Research Office
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Athabasca, AB T9S 3A3
Email: research@athabascau.ca

Research Assistant Opportunity
Part Time Position – Faculty of Health Disciplines

Research program focused on a critical exploration of weight-related issues such as obesity, eating disorders, body image, and weight stigma.

Posting Start Date: As soon as possible

Posting Closing Date: December 1, 2026

Position Start Date: As soon as possible with some flexibility

Anticipated Hours Per Week: negotiable and will vary based on work to be completed

Maximum Hours Per Week: 25 hours

Overview:
This research assistant position will support various projects within Dr. Ireland's research program. Research will critically examine weight-related issues (i.e., body image, weight stigma, obesity, and eating disorders), their influence on mental health, as well as the social practices and systemic structures that influence constructions of weight-related issues in our culture.

Specific duties include, but are not limited to:
- Updating and supporting literature reviews
- Collaborating on qualitative and quantitative data analysis
- Collaborating on qualitative interviews and quantitative data collection
- Supporting writing (summaries of findings, policy briefs, manuscripts)
- Completing necessary training
- Regular meetings with the research team
- Possibly support for grant writing and/or contributions to related research

Qualifications:
- Preference for some graduate training in critical weight studies and/or fat studies, obesity, eating disorders, weight stigma, health promotion, and intersectionality.
- Graduate degree required
- Ability to work both collaboratively and independently
- Strong writing skills
- Interest and/or experience in qualitative research
- Experience with quantitative research
- Interest in social equity and health (obesity, eating disorders, weight stigma)

- Experience working with relevant software (e.g., Microsoft Office, video-conferencing, qualitative data analysis software, quantitative data analysis software)
- Completion of ethics training will be required to access data

The successful candidate will work with, and directly report to, Dr. Alana Ireland at Athabasca University. Dr. Ireland will provide training and mentorship for all activities. The successful candidate will gain experience in analyzing qualitative data and disseminating results.

This is a casual position with flexible hours. The rate of pay will be commensurate with experience and collective agreement provisions. All duties will be completed remotely.

How to apply:

Interested candidates can submit their application by email to Dr. Alana Ireland at aireland@athabascau.ca. Applications should include a single PDF document with the following:

1) A **brief cover letter** summarizing your relevant experience, skills, and interests
2) A current **curriculum vitae** *or* **resume**

At the time of interview, Dr. Ireland will request a list of 2 references to contact after the interview.

Evaluation of applications will begin immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is 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 here are committed to equity in employment opportunities. We encourage applications from women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, racialized minorities, 2SLGBTQI+ people, and anyone who identifies with a historically marginalized group. Applicants are welcome, but not required, to self-identify in their letter of application.

For more information or to ask questions about this opportunity, please contact Dr. Alana Ireland (aireland@athabascau.ca).

Alana Ireland, PhD (she/her)
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Faculty of Health Disciplines
Athabasca University