



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Kinesiology
210-6081 University Boulevard
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z1

Phone 604 822 9192
Fax 604 822 6842
www.kin.ubc.ca

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY

Postdoctoral Fellow in Disability Inclusion in Sport

The Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia (UBC) invites applications for one-year 0.8 full-time equivalent Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in the School of Kinesiology in **sport and disability**. The expected start date is September 1st, 2017.

This Postdoctoral Research Fellow position is supported through funding provided by the **Mitacs Accelerate Internship program** and **viaSport BC**. The successful applicant(s) will work closely with Dr. Andrea Bundon (Assistant Professor in the School of Kinesiology) and Dr. Caitlin Pentifallo-Gadd (Director of Strategic Investment at viaSport) to conduct research into the sport and physical activity experiences of individuals with disabilities living in British Columbia. The incumbent will be expected to lead the development and implement of a specific research initiative on a larger Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada funded project.

The salary is CAD \$30,000 annually (0.8 FTE) plus eligible benefits¹. The work is split between two locations – the School of Kinesiology at UBC (Vancouver campus) and viaSport office (downtown Vancouver). Given the nature of the work, some travel may will be necessary.

Candidates should hold a doctoral degree (no more than 5 years since being awarded the doctoral degree) in a socio-cultural sport studies, disability studies or another related domain. Sound knowledge and experience of qualitative methodologies are essential. Experience with program evaluation frameworks and/or community-engaged research is an asset. The successful applicant will possess excellent interpersonal and organizational skills.

Deadline for applying is July 7th, 2017. Applicants are asked to send a letter of application outlining any relevant expertise, a copy of the curriculum vitae, contact information for two referees, two representative publications (if possible) directly to Dr. Andrea Bundon at andrea.bundon@ubc.ca.

Please address informal inquiries to Dr. Andrea Bundon.

The University of British Columbia hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified persons are encouraged to apply. We especially welcome applications from members of visible minority groups, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, and others with the skills and knowledge to engage productively with diverse communities. Canadians and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.

¹ <http://www.hr.ubc.ca/benefits/eligibility/faculty/>.



Project description

OBJECTIVE OF PARTNERSHIP: viaSport, UBC Recreation and the School of Kinesiology share a common goal of creating a more inclusive, welcoming sport culture in British Columbia. We formed this partnership to engage in research that will result in the creation of new insights into (1) how individuals with disabilities are included/excluded from the current sport system and (2) how disability intersects with other social markers to impact sport engagement.

CONTEXT: 14.8% of British Columbians have a disability (2012 Canadian Survey on Disability). Disability also intersects with other social determinants of health leading to higher rates of disability among particularly groups. For example, it is estimated that 27% + of Indigenous Canadians have an impairment and 1 in 10 refugee families have a member with a disability. There is also considerable evidence that sport and physical activity can have a positive impact on general wellbeing for people with disabilities (with particular gains to be made in regards to 'social inclusion'). Yet people with disabilities are half as likely to be engaged in sport compared to able-bodied peers. Furthermore, while the Canadian sport sector has prioritized the development of disability sport programming and services, nothing has been done to ensure these programs are generally inclusive of people who, in addition to disability, face barriers on the basis of ethnicity, Aboriginal status, gender, sexual orientation and/or geography.

GAPS: Our research is positioned to make substantive contributions to the existing knowledge on sport participation and disability by outlining the elements of a 'disability inclusive' sport sector for diversely situated people.

PROJECT DESIGN: We will work with community partners and use open houses, surveys and interviews to engage with individuals who have traditionally been excluded from disability sport research and policies. We will collaborate with 64 provincial sport organizations to map existing para-sport programs and assist them to identify areas where they can expand their programming and reach new audiences. Finally, we will launch an online mapping tool that will enable individuals to find disability inclusive sport opportunities in their regions and that will assist organizations in identifying holes in service province. Our findings will also be used to create a 'disability inclusion in sport' toolkit to assist sport organizations to become more inclusive. Through our partnership with UBC Recreation, we will be using the University of British Columbia campus (400+ hectares including 57,000+ students, 15,000+ faculty and staff, and 8,000+ neighbourhood residents) as a 'living laboratory.' All phases of the research will be first launched on campus and evaluated prior to province-wide dissemination.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: A critical disability theory framework that promotes affirmative ways of thinking about disability will guide our work. We will also draw on the social relational model of disability to theorize how social attitudes and environmental barriers prevent people with disabilities from being fully included in the sport sector and the restrictions on activity that individuals experience as a direct result of their impairment.

OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS: Through its role as a fund administrator for the provincial government, viaSport has a unique opportunity to inform policy development. We will draft a 'disability inclusion in sport' policy document based on our research findings. UBC Recreation will use this partnership as an opportunity to develop their 'Get Moving' campaign (aimed at engaging with non-traditional users of campus sport and recreation facilities).