

## **Research Assistant**

**Faculty/Division:** Arts and Science/School of Cities

**Campus:** St. George (Downtown Toronto)

**Compensation:** \$35.11/hour

**Employee Group:** USW Casual

**Schedule:** Full- to part-time, with flexible hours to accommodate current students (max 36.25 hours/week), full-time is preferred.

Alternative Work Arrangements (e.g. hybrid) are available but this position does require some in-person work in Toronto, so applicants must be based in the GTA.

**Duration:** May1<sup>st</sup>- August 30<sup>th</sup> 4-month term, with potential for extension.

**Position open until filled.**

The Infrastructure Institute is a training, advisory, and interdisciplinary research hub at the University of Toronto's School of Cities. Our vision is to build local and global expertise in infrastructure planning, decision-making, and delivery.

The Infrastructure Institute is looking for a Research Assistant to undertake empirical and theoretical research on the impact of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Canadian Infrastructure development. The researcher will work on a project aiming to assess the implications of PPPs on infrastructure delivery in Canada. The researcher is required to be present in Toronto to lead this research under the supervision of Professor Matti Siemiatycki, and is expected to produce a scholarly research paper and/or a policy piece to address contemporary debates on the outcomes of PPPs. The specific outputs will be determined with the supervisor based on the selected project's specifics. The research questions and focus of the research project include:

1)What are the typologies of PPPs that have been used to provide infrastructure mega-projects in Canada?

- What roles have the private sector been inserted into infrastructure delivery, how much private money has been raised through PPPs, and what share of PPP projects include tolls or user fees that can cover their capital and operating costs?

2)How do PPPs impact on the outcomes of the infrastructure projects that are delivered?

- The outcomes studied will include a focus on the materialization of project risks throughout the delivery process, design innovation, the quality of operations of public

infrastructure, and the impact of PPP procurement on workers, key concerns for planning scholars and practitioners.

#### Required qualifications:

- A current or recently completed graduate student in Planning, Geography, Economics, Engineering, Business, Architecture or related field.
- Demonstrate experience in studying PPPs
- Experience in using both qualitative (i.e. key informant interviews) and quantitative research methodologies
- Experience in large-scale survey design and analysis
- Excellent written and oral communication in English; and
- Excellent personal time management, project management, and organizational skills

#### Job Duties

- Develop project schedules including milestones, critical path, timelines, deliverables, and reporting
- Interpreting data independently from the academic literature and non-academic literature
  - o Conduct desk research on project risks from design to operations of public infrastructure delivered through PPPs
  - o Conduct literature review on impact of PPP procurement on workers, key concerns for planning scholars and practitioners.
- Synthesizing technical, qualitative, and contextual research data to help produce a public-facing policy report based on findings
- Conduct primary interview and case study research on public-private partnership performance and outcomes in Canada
- Developing highly visual reports and graphics to support the reports and research findings

Interested applicants must submit a 1-page cover letter with their resume/CV attached, as one PDF document, to [infrastructure@utoronto.ca](mailto:infrastructure@utoronto.ca) . Please use **“P3 Research Assistant”** in the subject line.