



Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

MAILING ADDRESS

12666-72 Ave, Surrey, BC

Canada V3W 2M8

P: 604-599-2000

www.kpu.ca/isfs

Job Title: Research Associate – Food Systems Planning

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) is seeking a full time food systems planning research associate to execute and develop collaborative research projects pertaining to food systems planning.

About ISFS

ISFS is an applied research and extension unit at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). We investigate and support regional food systems as key elements of sustainable communities, focusing predominantly on British Columbia but also extending our programming to other regions. Our applied research focuses on the potential of regional food systems in terms of agriculture and food, economics, community health, policy, community development, and environmental integrity. Our extension programming provides information and support for farmers, communities, business, policy makers, and others. Community collaboration is central to our approach and we routinely work with community activists and agencies, leaders, Indigenous Nation governments, settler governments and other academics. In alignment with long held ISFS values, objectives and programmatic foci, we have prioritized serving and supporting Indigenous Nations and communities to achieve their food sovereignty aspirations. Similarly, we strive to manifest reconciliation into all our work.

More about us and our work is at www.kpu.ca/isfs

Position Description

The Food Systems Planning Research Associate will support ISFS to undertake applied research related to food systems policy and planning with partners across Canada. The successful applicant will join the ISFS team in executing an ongoing research project which will include interviews and research to develop best practices for food systems planning in Canada, preparation of reference materials for practitioners, and co-development of a pilot food systems planning process in the Okanagan region of BC. The position will involve but not be limited to primary and secondary research; preparation and delivery of communications materials (reports, guides, presentations); project management; facilitation; grant writing and reporting; and supervision of student research assistants. The successful candidate will also collaborate with the multidisciplinary ISFS team, and external partners to develop future research related to food policy and planning. Membership in the Canadian Institute of Planners, and agriculture and food system knowledge are a plus.

Position Overview

- Contract: Casual Service Contract, Full time (35 hours/week)
- Position start date: ASAP
- Position end date: March 31, 2023 with a possibility of extension upon new funding opportunities
- Salary: \$25/hour, plus 4% vacation pay
- Application deadline: August 31, 2021, 12:00pm
- Location: Flexible, BC resident preferred (remote work with possible in-office work at KPU Richmond if desired)



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Responsibilities and Tasks

The primary responsibility of the Research Associate will be to carry out a research project in progress examining food systems planning in Canada, including best practice research and preparation of reference materials for planning practitioners. This will include interviews with planning practitioners across Canada, policy analysis and review of existing literature. The Research Associate will also work with the ISFS team to collaboratively develop and pilot a food system planning process in the Okanagan region of BC. Other position duties will include:

- Collaboration with key project stakeholders
- Coordination and facilitation of a project advisory committee
- Process design and facilitation
- Grant and report writing
- Program/project design and development

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

The successful applicant for this position must:

- Have a master's degree in Planning or a related field
- Have a passion for food policy/planning work
- Have a solid background in academic research methods
- Have the ability to (co-) develop and manage projects
- Have the ability to work as a team member and independently
- Have an interest and ability in working with a diversity of people and a multidisciplinary team
- Be able to travel; have a valid driver's license
- Be legally entitled to work in Canada

The following will be considered an asset:

- Experience working in community and regional planning (in the local government or private sector)
- Eligibility for membership in the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP)
- Knowledge of food systems
- Deep commitment to human sustainability

To Apply

Please submit your cover letter and resume to Kristi Tatebe (Kristine.tatebe@kpu.ca) and CC Wallapak Polasub (wallapak.polasub@kpu.ca).

Please use the subject line: Research Associate – Food Systems Planning

Application deadline: Open until August 31, 2021 at 12:00pm