

Position Title: Research Associate

Program: Connected Minds

Contract Term: 2 years

Annual Salary: \$40 per hour plus research allowance

Hours of Work: Part-time, up to 20 hours per week

ABOUT CONNECTED MINDS

Connected Minds: Neural and Machine Systems for a Healthy, Just Society (2023-2030) combines York's existing science and technology research ecosystem, and longstanding institutional strengths in the social sciences, arts, and humanities with Queen's University's complementary strengths in neuroscience, health, and artificial intelligence, as well as a substantial consortium of multi-sector partners. The Connected Minds vision is to co-create and co-lead socially responsible, community engaged research that produces innovative technologies, policies, and regulations that optimize the benefits and mitigate the risks of the new techno-social collective. Connected Minds will fund 35 strategic faculty hires, partner-focused seed, team, and prototyping grants, KM/commercialization events, and an ambitious multi-institutional micro-credential training program with 385 trainees and cross-sector stakeholders. All activities will require interdisciplinary participation, and we will prioritize projects that benefit Indigenous and other equity-deserving groups. With CFREF funding, Connected Minds will lead Canada and the world in the socially responsible creation and adoption of scientific and technological innovation to promote a healthy, resilient, and just techno-social collective.

ABOUT CO-CREATION AND THE CONNECTED MINDS PROGRAM

Most Connected Minds funding programs (including all research grants and training awards) require interdisciplinary academic collaboration, multisector collaboration, with an emphasis on co-creation.

Co-creation rules for the program include:

1. **'Horizontal' co-creation:** All Connected Minds research and training projects must engage at least one internal advisor/collaborator and external collaborator to bring interdisciplinary expertise and perspective to the project. These collaborators must be involved in both the planning and execution of the project. Internal collaborators/advisors must come from a different Expertise Pillar (see above) than the principal investigator/supervisor and (unless strongly justified) should not come from the same academic unit.
2. **'Vertical' co-creation:** Any applied project that aims to influence or affect a non-academic community, i.e., through policy, practice or technology, must engage members of the target community in the design, implementation and evaluation of the project, and seek feedback from these communities at each step.
3. The **choice of these collaborators**, advisors and partners should be clearly justified in terms of their expertise, role, and the specific goals of the project.

JOB PURPOSE

Reporting to the Connected Minds Directorate, the Research Associate will lead the development of an academic paper that explores the concept of co-creation within CFREF-funded programs. This role aims to deepen understanding of how co-creation processes have been applied and how they have shaped collaborative research within our own program and across other CFREF initiatives. By conducting a thorough literature review and engaging with other CFREF programs, the Research Associate will synthesize theoretical and practical insights to identify best practices, successes, and challenges in co-creation. Ultimately, the goal of this role is to produce a novel, insightful academic paper/toolkit that contributes to the broader academic discourse on co-creation, offering valuable recommendations for enhancing collaborative research practices.

MAJOR DUTIES

- Conduct a comprehensive literature review on co-creation, focusing on its application in research settings, best practices, and outcomes.
- Analyze how co-creation has been implemented within our own research program, identifying key successes, challenges, and lessons learned.
- Establish relationships and collaborate with other CFREF-funded programs to understand how they have applied co-creation in their research processes.
- Gather and synthesize data from interviews, reports, and program documentation to inform the research paper.
- Develop novel metrics to assess the impacts of a co-creation plan.
- Identify key themes and insights from both literature and empirical research to offer novel contributions to the concept of co-creation in academic contexts.
- Summarize findings in a clear and concise manner, crafting an academic paper/toolkit that integrates theory, practice, and actionable recommendations.
- Contribute to the writing, editing, and finalization of the academic paper for publication.
- Present research findings at internal meetings and potentially at external academic conferences or seminars.
- Collaborate with researchers, project managers, and others to ensure the quality and relevance of the research.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Graduate level degree (or equivalent experience) in a relevant field (e.g., Social Sciences, Humanities, Education, or related disciplines) or with relevant experience in other disciplines with a focus on research, collaboration, and co-creation.
- Strong understanding of research methodologies and academic writing.
- Previous experience with literature reviews, qualitative research methods, and synthesizing complex information.
- Experience in co-creation, participatory research, or collaborative models of knowledge production is an asset.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present complex ideas clearly and concisely.
- Strong organizational skills and ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously.

- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a fast-paced, dynamic environment.
- Strong relationship and trust-building skills, with the ability to engage effectively with diverse stakeholders, including researchers, program leaders, and external collaborators.
- Proven ability to foster collaborative partnerships and create an environment conducive to open, productive dialogue.
- Previous experience working with or within CFREF-funded programs or similar funding structures is a plus.
- Delivers clear, concise presentations of complex research findings to both technical and non-technical audiences, effectively communicating key insights, methodologies, and implications to drive informed decision-making.

Application Instructions:

Please submit a cover letter and resume to Nicoleta Negoita, People Partner, at nicol23@yorku.ca. This position is open until filled.