

PhD PROGRAM IN VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research project exploring veterinarian mental wellness and resilience

A funded 3-year PhD program in Epidemiology in the Department of Population Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), University of Guelph, is open for applications. The title of the project is “**An exploration of veterinarian mental health and resilience, and the outcomes of veterinary care.**” The program will commence on or before September 1st, 2016, depending on availability of a suitable candidate. In addition to faculty in the Department of Population Medicine, faculty from the Department of Clinical Studies, and the OVC Dean’s Office will participate in the project. The research will use mixed methods (i.e. quantitative and qualitative) to explore the lived experiences of veterinarians with regards to mental wellness and resilience and to investigate relationships between veterinarian wellness and outcomes of veterinary care, (e.g. client satisfaction and communication patterns). Methods of data collection will include quantitative questionnaires, key informant interviews, and video of veterinarian-client interactions.

The candidate is expected to participate fully in all aspects of data collection and analysis as a motivated, ambitious and effective scientific team member. The research program is designed to encourage independent thought, data analysis, and development of strong written and oral communication skills.

Applicants must possess a relevant graduate qualification, and meet the academic standards for admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Guelph. It is possible for a particularly well-suited candidate to enter as a Masters of Science student, and progress to a PhD given strong academic and research performance in the MSc program. The applicant should have a strong background in epidemiology, psychology, social work, or biological sciences, as well as basic statistics. A veterinary degree (DVM or equivalent) would be an asset. Competency in basic computer programs (e.g. word processing, literature search engines, spreadsheets, graphics presentation) is required. Competency in statistical and qualitative research software would be an asset.

The stipend for this PhD program is Canadian \$17,500 per year, and opportunities to increase the stipend can be pursued, depending on the candidate’s academic performance.

Candidates are invited to submit their full curriculum vitae (CV) and a cover letter with a statement of goals and an explanation of their motivation for applying for this project. Three (3) letters of reference will be required for the formal application. Initial submissions of a CV, cover letter and specific questions about this particular PhD program opportunity, should be directed by email to Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton, Department of Population Medicine, at: aqjones@uoguelph.ca. The deadline for submissions is Friday, July 8, 2016 at noon Eastern Standard Time, or until a suitable candidate is found.

General queries about graduate studies in the Department of Population Medicine should be directed to Graduate Program Assistant (Department of Population Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, Canada; phone 519-824-4120 ext. 54780, fax 519-763-3117, e-mail: popmedgradsec@uoguelph.ca) or may be

answered by visiting <https://www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies/programs/popmed>.
Further information on the Department of Population Medicine can be found here:
<https://ovc.uoguelph.ca/population-medicine/department-population-medicine>