

JOB DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE FOR A POSTDOCTORAL VISITOR AT YORK UNIVERSITY

Job Information	
Position Title	Postdoctoral Visitor in AI & Governance
Category	Postdoctoral Visitor
Supervisor(s)	Professors Kean Birch, Robert Gehl, and Teshager Dagne
Unit	Institute for Technoscience & Society
Location	Markham Campus, York University, Toronto (or remote in Ontario)
Background	
<p>We are seeking a Postdoctoral Visitor (PDV) to work with three Ontario Research Chairs based at York's new Markham Campus in the Public Policy Research Cluster. The position is funded by the CFREF initiative <i>Connected Minds: Neural and Machine Systems for a Healthy, Just Society</i>. The PDV will be expected to undertake research tasks relating to the governance of artificial intelligence, broadly conceived, including assisting with research activities and especially developing and writing research grant applications.</p>	
Overall Purpose of Postdoctoral Position	
<p>As a researcher in the Public Policy Research Cluster, the PDV will work in collaboration and with the guidance of the three supervisors (Profs Birch, Gehl, and Dagne). The PDV will undertake research activities leading to publication in leading international journals and applying for research grants from government research councils and other funding sources. More specifically, the PDV will be responsible a range of tasks, including: literature reviews; primary and secondary data collection; interviewing informants; statistical analysis; qualitative analysis; presenting research; writing up research for publication; writing up research for policy and stakeholder audiences; identifying and writing research grants for submission to different funding sources; developing and maintaining a website and social media presence (e.g. LinkedIn); helping to organize events; and other activities as required.</p>	
Key Responsibilities	
<p>The Postdoctoral Visitor will have the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake literature reviews, covering the topic of AI governance in academic fields like science & technology studies, law, economic sociology, policy studies, and political economy; • Undertake desk-based secondary data collection relating to AI governance; • Travel to undertake primary and secondary data collection (as necessary); • Interviewing business, legal, and policy elites; • Statistical analysis of corporate, government, and other data (as necessary); • Data analysis using qualitative and quantitative software programs (e.g. Atlas.ti, NVivo, SPSS, Excel); • Presenting research at international conferences and other events; • Writing up research for publication in leading international journals (and publishers); • Writing up research for policy and stakeholder audiences; • Writing research grant applications for submission to diverse funding sources; • Developing and maintaining a project website and social media presence (e.g. LinkedIn); • Helping to organize events; • Other activities as required. 	
Skills and Qualifications	
Educational Qualifications	Applicants must have completed all requirements for a PhD by 1 January 2025.
Training/Experience Required	The applicant should have the following experience/training:

- PhD and research background in science & technology studies, law, economic sociology, policy studies, or political economy (or closely related fields);
- Has experience developing research grant applications for submission to different funding sources;
- Has undertaken primary and secondary data collection (e.g. interviewing informants);
- Is comfortable doing qualitative (and quantitative) data collection and analysis, especially on relevant topic;
- Has strong theoretical interest in areas relating to AI governance;
- Has publication in press or submission to international social science and/or law journals.

Terms and Conditions

This PDV position will be based at the Markham Campus and affiliated with the Institute for Technoscience & Society at York University. It will be a full-time position for 12-months (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026), in the first instance. Work can be undertaken remotely with travel to Toronto required, but you will need to be based in Ontario.

Salary: minimum annual salary of \$40,000 + benefits.

How to Apply

To apply for this position, please submit the following materials in one PDF document:

- A cover letter outlining how your experience matches the requirements, especially experience applying for research grants (2-page max);
- A detailed and up to date CV;
- Details of two referees, including their email addresses.

Please submit by email to Kean Birch at kean@york.ca by 20 December 2024. Qualified applicants will be invited for an interview conducted via Skype/Zoom/Teams. Apologies in advance, but only those applicants selected for interview will be contacted.