JOB POSTING: Research Associate for Pilot Evaluation of the Decriminalization of Small Amounts of Substances

We are inviting applicants to apply for the position of Research Associate for the Pilot Evaluation of the Decriminalization of Small Amounts of Substances in Victoria, BC.

We are looking for someone who is exceptionally organized and detail-oriented and interested in harm reduction and decriminalization.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The BC government’s policy to decriminalize possession of small amounts (up to 2.5 grams) of drugs took effect in January 2023. Rigorous evaluation of the impacts of this policy change is needed to satisfy federal government requirements, and to further our understandings of decriminalization as a response to reducing substance-related harms.

This is a rapid mixed methods study to evaluate the impacts of decriminalization of small amounts of illicit drugs in Victoria, BC. This pilot work will inform the work of the BC government and other research teams who will be conducting province-wide evaluations of this policy change.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Research Associate will work closely with Principal Investigators and team members. They will contribute to the overall quality, success, and effectiveness of the project by assisting with a range of activities, including:

- Working collaboratively with the research team to ensure that project objectives and timelines are met.
- Identifying collaborator contacts, existence and availability of data sources including data held by the Victoria Police Department.
- Interviewing and running focus groups with those who use drugs, enforcement and judicial officials.
- Participating in the preparation of reports, publications and presentations
- Additional duties as discussed on an ongoing basis.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The Project Coordinator position requires:

- Knowledge of illicit substances, health equity, harm reduction, and social justice principles.
• Excellent analytical and communication skills, both written and interpersonal, with a wide range of stakeholders.
• Experience with conducting semi-structured interviews and qualitative data analysis.
• Excellent administrative, time management and organizational skills.
• Proficient in Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, Word, PowerPoint).
• Experience with webinar platforms such as Zoom and MS Teams.
• A combination of relevant education and experience will be considered.

Ideally, the candidate will have a Master’s or PhD degree in Public Health, Social Work, Nursing, Psychology, Education, Sociology or other related disciplines with an interest in substance use, health equity/social justice, harm reduction and knowledge translation/exchange. Qualified graduate students are also encouraged to apply.

SALARY AND HOURS:

This 0.5 FTE position (17.5 hours per week) 6-month contract position, starting immediately. This position is located at the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR) at the University of Victoria. The candidate must be in Victoria eligible to work in Canada. Options are available for hybrid in-office/remote work model. Hourly salary ranges from approximately $30 - $34 hour based on experience and education.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Interested applicants should forward their resume to jethomps@uvic.ca by Sep 1, 2023. Note: some interviews may take place before posting closing date. Only those selected for interviews will be contacted. Thank you for your interest!

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT:

UVic is committed to upholding the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion in our living, learning and work environments. In pursuit of our values, we seek members who will work respectfully and constructively with differences and across levels of power. We actively encourage applications from members of groups experiencing barriers to equity. Read UVic’s full equity statement here: www.uvic.ca/equitystatement