

Graduate Research Assistant Opportunity Casual Position

Faculty of Health Disciplines, Athabasca University

Position Start Date: May 30, 2026

Overview: The Graduate Research Assistant will support a program of research focused on nurse practitioner-led primary care models, team-based care, and health system performance. The role involves contributing to multiple projects examining early clinic implementation, performance measurement, and health system outcomes using mixed methods approaches.

Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

The successful candidate will work with the supervisors, Dr. Joanna Binch and Dr. Andrew McLellan, to assist with qualitative research activities, including coordinating interviews, reviewing transcripts, and supporting thematic analysis, and perform other research-related duties as assigned.

The primary job duties for the Graduate Research Assistant could include:

- Support organization and basic analysis of quantitative/qualitative administrative datasets (e.g., clinic utilization and patient experience data)
- Conduct literature searches and contribute to a scoping review, including screening, data extraction, and synthesis
- Assist with research coordination tasks, including document preparation, meeting organization, interviews, and note-taking
- Support knowledge translation activities, including preparation of reports, presentations, and manuscripts
- Perform other research-related duties as assigned

The successful candidate will work with, and directly report to, Dr. Joanna Binch and Dr. Andrew McLellan at Athabasca University. The role offers opportunities for professional development through exposure to qualitative research methods, data analysis, and research coordination activities.



Qualifications:

Required:

- Current enrollment in a graduate program in nursing, health sciences, public health, or a related field
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational skills and ability to manage deadlines
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively

Preferred:

- Interest in primary health care, health systems strengthening, and applied research aimed at improving care delivery and patient outcomes
- Experience with qualitative research methods (e.g., interviews, coding, thematic analysis)
- Experience conducting literature reviews or scoping/systematic reviews
- Familiarity with primary health care or health systems research
- Experience with research tools/software (e.g., Excel, SPSS, NVivo, Covidence)
- Bilingual (French/English)

This position offers opportunities for skill development in qualitative and mixed methods research, which may include opportunities to contribute to: data analysis, literature review, and contributions to knowledge translation and manuscript preparation.

Anticipated average hours of work per week: Approximately 6-8 hours per week (to be determined based on project needs and funding).

Maximum hours per work per week: 8 hours per week

Rate of pay: In accordance with Athabasca University Graduate Research Assistant pay scales

Location: Ottawa, Ontario (hybrid; some in-person meetings may be required)

Duration of Appointment: May 30, 2026, to April 30, 2027.

How to apply:

Qualified individuals are encouraged to submit their application by email to Dr. Joanna Binch at jbinch@athabascau.ca and Dr. Andrew McLellan at amclellan@athabascau.ca. Applications should include (as a single PDF file):

- a brief cover letter that summarizes your skills,
- interests and experience;
- a current resume or curriculum vitae;
- an unofficial copy of your transcript;
- and the contact information for 1-2 references.

Please submit your complete application latest by May 10, 2026, which is the date when we will start to evaluate applications. The call will be kept open until successful candidates are found.



All applicants are thanked for their interest in this position; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Athabasca University and the researchers are committed and seek to support equity in employment and research opportunities. We strongly encourage applications from Indigenous people, people of colour, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ people, women, and other historically marginalized groups. Applicants are welcome, but not required, to self-identify in their letter of application.

For more information on this Research Assistant Opportunity, please contact Dr. Joanna Binch and Dr. Andrew McLellan at the coordinates below, on or before May 10, 2026. Applications will be accepted until May 10, 2026, or until a suitable candidate is found.

Dr. Joanna Binch, jbinch@athabascau.ca

Dr. Andrew McLellan, amclellan@athabascau.ca

