Postdoctoral Associate in Operational Stress Injury and Mental Health Research
MacDonald Franklin Operational Stress Injury Research Centre | Western University

Location: London, ON (Remote-friendly across Canada; Eastern Time Zone preferred)

Employment Type: Full-time, 12-month contract (extension possible)

Department: Psychiatry, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University

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Research That Improves Mental Health Care, Policy, and Support.

At the MacDonald Franklin Operational Stress Injury Research Centre (MFOSIRC), we study complex mental health challenge, including operational stress injuries, PTSD, moral injury, trauma, and the lasting impacts of service on military members, Veterans, public safety personnel, and their families.

Our work integrates both rigorous research and real-world impact. We ask meaningful questions, generate evidence, and translate our findings into knowledge that can improve clinical care, policy, and support systems.

Located within the Lawson Research Institute at St. Joseph's Health Care London and affiliated with Western University, MFOSIRC brings together researchers, clinicians, health system leaders, and community partners to address some of Canada's most important mental health challenges.

Why This Role Matters

As a Postdoctoral Associate at MFOSIRC, you will help produce research that informs policy, strengthens practice, and improves the prevention, treatment, and understanding of operational stress injuries. Your work will contribute to better outcomes for military members, Veterans, public safety personnel, and their families.

You will have opportunities to share evidence with researchers, clinicians, policymakers, health system leaders, and community partners in Canada and internationally. This may include publishing findings, contributing to policy discussions, translating findings into practical resources, presenting to diverse audiences, and helping integrate evidence into care and support systems. You will additionally gain experience developing proposals for funding including for competitive grant applications, helping turn promising ideas into new research initiatives.

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You do not need to arrive with a fully formed research agenda nor experience with military or Veteran health research. We are looking for someone who brings curiosity, initiative, and a willingness to engage with complex mental health questions that affect real people.

Who This Is For

This role is designed for an emerging researcher who wants to build an independent research profile while contributing to a collaborative team focused on meaningful impact. You are a researcher who believes good science and meaningful impact should go together. You have a PhD in Psychology, Neuroscience, Epidemiology, Public Health, Health Sciences, or a related discipline (completed within the last five years or nearing completion).

You do not need previous experience conducting military or Veteran research. We are looking for strong researchers with transferable skills, curiosity, and an interest in applying their expertise to research that improves the health and well-being of Veterans and other populations we serve.

Research experience in any of the following areas would be an asset, but is not required:

- Trauma and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
- Operational stress injuries and moral injuries
- Psychological resilience and recovery
- Mental health service use and health systems research
- Psychometrics and measurement science
- Trauma-informed care
- Pharmacogenetics and precision mental health

Our Centre values diverse ways of knowing and doing science. We value versatility and choosing the right methods for the problem. Whether your expertise is quantitative, qualitative or lies somewhere in between, you fit in at our Centre.

Your Work

There is no single research lane at MFOSIRC. Your work will be shaped by your expertise, interests, and emerging opportunities across our research portfolio.

You may:

- Design and lead new research initiatives aligned with funding opportunities and MFOSIRC's strategic priorities

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- Conduct and interpret quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods analyses
- Contribute to ongoing studies examining trauma, resilience, mental health care, and recovery
- Collaborate with researchers, clinicians, government partners, and community stakeholders across Canada and internationally
- Prepare manuscripts, reports, presentations, and knowledge products
- Support grant, fellowship, and funding applications
- Mentor undergraduate students, graduate trainees, and research assistants

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Your Impact

Your research will contribute to a broader national effort to better understand and support those who serve Canada.

Through your work at MFOSIRC, you will help:

- Generate evidence that strengthens mental health care and services
- Inform clinical practice and health system decision-making
- Identify emerging research priorities for military, Veteran, public safety, and occupational health communities
- Strengthen connections between researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and communities

The work you do here will influence not only scientific understanding, but the systems and supports available to people and families navigating mental health challenges.

Your Experiences

You are someone who:

- Enjoys turning research into actionable evidence
- Can work independently while thriving in a collaborative environment
- Communicates effectively across academic, clinical, and community settings
- Takes initiative and follows projects through from idea to impact

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You bring:

- A strong record of peer-reviewed publications and impact-driven knowledge dissemination products
- Experience conducting applied mental health or health research
- Strong organizational and project management skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- The ability to manage multiple priorities in a dynamic research environment

Experience with the following would be an asset:

- Systematic reviews, meta-analyses, narrative reviews, or scoping reviews
- Delphi methods and research priority setting
- Advanced quantitative or qualitative methodologies
- Research involving military, Veteran, public safety, healthcare, or other high-stress occupational populations
- French-language research
- Experience contributing to grant applications or other research funding proposals.

Join Us!

The challenges facing military members, Veterans, public safety personnel, and their families require researchers who are thoughtful, collaborative, and committed to impact.

If you want your research to matter, to generate evidence, inform practice, and contribute to healthier communities across Canada, we would like to hear from you!

Please send all applications to Kylie Dempster, Head of Operations, at osiresearch@sjhc.london.on.ca

We encourage applicants to include a cover letter, up-to-date CV, and writing samples (e.g., peer-reviewed publications).

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