

Post-Doctoral Associate Position
Special Olympics Research: Governance, Policy, and Safeguarding

The School of Kinesiology at Western University invites applications for a Post-Doctoral Associate position to work with Dr. Laura Misener (*Frank Hayden Endowed Chair in Sport and Social Impact*) on Special Olympics-related research. The Endowed Chair celebrates Dr. Frank Hayden's pioneering efforts in creating opportunities for athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and shaping the Special Olympics movement. This role will advance research on organizational capacity, governance, safeguarding, and policy development within Special Olympics.

Primary Research Areas

The Post-Doctoral Associate will contribute to research projects in the following areas:

- Governance and organizational capacity within Special Olympics and related disability sport organizations
- Impact of Special Olympics events on social inclusion and community integration
- Safeguarding policies and practices to protect athletes with intellectual disabilities
- Policy development and implementation affecting disability sport at local, national, and international levels

Key Responsibilities

- Conduct qualitative research including interviews, focus groups, document analysis, and ethnographic fieldwork
- Collaborate on research design, data collection, and analysis for multiple projects
- Lead and contribute to scholarly publications in high-quality peer-reviewed journals
- Prepare research reports and policy briefs for academic and community
- Present research findings at national and international conferences
- Contribute to grant writing and knowledge mobilization activities
- Mentor graduate students involved in related research projects
- Build relationships with Special Olympics organizations and community partners

Required Qualifications

- PhD in Kinesiology, Sport Management, Disability Studies, Sociology, Public Policy, or related field (completed or near completion)
- Demonstrated experience in qualitative research methodologies
- Strong evidence of scholarly writing and publication record
- Knowledge of disability sport (IDD would be an asset), inclusive sport practices, or related areas
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively
- Commitment to community-engaged research and knowledge mobilization

Position Details

- **Term:** 1-2 years, with possibility of extension based on funding
- **Start Date:** July 1, 2026 (Negotiable)
- **Salary:** Competitive, commensurate with experience and following Western University guidelines
- **Location:** Western University, London, Ontario (some remote work is possible)

Application Process

1. Cover letter outlining research interests, qualifications, and fit with the position (maximum 2 pages)
2. Current CV
3. One writing sample (published article or dissertation chapter)
4. Names and contact information for two references

Applications should be submitted to **Dr. Laura Misener** (laura.misener@uwo.ca)

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Equity Statement

Western University is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including staff, students, and faculty. We welcome applications from all qualified individuals, including individuals with disabilities. Accommodations are available for applicants with disabilities throughout the recruitment process. If you require accommodations, please contact lmisene@uwo.ca.