

Cultural mapping of EDI at TRU

In March of 2021, Thompson Rivers University was awarded one of 12 [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\) Capacity-Building Grants](#) by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). This funding will enable TRU to establish a stronger, more cohesive, and integrated approach to implementing EDI principles into everything we do. Ultimately, this funding will support *Kw'seltknéws*; TRU's commitment to create a culture of belonging for all, as described in [TRU's Vision Statement](#).

As part of this grant, the EDI Data Analysis Postdoctoral Fellow (EDI PDF) was hired to contribute to the development of a data collection strategy, and to aid in the design and preparation of the collection of equity data. This is towards the goal of understanding the people who make up our community and identifying barriers to participation, challenges to inclusion, and creating targeted support systems and/or processes for equity-deserving groups.

In addition, the EDI PDF will be studying EDI at TRU by using cultural mapping. This qualitative research method puts the stories and experiences of participants at the forefront of data collection and uses academic rigor to support the causes and initiatives which matter to them. Mapping of EDI at TRU will provide important groundwork necessary to assess the current landscape on campus, and furthermore, to use stakeholders' perspectives to identify gaps in what belonging looks like at our university. This exciting project has funding to support a small team of students.

Graduate Student (May – August 2022 with opportunity for early start) \$20/hr x 20hr/week x 16 weeks

The graduate student will:

- mentor and co-supervise the EDI cultural mapping team
- provide administrative support for cultural mapping sessions (i.e., helping to contact participants by email, setting up meeting times, organizing meeting space, etc.)
- co-facilitate cultural mapping workshops
- conduct interviews during mapping sessions, and later analyze the maps
- lead a literature review of EDI studies in higher education, specifically work which has been published in a Canadian context
- assist in the collection and coding of maps

Undergraduate Students (May – August 2022 with opportunity for early start) 2 x \$18/hr x 20hr/week x 16 weeks

The undergraduate student(s) will:

- assist with cultural mapping workshops
- recruit participants for the study (i.e., handing out flyers, COVID-friendly snacks, etc.)
- learn and employ coding protocols
- gather examples of EDI surveys from Canadian higher education institutions (HEIs)
- conduct literature reviews on equity policies and processes at Canadian HEIs
- organize, store and preserve the data

Please see page 2 for description of the application package.



**THOMPSON
RIVERS
UNIVERSITY**

**Research &
Graduate
Studies**

Student application form

Full name: _____

TRU ID Number: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Program: _____

Faculty: _____

Completed credit hours at time of application: _____

Planned graduation date: _____

If applicable, please list any prior research experience including courses, and/or programs including the Research Assistant, Research Ambassador, USRA, UREAP, or Research Apprenticeship (or equivalent) experience (indicate your role and the name of your faculty supervisor/s if applicable):

A completed application packet will include:

1. this page completed by the student
2. a copy of student's resume
3. an unofficial copy of student's transcripts
4. a written statement indicating your interest in cultural mapping of equity, diversity, and inclusion at TRU (max 500 words).

I have included all of the above components as part of my application.

Student Signature (digital is fine): _____

Date: _____

Please submit completed applications to easiedu@tru.ca with the subject line: "Cultural mapping of EDI at TRU." Applicants will be contacted by Dr. Asiedu (or members of the research team) informing them of the results and/or next steps.