

Title: Assessing the Impact of Students

Overview

The City of Lethbridge Partner Services Department is responsible for establishing and growing relationships with post-secondary students and institutions to enhance the City's access to data, research and subject matter expertise.

In 2022 – 2023 the City, alongside the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College, was a key partner in a study that evaluated the key drivers of graduate retention in Lethbridge and region. Through the lens and findings of that study, Partner Services wishes to learn more about the broader impact of students and post-secondary institutions on the community. This includes: 1) the short (during degree) and long-term (post-graduation) economic impact of students 2) the economic impact of hosting two large post-secondary institutions and 3) the broader social and cultural impacts of both students and post-secondary institutions on the community. For example, what is the economic impact of a domestic or international student while they are studying in Lethbridge? What is the annual economic impact of the University? What types of social and cultural contributions to students make to the broader community?

It is hoped that the data and analysis of this applied study will help Partner Services explore the benefits of possible future policy and/or strategic planning-focused work around graduate retention.

This position is a continuation of the City of Lethbridge's **City Scholars** Program which provides students with hands-on experience structured around both professional and academic outcomes. At the City of Lethbridge, students have the unique opportunity to work on projects that directly impact quality of life in their community, while also benefiting from the mentorship of City and faculty supervisors. The skills and experiences gained through City Scholars WIL opportunities supports students as they enter the workforce or pursue further studies.

To learn more about the City of Lethbridge, visit [Lethbridge.ca](https://lethbridge.ca)

To learn more about the City Scholars program, visit [Lethbridge.ca/careers](https://lethbridge.ca/careers)

The City is proud to continue partnering with the University of Lethbridge and the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy (Prentice Institute) to offer Work Integrated Learning opportunities to students from all disciplines, connecting them to real world initiatives that impact their local government and community.

To learn more about the Prentice Institute, visit: ulethbridge.ca/prentice-institute

What will you be working on?

Students will be responsible for:

- Academic and gray literature research into models for economic (and other forms of) impact analysis.
- Evaluation of identified models.
- Using a selected model to assess or conceptualize economic (and other forms of) impact on Lethbridge at the scale of the student and institution.
- Report-writing to summarize research and findings to City of Lethbridge staff.
- Public speaking and presentation of research outcomes to City of Lethbridge staff.

Over the course of the semester the student will prepare multiple reports and/or presentations. The audience for these will be primarily City staff. Students will also be invited to provide a presentation at the year-end Work Integrated Learning Symposium (April 2024). More information on the proposed work plan and deliverables will be provided during interviews and at the beginning of the semester.

Who are we looking for?

To apply for this position, you must:

- Be an undergraduate student of any academic discipline / major.
- Be interested in one or more aspects of this project including: community development, public policy, economic analysis
- Have strong written and oral communications skills.

Preference will be given to students:

- Who self-identify as members of an equity-deserving community.
- Have third year standing or higher.
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

What's in it for you?

Through this position, students will gain experience and skills in the following areas:

- Carrying out applied research and analysis, including the identification and assessment of various frameworks and models.
- Presenting information in both written and oral formats.
- Understanding how complex projects take shape, are managed, and get delivered.
- Gain experience working within the public sector.
- Create connections and learn from industry experts.

Students will be paid a modest amount (\$1,000.00) to help cover the costs of tuition and incidental expenses, at the successful completion of the applied study.

This opportunity is designed to support students who wish to pursue an applied study for **disciplinary credit** (with academic supervision coordinated through the Career Bridge).

Other Important Information

- Start Date: January 8, 2024
- Time Commitment: Approx. 10 hours per week (which equates to 7.5 for workplace outcomes, and 2.5 for academic requirements)
- Location: Flexible, however space can be provided at the University of Lethbridge Penny Building and/or a City of Lethbridge facility

How do I apply?

If you are interested in this opportunity, apply directly to the contact below with your resume, a cover letter, and unofficial transcripts by **11:59 PM December 20, 2023**. In two pages or less, your cover letter should help the selection committee understand your academic background and goals, and any relevant course work, volunteer or employment experience, and why you are interested in this applied study.

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