

Research Assistant Position

Posting date: January 27, 2025

Closing date: February 27, 2025

The Faculty of Law, Queen's University, requests applications from suitably qualified JD and graduate students interested in a Research Assistant ("RA") position working with Dean Colleen M. Flood.

Description:

Dean Flood is seeking a Research Assistant to work in three research streams:

1. **Machine M.D.:** This project seeks to develop policy options for the optimal governance of AI technologies in healthcare in Canada. Through a series of case studies and comparative legal studies, we analyze existing legal governance of AI in health care and develop proposals to clarify, harmonize, and reform laws as needed. The project is a collaboration between leading scholars, innovators, decision-makers, and medical personnel. Students with an interest or background in health law and policy and/or law and AI are encouraged to apply.
2. **HTA and the Law:** Prior to being included in the Medicare basket, new health technologies are assessed for their clinical and cost effectiveness, in a process called 'Health Technology Assessment' (HTA). HTA increasingly incorporates assessment of the legal and ethical concerns raised by a technology. This project analyzes the extent to which Canadian HTA bodies have considered important legal issues. We work with representatives of HTA bodies from other countries, and international HTA scholars, to create and test tools that will equip HTA bodies to identify and prioritize legal issues for deeper analysis. Students with an interest in health law and policy are encouraged to apply.
3. **Vaccine Accessibility and Acceptability:** The Covid-19 pandemic brought to light various challenges in Canadian vaccine policy: rising levels of vaccine hesitancy; uncertainty as to the legality of vaccine mandates in various settings (e.g., hospitals, workplaces, non-essential businesses); questions about the legal obligation to accommodate religious and conscientious objections to vaccination. With a view to preparing for future pandemics, this research stream aims to synthesize and clarify existing laws in these areas, and identify areas in need of reform.

Other research topics, in the general area of health law and policy, may surface over the summer. The Research Assistant will work independently, with weekly check-ins of the research team.



If you have any questions about the work involved, please contact Research Associate Bryan Thomas at bryan.thomas@queensu.ca

Qualifications:

- JD or graduate law candidates
- Background in health law/policy is an asset but not a prerequisite

The work can be done remotely. RAs must have access to high-speed internet and a computer that meets minimum requirements. All work can be completed during the regular 9-5 work week, but candidates can work outside of that time frame if they prefer.

Length of contract: 12 weeks (May-August)

Proposed start date: May 1, 2025

Hours per week: 35 hours per week

Hourly Rate*: \$22/hour (+4% in lieu of vacation)

***Note: Graduate RAs are represented by PSAC Local 901, Unit 1 and are subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the Collective Agreement.**

Application Procedure

Queen's is strongly committed to employment equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace and encourages applications from Black, racialized/visible minority and Indigenous people, women, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQ+ persons. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, in accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.

Interested applicants should submit the following materials:

- (1) a short statement indicating your interests and experience related to the research;
- (2) a resume;

- (3) an informal transcript from Queen's Law. Applicants can include undergraduate transcripts if relevant to the research, but this is not required. Transcripts can be unofficial (e.g. SOLUS pdf, etc.)
- (4) any other material the applicant deems relevant (e.g. if you wish, you can include the name of a reference).

Professor Thomas will follow up with applicants directly.

Please address applications to:

Lisa Latour Colby, Director, Human Resources
Email: lawpositions@queensu.ca

The University will provide support in its recruitment processes to applicants with disabilities, including accommodation that takes into account an applicant's accessibility needs. If you require accommodation during the application process, please contact Diana Turner-Oke.

For additional details and information on the position, please contact:

Lisa Latour Colby, Director, Human Resources
Faculty of Law
Queen's University
128 Union Street
Kingston ON K7L 3N6
lawpositions@queensu.ca (613) 533-6000 ext. 75068