# JOB DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE
## FOR A POSTDOCTORAL VISITOR AT YORK UNIVERSITY

### Job Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Position Title</strong></th>
<th>Postdoctoral Fellow in Socio-Cultural Study of Citizenship and Kinesiology in Higher Education, and Citizenship (Physical Cultural Studies)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category</strong></td>
<td>Postdoctoral Visitor</td>
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<td><strong>Supervisor(s)</strong></td>
<td>Parissa Safai, PhD and Yuka Nakamura, PhD</td>
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<td><strong>Unit</strong></td>
<td>School of Kinesiology and Health Science (KHS)</td>
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<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>Remote/Online and Keele Campus, York University (when necessary and permitted)</td>
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### Background

There is a robust body of literature on how the scope, directions and drivers of Kinesiology in Canadian universities have shifted over time – for example, its origins in Physical Education and popularity among students looking to become physical education teachers, to the push to legitimize Kinesiology as a scientific domain, to the alignment and entrenchment of Kinesiology with health and health promotion. What is lacking, however, is a more current interrogation of the social, political, and economic contours of Kinesiology as a disciplinary area in Canadian higher education given the increasing alignment of the university and university education with industry, business, and labour.

Employing qualitative methods, the central questions of this SSHRC IG-funded study (hereafter referred to as the KIN-Citizenship Project) are: How do contemporary Kinesiology departments/Faculties define and distinguish themselves as academic units in Canadian universities and Kinesiology as a multi-disciplinary area of study given the contemporary backdrop of social, political and economic flux? And how do contemporary Kinesiology academic units frame students’ understandings and experiences of Kinesiology as the study of human movement and human movement practices? The specific objectives for this study are to:

1. Map the ways in which current Kinesiology academic units define themselves and the multi-disciplinary area within their specific institutions;
2. Examine how Kinesiology academic units construct themselves as relevant to undergraduate (UG) students across the entire student cycle (i.e., from prospective student to alumni);
3. Examine how UG students (current and alumni) understand their experiences in and conceptualize the purpose of higher education in their lives broadly, and Kinesiology as a multi-disciplinary area specifically, with particular interest in how they understand the role of sport; and
4. Explore the tensions and synergies between social citizenship and workplace readiness in the specific context of Kinesiology in Canadian universities, and its implications for research on and initiatives to encourage accessible and equitable sport participation in Canada.

Theoretically, the KIN-Citizenship Project is guided by a critical political economy framework intertwined with the concept of social citizenship. The research provides an opportunity to examine the tensions and synergies between social citizenship and workplace readiness in the context of Kinesiology in Canadian universities, and its implications for research on and initiatives to encourage sport participation in Canada. Methodologically, this multi-year project will employ qualitative research methods to initially map the discursive framing of Kinesiology in the Canadian higher education landscape, and then to dive deeply into the how this landscape structures faculty and students’ perceptions and praxis. The principle methods to be employed for this project include documentary research/textual analysis, semi-structured interviews with Kinesiology faculty members, and focus groups with Kinesiology students. This project design is progressive in manner and timing so that the research will occur in consecutive stages that build upon one another and align with the specific objectives of this project.

Given the scope of the project, a team approach is necessary and appropriate for the extensive data collection and analysis. This project represents a new line of research work and collaboration for Drs. Safai and Nakamura, but builds on Dr. Safai’s growing scholarship on social citizenship in sport (Safai, 2013; Safai, Johnson & Bryans, 2016),

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and Dr. Nakamura’s work examining physical education, including at the post-secondary level, and multiple forms of citizenship and how they are fostered through sport. Both investigators have breadth and depth of experience with regards to qualitative research methods and knowledge mobilization (KMb).

The KIN-Citizenship Project is designed to be student-centric, and the majority of the budget is devoted to HQP and student support and training. Over the duration of this project, and given the project’s pan-Canadian focus and large size, multiple graduate and undergraduate students will be involved as part of the larger research team. We aim to share the findings with a range of audiences who may benefit from the theoretical and conceptual insight, and the programmatic implications the new knowledge offers. The design of the project allows for the results to be communicated in stages, and disseminated through a variety of fora including, but not limited to, academic journals, digital stories, and executive reports.

**Overall Purpose of Postdoctoral Position**

As a researcher affiliated with this project, with the guidance of the project leads (Safai and Nakamura), and within the bounds of the KIN-Citizenship Project mandate, the Postdoctoral Fellow will be involved with and part of the research study (from the stages of ethics applications to data collection/analysis and write-up) and support the project leads with the operational management of this project. More specifically, the Postdoctoral Fellow in the KIN-Citizenship Project will be responsible for the following tasks and activities:

- Participant recruitment (institutions and individuals; i.e., for interviews and focus groups)
- Preparation and oversight of ethics approval with participating institutions where needed
- Data collection, management and analysis (requiring high-level conceptual, analytical, and critical appraisal skills)
- Supporting project leads with the coordination and supervision of UG/G research assistants around data collection
- Preparation of literature review(s), writing summary reports, development of manuscripts for academic journals, and other KMb-related outputs (including presenting study results to the scholarly community at conferences, where/when available and interested)

**Key Responsibilities**

- Data collection and analysis of the text-based/discursive frames employed by Kinesiology academic units (N=34) in higher education in Canada. This will involve: identifying and charting Kinesiology academic units’ stated organizational aims (e.g., mission, vision, mandate); documenting the composition and description of their faculty complements in terms of sub-disciplinary areas (biological, behavioural, socio-cultural, etc.); and documenting the structure and description of each academic unit’s core (i.e., required) UG curriculum.
- Recruitment of institutions including outreach to Kinesiology academic units in Canadian universities with invitations to participate in the KIN-Citizenship Project and preparing/overseeing ethics approval with participating institutions where needed
- Data collection and analysis (semi-structured interviews) with Chairs/Directors or Deans of participating Kinesiology academic units
- Participant recruitment for student and/or alumni focus groups with participating Kinesiology academic units
- Supporting project leads with student supervision (i.e., the UG/G research assistants hired to facilitate the focus groups)
- Analysis of focus group data where/when available
- Preparation of literature reviews
- Writing summary reports, manuscripts for academic journals, and other KMb-related outputs (including presenting study results to the scholarly community at conferences, where/when available)

**Skills and Qualifications**

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<th>Educational Qualifications</th>
<th>Applicants must have completed all requirements for a PhD.</th>
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<td>Training/Experience Required</td>
<td>Expertise with sociology/cultural studies (or related social science field) and qualitative research methods required. Expertise in citizenship studies and/or the socio-cultural study of sport/physical cultural studies considered an asset. Candidates should have excellent organizational, interpersonal, self-management and communication skills; fluency in spoken and written English;</td>
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and a strong personal commitment to research and teaching. French language skills are also an asset. The demonstrated ability to thrive in a collaborative team environment, with enthusiasm for supporting UG/G students who work as research assistants with this project will be considered an asset. The ideal candidate must be able to be adaptable as the project evolves in large complex education systems, and have demonstrated skills in data management. In light of the need to work remotely due to COVID, the ideal candidate will have the ability to work independently and without direct supervision, and problem solve technical and methodological issues that arise during the course of the research.

**Terms and Conditions**

This postdoctoral position based in the School of Kinesiology and Health Science will be 2 years in length. There may be the possibility of renewal for an additional period of one year. Annual Salary Range: $40,000 to $45,000 (to be negotiated) + benefits.

**How to Apply**

To apply for this position, please submit the following documents:

- A cover letter (max 2 pages) which includes past experience and current research interests and, in particular, how these may align with and contribute towards the goals of the KIN-Citizenship Project;
- A detailed and up-to-date CV
- 1–3 academic writing samples
- Contact information for 2 to 3 referees

Please submit all documents by email to Parissa Safai at psafai@yorku.ca by no later than September 17, 2020, 4:30PM EDT. Qualified applicants will be invited for an interview to be conducted by telephone or Zoom. Only those applicants selected for consideration will be contacted.