

Social Innovation Fellowship

A Social Innovation Fellow is an emerging leader in a social change initiative, using research, innovation and entrepreneurial approaches to address social or environmental challenges. This fellowship program is designed for individuals working on initiatives who would benefit from an interdisciplinary collaboration with other changemakers. Initiatives, as a theme, should foster *vibrant urban wellness* and can be based in domains including health, business, fine arts, humanities, science or engineering. Fellows will collaborate with other fellows to explore synergistic possibilities.

Fellows are current graduate students at a Canadian post-secondary institution, and will:

- Commit to a 4-6 month project with research deliverables that also achieve partner objectives
- Receive a stipend of \$10,000 along with a budget to cover Roundhouse desk membership, access to programs, and project costs
- Meet on a regular basis with other Fellows
- Receive personal development, facilitation, leadership training and domain-specific knowledge
- Participate in social innovation workshops and events
- Connect with consultants, mentors, faculty and students across disciplines
- Be profiled on the Roundhouse website and social media channels
- Disseminate results for academic and community benefit

Partners

Business or Non-Profit
Contribution = \$3500

Benefits

- Work closely with a graduate student, over 4-6 months, to better understand issues that challenge a specific population
- Collaborate with an academic faculty member focusing on common interests
- Collaborate with the Social Innovation Institute to access a multidisciplinary team
- Collaborate with Roundhouse to access dynamic work and meeting spaces

University of Alberta

- Facilitate graduate student research using a social innovation approach, in a multidisciplinary environment

MacEwan University

- Create opportunities for MacEwan undergraduate students to collaborate on socially innovative projects
- Host a group of fellows to address community-based challenges

Business and Non-Profit partners interested in sponsoring a Fellow for a project, as well as University of Alberta graduate students interested in a Fellowship should contact Dr. Leo Wong at leo.wong@macewan.ca.

Social Innovation Fellowship

During an immersive 4 to 6-month experience, Fellows will work, both independently and collaboratively, in a cohort of other Fellows to:

- strengthen their networking and collaboration skills;
- gain experience in public engagement;
- master facilitation skills;
- develop skills in social innovation; and
- apply a socially entrepreneurial mindset to advance a specific initiative.

Fellows are expected to commit approximately 15-20 hours per week to the initiative over a period of 4 to 6 months (depending on the project), and share insights and results stemming from their Fellowship to the broader community. Fellows are also encouraged to 'pay it forward' by mentoring future Fellows.

Fellowship details:

1. Through the support of an arrangement with Mitacs, the Social Innovation Institute, Roundhouse and an industry partner, each Fellowship is valued at \$15,000.
2. A stipend of \$10,000 is paid to the Fellow (for a 4 to 6-month period) while \$5000 covers project costs. Project costs¹ (non-discretionary) include Roundhouse membership with coworking desk space, meeting room access, training opportunities, access to workshops and events, and promotional/administrative support. Other project costs (discretionary) include catering costs, travel expenses and promotional materials.
3. Cohorts of Fellows will be selected two times per year².
4. Fellows are current graduate students at a Mitacs-supported post-secondary institution (e.g. University of Alberta). The Fellows will combine research experience with practical field experience and focus on a compelling project that engages at least one industry partner. Graduate students will need the support of a faculty supervisor before applying to this Fellowship. Faculty supervisors act as academic coaches and help scope project deliverables to align with the stated time period.
5. Projects often engage multiple stakeholders and address co-benefits to different sectors synergistically. Fellows and industry partners must be open to involving multidisciplinary teams of students and faculty from participating post-secondary institutions (including MacEwan University and the University of Alberta).

The next intake is set to start **Fall 2018**. Interested [graduate students](#) need to apply by **July 15, 2018**. Please email the application form to Dr. Leo Wong, Founding Director of the MacEwan University Social Innovation Institute at leo.wong@macewan.ca.

¹ Non-discretionary costs total \$4000. Discretionary costs make up the remaining \$1000.

² Cohort cycles have a normal start date of January 1 and September 1 each year (subject to change). Application deadlines are 4-6 weeks prior, with acceptance shared 2 weeks prior.

The **September 2018** intake will focus on 5 projects:

Bottles to Bricks: Designing Plastic Water Bottles to be Reused as Building Bricks in Developing Countries

Description: In times of disaster one of the top priorities for vulnerable populations is to ensure clean water is readily available. Often times this is delivered in the form of tens of thousands of single use plastic bottles to areas that simply have no recycling programs. The result is an enormous amount of plastic waste. This project's aim is to create a 5-gallon bottle shaped like a piece of Lego that can deliver the required water aid, and then continue its life cycle as a building block for a small structure. In many cases, homes and buildings are wiped away in areas affected by disaster leaving communities unprotected from the elements. The idea is that once emptied these bottles could be filled with dirt and used to build a shelter.

Industry Partner: [Earth Group of Companies](#)

Supervisor: [Still seeking](#)

Graduate Student: [Still seeking](#) – possible disciplines include business, industrial design, engineering, chemistry, etc.

Converting Empty Storefronts to Temporary Displays featuring Art or Social Enterprise Messaging

Description: This project aims to build upon a successful [Recover Urban Wellness prototype](#) and develop a pilot program where empty storefronts become temporary displays of art or social enterprise messaging. The pilot program will ideally engage property owners, artists, social enterprises and local agencies to match potential empty storefronts with potential artists or organizations to fill those displays.

Industry Partner: [Arts Habitat](#)

Supervisor: [Still seeking](#)

Graduate Student: [Still seeking](#) – possible disciplines include business, community economic development, fine arts, etc.

Recognizing and Encouraging Socially Conscious Business Practices

Description: This project aims to build upon a successful [Recover Urban Wellness prototype](#) and develop a pilot program where business owners who demonstrate socially conscious practices are recognized, and thereby encourage other businesses to explore their own ways to become more socially conscious.

Industry Partner: [To be determined](#)

Supervisor: [Still seeking](#)

Graduate Student: [Still seeking](#) – possible disciplines include business, community economic development, etc.

Supporting Front-Line Staff Working in Service-Oriented Industries with Harassment Training

Description: Harassment perpetrated against employees by individuals external to their employing organization is a serious and all too common issue faced by employees in service-oriented occupations. Studies in service-oriented industries, such as retail and hospitality, have demonstrated that most instances of patron-perpetrated harassment go unreported, and that employees often feel obligated to react to these occurrences with informal responses that often further perpetuate the problem. This project aims to explore some of the factors that contribute to the prevalence of patron-perpetrated harassment, as well as factors that cause the issue to be under-reported and under-addressed in workplaces, education, and literature. It will also develop policy and tools on how workers and administrators can recognize, address, and prevent patron-perpetrated sexual harassment in their workplaces.

Industry Partner: [Still seeking](#)

Supervisor: [Already identified](#)

Graduate Student: [Already identified](#)

Health Impacts in a Revitalizing Urban Wellness Project

Description: This project aims to examine how the repurposing of an urban space (i.e., parking lot) into a publicly-accessible, temporary pop-up park with health-promoting amenities can promote active transportation and physical activity among participants, including local community members, and impact individuals' health and wellbeing.

Industry Partner: [Already identified](#)

Supervisor: [Already identified](#)

Graduate Student: [Already identified](#)

Graduate Student Social Innovation Fellowship Program Application Form

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Program are you enrolled in:

Expected completion month/year of your program of study:

Projects of Interest – Please list in order of priority, with a one or two sentence explanation of why the project aligns with your interests:

1.

2.

Signature

Print Name

Date

A faculty supervisor will need to be consulted about this Fellowship. Please approach a faculty supervisor about this opportunity, and then fill in their contact information below. We will contact them to conduct a follow-up conversation to help define their role and clarify any of their expectations.

Faculty supervisor name:

Title:

Department/Faculty:

Faculty email:

Faculty phone: