

Summer Graduate Research Student Assistant
College of Built Environments & Evans School of Public Policy and Governance
University of Washington

An Analysis of Investments in Non-Congregate Emergency Shelter in King County During the COVID-19 Pandemic

We are seeking two summer graduate research student assistants (GRSAs) for the 2020 Summer Quarter. The GRSAs will assist with research focused on King County's recent initiative to move people experiencing homelessness out of emergency shelters into hotels and motels. The study will employ both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The GRSAs will be involved in all aspects of the project, but will have a particular focus on the qualitative portion of the study, including interviews with people living in shelter, those moved to hotels/motels, and with King County staff.

Duration: June 22, 2020 through September 15, 2020

Hours: (total of 180 hours over the course of the summer – approximately 15 hours per week)

Supervision: Gregg Colburn, College of Built Environments and Rachel Fyall, Evans School

Compensation: Summer GRSA's hourly wage in accordance with UW Graduate School policy depending on student academic levels: (<https://grad.uw.edu/graduate-student-funding/funding-information-for-departments/administering-assistantships/ta-ra-salaries/>)

Description:

The aim of this project is to understand the impact of living in a non-congregate environment on shelter-stayers' physical and mental well-being, ability to participate in the workforce, and outlook on the future. Results will establish an evidence base for key decisions that the County faces as it emerges from the COVID-19 crisis. Because a return to normal (highly crowded homeless shelters) may not be an option in the near-to-medium term due to public health concerns, the County must formulate new ideas to house and support people experiencing homelessness.

The GRSAs will have the opportunity to work with the research team (which includes faculty from UW and senior members of King County staff) to structure and implement this project. If interested, the students will also have the opportunity to participate in communicating the results of the study in an academic paper. Tasks for the GRSAs may include, but are not limited to:

- Background research and literature review
- Working with King County staff to organize research activities
- Support research team in formulating the research design
- In partnership with the research team, develop interview protocols for the qualitative portions of the project
- Work with County staff to schedule interviews
- Conduct interviews with shelter residents and staff members (either remotely or in person with a focus on the health of all involved)
- Oversee interview transcription and qualitative data analysis
- Work with research team to identify key research findings and communicate those findings in a final report to the County
- Support the team in creating a manuscript for publication in an academic journal

Qualifications: Candidates should demonstrate the following:

- Strong organizational skills
- Interest in and knowledge of public sector services, including homeless programming
- Knowledge of qualitative research methods (experience with NVivo or Atlas TI is preferable)
- Clear and concise writing skills

Applicants must be currently enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Washington Seattle campus. Interested applicants should submit the following:

- A resume/CV
- 1-page statement outlining the candidate's qualifications for and interest in the position
- Names and contact information for 2 references

Applications should be submitted by June 15, 2020 at 10:00 AM to Gregg Colburn colburn3@uw.edu and Rachel Fyall fyall@uw.edu. Due to the tight timing on this appointment, we will be conducting interviews via Zoom on June 16 and June 17. Please indicate your availability for an interview on those dates in your application. Note: Graduate students that are enrolled in at least two credits over the summer will be appointed as a salaried research assistant.