

Research Assistant Opportunity Transnational Solidarity in Nicaragua

Position start date: July 15, 2025

Position end date: August 31, 2026 (with potential for renewal in years two and three)

Hours: Approximately 10 hours per week, up to a maximum of 270 hours over 12 months

Overview: We are seeking a research assistant to join a SSHRC-funded, multi-year qualitative research project examining long-term transnational solidarity commitments. This position focuses on a case study of Canadians who supported the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua during the 1970s and 1980s.

The broader project investigates how individuals with social and economic privilege navigate shifting political contexts and remain engaged in solidarity work. The successful applicant will work under the supervision of Dr. Katie MacDonald (Athabasca University) and have the opportunity to contribute to research on transnational solidarity including the possibility of conference presentations and academic publications.

Key Responsibilities:

- Conduct a literature review related to solidarity, internationalism, and the FSLN
- Prepare and submit a research ethics application for the Nicaragua solidarity case study
- Support the recruitment of interview participants and coordinate interview logistics
- Participate in transcript verification
- Assist with preliminary data coding and analysis using software
- Support project administration and contribute to team planning
- Participate in knowledge mobilization activities such as writing or co-presenting findings

Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will:

- Have experience in qualitative research through graduate coursework, thesis work, or community-based research (required)
- Be organized, detail-oriented, and able to manage part-time responsibilities independently
- Demonstrate interest in social justice, international solidarity, or social movement learning
- Be comfortable working remotely and collaboratively
- Have experience with transcription and/or qualitative data analysis tools (e.g., Atlas.ti) – considered an asset
- Relevant lived experience is considered an asset
- Preference will be given to current graduate students at Athabasca University

Equity and Inclusion:

This position prioritizes equity and inclusion in hiring. We strongly encourage applications from students who identify as members of equity-deserving groups, including Indigenous peoples, racialized individuals, disabled persons, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, and others underrepresented in academic research. Lived experience relevant to the themes of the project will be considered alongside academic and research credentials.

Compensation:

This position includes up to 270 hours over 12 months (approx. 6-10 hours per week). The pay rate is \$24.99/hour for RA3 per the Athabasca University agreement.

How to apply:

Please submit the following as a single PDF by email with “Transnational Solidarity RA Application” in the subject line:

- A brief cover letter describing your interest in the position, relevant experience (academic or community-based)
- A current resume or curriculum vitae
- Contact information for 1–2 academic or professional references

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Contact:

Dr. Katie MacDonald, macdonaldk@athabascau.ca

