Research Assistant in Well-Being Impacts of Excess Heat Research

Project description

Are you sharing our vision and passionate about contributing to making cities more climate-resilient and liveable while supporting human well-being equitably? Consider joining the Urban Ecology & Analytics Lab.

We are seeking a motivated and committed student to join us as a research assistant (RA). This role involves extracting excess heat-related well-being data from an already approved national-scale dataset by Statistics Canada for a dozen Canadian cities. Prior to that, a review of the relevant scientific literature will be conducted to identify a list of well-being impacts that could arise from exposure to high temperatures.

Duration and compensation:

The appointment is expected to begin on 1 April 2026 (or earlier) and will initially be for a period of one month, with the possibility of extension. The position requires a commitment of 10 to 15 hours per week. The RA will be compensated at the rate of $25.94 per hour (Note: this position is covered by the 2023-2026 Collective Agreement between TAUMUN and Memorial University of Newfoundland).

Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a current graduate student at Memorial University.
- The RA will have to successfully pass a background security check and take an oath of confidentiality before they can work with the data.

Conditions:

- Urban Ecology & Analytics Lab is a community, and we expect our members to contribute to its well-being and uphold our values in various ways, such as active participation in lab activities, commitment to scientific rigour and integrity, and supporting one another. Before applying, please review our lab website to ensure alignment with our values and demonstrate your commitment to them in your cover letter.
- The RA will primarily work at Memorial's Research Data Centre, which provides secure access to the database, and must follow all procedures stipulated in the data agreement contract.
- A solid foundation in data science skills is required, particularly efficient identification and extraction of relevant information from big data, as well as meticulous data cleaning, storage, and management of research data. Familiarity with relevant data science tools such as R or Python is required, though Python is strongly preferred.
- Relevant academic background in public health, spatial epidemiology, and health geography strongly desired.
- Familiarity with GIS data formats (e.g., shapefile), GIS software (e.g., ArcGIS Pro), and spatial data analysis and visualization is desired.
- If you do not currently possess all the skills listed above but share our vision and values—particularly our commitment to lifelong learning—I strongly encourage you to submit your application.

How to apply:

Please submit a cover letter explaining your motivation for applying to this position, how your knowledge and skills align with the role, and how you see yourself contributing to our lab. Please also include your most recent CV. In your application, indicate whether you can commit to between 10 and 15 hours per week and, if so, describe your plan for balancing this commitment with your responsibilities as a graduate student. Submit your application as a single PDF file to Dr. Mahyar Masoudi at mahyar.masoudi@mun.ca and include in the subject line "Application for RA in Urban Heat Island Mitigation research". The deadline to apply is March 27, 2026.