

Part-time Research Assistant – Consumer Food Environment Study

The Food Action Research Centre (FoodARC) is located on the Mount Saint Vincent University campus and coordinates several research projects focused on building healthy, just, and sustainable food systems in Nova Scotia and beyond.

The Work:

From September 2015 to January 2016, the project team at FoodARC will undertake research on the Consumer Food Environment in Nova Scotia (NS) to understand the current and future factors affecting the NS food & beverage environment, and the populations most affected by these environments. This research will involve identifying a representative sample of grocery and convenience stores across NS, collecting data on a variety of indicators including price, promotion, placement and availability of a range of foods, analyzing data by geography, store type and other measured variables, as well as reporting detailed methods and results.

This research is funded by the Healthy Communities Division of the Department of Health and Wellness.

The Role:

Duties of the research assistant(s) will include, but not be limited to:

- Updating, compiling, and checking provincial lists of grocery stores and convenience stores
- Contacting and corresponding with store management to coordinate data collection
- Completing required training on research protocols and survey tools
- Participating in pilot tests of survey tool and mobile data entry application, reporting findings to Project Coordinator
- Collecting data in grocery and convenience stores across the province (in teams of two)
- Checking and entering data, assisting with statistical analysis using SPSS

This is a grant-paid, part-time contract position reporting to the Principal Investigator (Dr. Patty Williams) and Project Coordinator (Madeleine Waddington) and working alongside a team of other research assistants. The successful candidate(s) must be willing to travel to data collection sites across the province as needed for a period of 2-3 days at a time.

Minimum requirements:

- Previous experience or skills in quantitative research;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and attention to detail;
- Excellent written and oral communication;
- Proficient in Microsoft Office and Excel;
- Ability to plan, multi-task and work to deadlines;



- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision.

Preferred Skills:

- Valid Driver's license and access to vehicle.
- Knowledge of nutrition, food security issues, and population health.
- Previous experience with statistical analysis using SPSS or other statistical software package.

Hours: Will vary with project needs.

Salary: \$13 – \$16/hour plus 4% vacation pay. RAs will also be reimbursed for travel costs and accommodation as necessary.

Approximate Start Date: September 30th, 2015

Term of Contract: September 2015 –early January 2016

How to Apply:

Please prepare a cover letter (addressed to: *Selection Committee*) and résumé in **one** electronic file (pdf is preferred) and email to: foodsecurity@msvu.ca
Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

For more information, please see www.foodarc.ca or contact foodarc.ra@msvu.ca.

Closing date: Review of applications will begin on September 14th and continue until the positions are filled.