
W21C SUMMER STUDENT JOB PROFILE

Job Title: W21C Summer Studentship
Faculty/Admin Area: Cumming School of Medicine
Department/Unit: W21C, University of Calgary
Work Term: May to August (flexible – decided per candidate)

W21C Background/Nature of Work:

The Ward of the 21st Century (W21C) is a research and innovation initiative based at the University of Calgary's O'Brien Institute for Public Health and the Calgary zone of Alberta Health Services (AHS). W21C conducts health systems research with the overarching mandate to improve patient safety and quality of care.

W21C was created to respond to the urgent need for innovation in health care. The Canadian Adverse Events Study (2004) reported that as many as 20,000 deaths occur annually in Canadian hospitals from preventable adverse events. This finding drew considerable attention to the issues of safety and quality in health care, resulting in a call for strategic research and innovation to address these health systems challenges.

W21C's VISION is "to define the future of health care", and its MISSION is "to innovate, create, educate and evolve to build new paradigms of health care delivery." The W21C's collaborative environment drives transformative research and enables enhanced contact between researchers, health professionals, patients, industry partners and policy decision makers. Through this strategic research agenda, W21C aims to MAKE CARE BETTER for our communities.

Primary Purpose of the Position (*Key purpose, functions, roles*):

The W21C Summer Student will report to the Education Lead at the W21C; however, they will receive specific direction from the Lead Investigator(s) of the project(s) they are assigned to. It is anticipated that the summer student could conduct research activities for between one to four projects throughout the course of the summer.

This position works closely with a PI and with other members of the research teams in the execution of research activities within the W21C program. The position will require involvement in multiple research tasks (e.g., literature/systematic reviews, chart reviews, patient and health care provider interviews, data collection, etc.), and may require interaction with various internal and external stakeholders. Students will be expected to represent the W21C program, and as such the position will require professionalism and comfort interacting with healthcare providers and patients, as this has the potential to impact the integrity and success of the W21C program. Peak periods of over the summer could be stressful due to high volume of work and/or competing demands.

Qualifications/Expertise Required:

Education

- Working toward an undergraduate (bachelor's) degree or medical degree, with a preference for training within a science or health-related field.

Requirements and Experience:

- Computer skills (Microsoft Word, Access, PowerPoint and Excel).
- Experience conducting quantitative and qualitative clinical research, as well as database skills (e.g., SPSS, Excel, Access, etc.) is an asset.
- Knowledge of the W21C Initiative is an asset.
- Leadership, communication skills, organizational skills, problem solving skills and interpersonal skills required.
- Good judgment and concern for detail and accuracy.
- Ability to receive direction, collaborate with others in setting goals, and work effectively in teams to achieve agreed upon goals.
- Resourceful, innovative, creative, strategic, and ability to problem solve.
- Ability to work independently and promote good teamwork.
- Ability to demonstrate tact and courtesy dealing with staff, healthcare providers, other researchers, and patients.
- Ability to communicate well with colleagues from various disciplines and external collaborators within a complex initiative.
- Must be able to maintain strict confidentiality (e.g., when dealing with patient information).

Potential Research Activities and Accountabilities *(Results and outcomes expected when roles are carried out successfully. If desired, add a list of specific tasks/duties in the following section):*

- Coordinating and carrying out research activities of key research studies in consultation with the principal investigator(s) and W21C research personnel
- Under limited supervision, responsible for performing a range of research and coordination tasks in support of W21C program objectives, including the following:
 - Ensuring stakeholders are kept informed of the study's progression
 - Assisting with applications (e.g., ethics, grants) and development of research protocols
 - Data collection
 - Assisting with interpretation and analysis of data collected
 - Assist with report writing, production of research papers suitable for publication, and support knowledge translation activities
- Provide general support to W21C program to facilitate the progression of the W21C vision. These activities could include research center space management, support for event planning, and contributions to the overall collaborative environment.