

FACULTY OF HEALTH

**DEPARTMENT OF
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Postdoctoral Fellowship in Autistic Mental Health and Flourishing

Position Summary

Applicants are invited to apply for a postdoctoral fellowship, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, to be held in the Department of Psychology at York University, in Toronto (Ontario) working primarily with Dr. Jonathan Weiss on a project examining flourishing among autistic young adults engaged in a therapeutic photography intervention. Together, they will lead activities related to 1) supporting the evaluation of the intervention, which is designed to inform how natural, built and social environments can maximize flourishing in autistic young people, and 2) identifying how thriving can be improved on both physiological and psychological levels. This unique opportunity offers clinical and research training in the area of mental health, autism and more broadly, neurodevelopmental disability. Work on other research projects related to mental health and neurodevelopmental disability is also possible.

Experience:

Requirements include experience in the area of psychophysiology and neurodevelopmental disability, with particular interest in mental health research. This position will include original data collection, grant-writing, quantitative analysis of large datasets, manuscript preparation and knowledge translation activities. A successful candidate will be responsible for supervising the provision of the intervention and of standardized interviewing and assessment of mental health conditions and physiological states. They will obtain direct training in autistic community engagement, intervention-based research, biostatistics, and qualitative methods. Clinical experience in mental health interventions and experience with psychophysiological equipment are definite assets. Candidates who hold (or near completion of) a PhD in clinical psychology, developmental psychology, or any other health-related discipline will be considered.

Position Details:

This is a one-year full-time position, with an option to renew for a second year. The start date is negotiable. Supervision for licensure with the College of Psychologists of Ontario is possible for eligible applicants. The annual salary for the position is \$75,000 CAD, plus benefits as noted in the [YUFA Collective Agreement](#). This postdoctoral fellowship will remain open until it is filled. Given the virtual nature of the project, the postdoctoral fellow may be able to conduct activities in a remote manner or as hybrid remote and on campus (Keele campus, Behavioural Sciences Building) as agreed among the parties. The ability to attend in-person at the university is an asset but not required.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Perform administrative coordination of the project including working independently to manage daily operations while supervising graduate students, research assistants, and undergraduate students
2. Maintain a good working relationship with participants and caregivers (where applicable) in the study



3. Work with research staff to maintain and manage the research database
4. Perform data collection and analyses (i.e. SPSS, etc.) and interpret outputs of qualitative and physiological measurements to identify outcomes of the program
5. Take the lead in drafting papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals and making presentations at national/international conferences
6. Engage enthusiastically with key stakeholders and partners within the autism community and participate in knowledge mobilization efforts
7. Participate in lab activities including lab meetings, supervision of students, etc.

Criteria:

1. PhD awarded or near completion in clinical psychology, developmental psychology, neuroscience, or any other health-related discipline
2. Knowledge of autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities and of co-mental health conditions
3. Familiarity with data analysis and interpretation of common clinical measures, as well as experience working with neurodiverse individuals
4. Experience using psychophysiological equipment and interpreting outputs (i.e., heart rate variability)
5. Advanced competence in data analytic skills, including large database management and high-level multivariate statistical analysis
6. Previous experience of project management, ensuring deadlines are met, to communicate effectively and to help the team achieve its goals

Selection will be based upon the candidate's educational and professional background, research interests, and potential to contribute to mental health research. Only those candidates with a reasonable expectation of having completed their graduate work and earned their degrees by the start date will be eligible.

Application Requirements:

To apply, please submit a CV, names and contact information for 2 references, and a letter detailing 1) research experience/interest, 2) mental health intervention experience, and 3) your goals and objectives for the fellowship period. This information should be sent electronically to:

Jonathan Weiss, Ph.D., C.Psych
 York Research Chair in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disability Mental Health
 Dept. of Psychology
 York University
jonweiss@yorku.ca

