

Senior Researcher Position Description

SCOPE:

The Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) is an agency of the Government of Ontario created to inform and improve the province's postsecondary education system through research and policy analysis. As part of its mandate, HEQCO provides recommendations to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) to enhance the accessibility, quality and accountability of Ontario's colleges and universities.

HEQCO is seeking a skilled Senior Researcher with experience working in government, postsecondary institutions, or a research environment to advance its research and policy agenda. Senior Researchers are primarily responsible for leading a diverse range of qualitative and/or quantitative research projects aimed at providing insight and analysis for policy makers and the broader postsecondary sector. Working closely with HEQCO Researchers and Research Interns, Senior Researchers are expected to manage and deliver multiple complex projects under tight timelines. Project activities may include developing project proposals, collecting and analyzing data, drafting complete reports and preparing presentations for internal and external audiences. Senior Researchers report to one of HEQCO's Research Directors.

HEQCO is strongly committed to developing an equitable and inclusive community. We believe that diversity strengthens our work and our workplaces, and we encourage applications from racialized persons/persons of colour, women, Indigenous/Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQ2S+ community and others who may contribute to the diversification of our perspectives and ideas.

HEQCO is in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and its regulations as applicable. To request HEQCO material in alternative formats, please contact info@heqco.ca.

HEQCO team members work remotely. Our work is facilitated using a number of online communication and collaboration tools.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct a diverse range of assigned multi-year and short-term research and evaluation projects on key issues and challenges in higher education as part of HEQCO's larger research strategy.
- Lead and coordinate all phases of assigned research projects to meet established objectives and timelines.
- Offer creative and innovative methodologies, data sources and tools to address research questions.
- Write a range of products (evaluation reports, publications on research findings, policy recommendations, Board presentations, blogs and briefs) in accordance with HEQCO's style conventions.
- Keep abreast of emerging trends and developments in postsecondary education to inform current and future research initiatives.

- Provide mentorship and guidance to Research Interns in support of their assigned work.
- Represent HEQCO publicly by presenting and participating at conferences, events, advisory committees and in other relevant contexts.
- Develop and maintain relationships with other researchers and partners in the sector.
- Actively participate in and support all project systems, programs, services and activities of the Research Team.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's degree in Social Science or related field preferred.
- 7 - 8 years of experience in conducting research within the postsecondary sector, government, or other research environments utilizing qualitative and quantitative tools.
- Knowledge of research methodologies and techniques to lead and conduct quantitative and/or qualitative studies.
- Knowledge and experience in the use of various statistical and other research related applications.
- Knowledge of program evaluation methods and techniques.
- Ability to multi-task and lead multiple projects within timelines.
- Knowledge of emerging trends and challenges in Ontario's postsecondary education system.
- Strong interpersonal skills to develop and maintain relationships with other researchers and stakeholders in support of agency priorities.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Strong organizational and project management skills
- Proven ability to work collaboratively

Priority will be given to applicants with the following assets:

- Experience working with governments and/or postsecondary institutions
- Experience working with large data sets and linkage platforms (e.g., Statistics Canada's Education and Labour Market Longitudinal Platform (ELMLP)).
- Proficiency with written and spoken French

Applicants interested in secondments may be considered. Please submit your cover letter and resume to hr@heqco.ca by June 1, 2023. We thank all applicants but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.