

Title: Health, Planning and Public Participation

Overview

The Partner Services department at the City of Lethbridge is responsible for building supportive relationships with post-secondary institutions to improve the ways in which the City designs and delivers programs, plans, policies and services. This includes facilitating the development and delivery of collaborative applied research projects that support City staff in advancing evidence-informed planning and policy outcomes.

The focus of this applied study is the intersection of three topics that are increasingly of concern for all cities: health, planning and public participation. While the latter two are firmly within the realm of cities, health in particular, is an area of priority that for many local officials and policymakers exists beyond the jurisdictional boundaries of cities. This has the potential to prevent health from being effectively integrated into what a City may consider its "daily work," and thus unable to inform broader community outcomes. This applied study seeks to learn more about how other municipalities are integrating health into the ways they plan and engage residents.

The study will have two components: literature review and case study identification.

First, the student will perform a literature review of practitioner focused planning journals affiliated with national planning bodies from Canada (Canadian Institute of Planners) and the United Kingdom (Royal Town Planning Institute). The review will focus on articles that consider the concepts of i) urban health and planning and/or ii) public participation in planning. The review will seek to identify whether there are cross cutting themes within and between these two bodies of work.

Second, the student will identify relevant cases of health-focused interventions (e.g., through policy, planning, urban design, partnerships etc.). The student will compile cases to create an annotated bibliography that can be used for subsequent research and local inspiration.

Through those two main components, this study will reveal potential conceptual bridges that exist between urban health, planning and public participation practices through the lenses of planners. We hope that this knowledge will encourage a more wholistic integration of these concepts within planning practice at the City of Lethbridge and potentially elsewhere.

This position is a continuation of the City of Lethbridge's **City Scholars** Program which provides students with hands-on experiences 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

This work will also contribute to the Health Citizenship Research Cluster hosted by the Bartlett School of Planning at University College London. For more information, visit: ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/planning/research-projects/2024/jul/health-citizenship

What will you be working on?

Students will be responsible for:

- Conducting research and analysis
- Preparing a literature review
- Creating a framework and compiling case studies
- Report-writing to inform and make recommendations to the City of Lethbridge (and potentially other partner organizations)
- Public speaking and presenting research outcomes.

Over the course of the semester the student(s) may prepare multiple reports and/or presentations. The audience for these will be primarily City staff and community partner organizations. Students will also be invited to provide a presentation at the year-end Work Integrated Learning Symposium (details to come). 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: urban planning, public engagement, public policy, public health
- 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 of best and leading practices.
- 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 (\$1000.00) 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).

While students may apply for multiple City Scholars applied study projects in a given academic term, generally, they can only participate in one per term.

Other Important Information

- State Date: September 9, 2024
- Time Commitment: Approx. 10 hours per week
- Location: Flexible, however space can be provided at the City of Lethbridge

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 on August 23**. 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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