

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Research Assistant



Position Type: 10 hours per week, maximum 130 hours per term

Rate: \$35/hour - \$40/hour based on experience

Eligibility: Open to Indigenous applicants with some post-secondary education and/or relevant experience. Applicants do not need to be current students at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU)

Location: Primarily remote, with opportunities for in-person participation. Applicants based in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) are preferred to facilitate optional in-person activities.

Length of Contract: Fall 2026 to Winter 2027

Application Deadline: October 1, 2026, 11:59pm ET

Borders Hide the Horizon

Through four related research objectives, *Borders Hide the Horizon* critically explores Indigenous perspectives on nationhood and internationalism in a global context defined by xenophobic and anti-immigration sentiments; sharply drawn nation-state borders, detention centres, other death-making infrastructure; and mass displacement resulting from imperially-driven climate catastrophe and conflict.

- 1) Identifying the imperial origins from which xenophobic ideologies emerge and organizing settler life
- 2) Indigenous perspectives on nationhood and internationalism
- 3) Focus on soliciting writing contributions from MAKE and radical policy school alumni and faculty to support the emerging themes of the research report.
- 4) Analyzing the MAKE program model and other comparable models of education, as well as conducting a literature review on decolonial perspectives on curriculum, teaching, and learning.

Borders Hide the Horizon counters these narratives, examining how Indigenous nations have long understood territory, kinship, mobility, diplomacy, and belonging beyond the borders of settler states. Through phased release of research, essays, art, and public education, the project asks what Indigenous internationalisms reveal about borders, migration, citizenship, displacement, and sovereignty in Canada and across the world.

About the Role

Borders Hide the Horizon is entering the next phase of the research process. Following the development of the project's research infrastructure, including ethics approval, literature reviews, focus groups, and producing introductory materials for the October 2026 soft launch, the project team will now deepen its research through interdisciplinary exchange, interviews, and qualitative analysis.

With support from a research assistant (RA), the project team will advance research that informs the Red Paper and Dr. Megan Scribe's writing and analysis. In alignment with Yellowhead's research methodology, RAs may also have opportunities to share research findings, engage with Red Paper community members, and integrate their own research into projects if aligned.

Responsibilities include

- Conducting background and literature research to support the writing and development of the Red Paper; covering the critical discourse of settler colonialism and anti-immigration legislation, policy, and media to track parallels, intersections, and divergences in ideologies, rhetoric, and practices ;
- Assist with participant recruitment, scheduling, and conducting research interviews;
- Analysis and transcription of interviews and support qualitative data organization and analysis according to Indigenous data sovereignty principles (e.g., OCAP and related community protocols, where applicable);
- Support knowledge mobilization activities, including coordinating meetings, workshops, and events;
- Maintaining a work plan that is mindful of the project timeline and priorities;
- Assist with project administration and other related duties as assigned.

Qualifications

- Indigenous applicants with some post-secondary education and/or community-based experience are encouraged to apply.
 - Undergraduate or Master's degree in a relevant field, preferably social sciences and/or comparable work experience with an understanding of, and interest in, Indigenous policy, law, and governance, as well as community-based group learning environments.
- Strong understanding of Indigenous research methodologies and ethical standards, with strong competence in Indigenous methods is required
- Experience w/primary research and/or research ethics processes, and demonstrated competency in Indigenous research methodologies and data sovereignty principles
- Familiarity with the Misko Aki Knowledge Exchange program and/or Yellowhead Institute is an asset
- Strong organizational, communications and interpersonal skills; detail-oriented approach to research
- Experience and interest in event planning and facilitation for research purposes
- Strong organizational and time management to work remotely and ability to be flexible as priorities change
- Comfortable with using research-related software and tools
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment

Application Requirements

Please submit your resume and a short cover letter to school@yellowheadinstitute.org with the job title in the subject line. In your cover letter, please outline your community connection(s) and note any relevant Indigenous research and community experience. Applications and inquiries are welcomed until October 1, 2026.

About Yellowhead School

[Yellowhead School](#) was officially established in 2022. The School mobilizes, through educational initiatives, the findings and analyses produced by Yellowhead researchers. Our mission is to build on the collaborative research model to train the next generation of Indigenous leaders: to build capacity for a future where Indigenous people and communities design their worlds according to their values. Yellowhead School brings together and expands on the educational infrastructure and programming at the Yellowhead Institute, which is rooted in Indigenous pedagogy, knowledge, and commitment to a decolonial future.

Yellowhead Institute is an Indigenous-led research and education centre based in the Faculty of Arts at Toronto Metropolitan University. Rooted in community networks, Yellowhead offers critical and accessible resources to support the reclamation of Indigenous land and life.