or environmental exposure. Knowledge of built environment and public health issues would be a plus.
- Strong statistical modelling and coding skills are desired, such as R, Stata, or SPSS syntax.
- Proven experience in spatial analysis and modelling using ArcGIS or similar GIS tools.
- A track record of lead authorship on significant publications.
- Excellent communication skills, including strong writing, research and interpersonal skills.

Errors made could influence the ability of the research team to meet critical deadlines, as well as compromise the results of research project, and therefore impact the credibility of the Principal Investigator. Poor decisions may be damaging to the reputation of the Principal Investigator, the School, and the University and could lead to incorrect or inappropriate policy recommendations being made.

This position will be responsible for access, collection, use and disclosure of personal information in accordance with the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (RSBC 1996) and other UBC privacy and security policies. This position requires employees to work under strict confidentiality requirements; internal procedures and policies to protect personal information must be followed and adherence to these requirements will be regularly reviewed by the employer.

Please direct questions to Lawrence Frank, the director of the Health and Community Design Lab (spph.act-trans@ubc.ca). Interested applicants are asked to email the following documents in a single pdf-file:

- Cover letter/statement of interest
- Current CV
- Writing samples (published papers are preferred)
- Names and contact details of three potential referees



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.