

# Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion in Local Politics

## Research Assistant

The Guelph Lab is calling for applications from University of Guelph graduate students who are interested in applying research to real-life situations and who are committed to equity and related principles.

The ideal candidate will have proven experience integrating knowledge from different fields and disciplines.

In this position you will review existing literature related to diversity and inclusion, civic/public engagement, deliberative democracy, policy development. Working closely with City of Guelph staff, the goal of this project is to identify new practices and policies that will support diversity and inclusion on the City of Guelph's "Accessibility Advisory Committee."

## Apply

Please submit:

- A cover letter (max 1 page)
- Your resume or LinkedIn profile

Submit your application package by **9:00am on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. Send your application package to the attention of:

**Sam Laban**  
Guelph Lab Facilitator  
[slaban@uoquelp.ca](mailto:slaban@uoquelp.ca)

Interviews of shortlisted applicants will be held remotely on May 30<sup>th</sup> or May 31<sup>st</sup>

## About the Project

The City of Guelph's Advisory Committees of Council (ACOCs) are a forum for residents to directly influence public policies and local government decision-making. There are 20 ACOCs in total, including the Accessibility Advisory Committee, which provides "vision and direction to staff and Council regarding the removal of barriers that exist within Municipal services, practices and programs." Working with City staff who support and liaise with the Accessibility Advisory Committee, this project will identify ways that committee can be more inclusive of diverse voices. It will explore all aspects of the committee's design, including recruitment, decision-making processes, supports for participants and training.

The project will produce recommendations for new policies and practices that can be implemented immediately, as well as suggestions for further exploration. There is currently limited literature focused on advisory committees and diversity/inclusion, so these recommendations will be based on reviews of literature and resources from adjacent fields, including but not limited to diversity and inclusion, civic/public engagement, deliberative democracy, policy development.

This project is a partnership between the Guelph Lab, City of Guelph staff (Accessibility Project Specialist, Accessibility Services Coordinator), and the [LiveWorkWell Centre](#).

## About the Role

This position reports to the facilitator of the Guelph Lab. The role will also involve regular meetings and communications with City of Guelph staff (consisting of mostly virtual meetings, with in-person meetings only as needed and in keeping with university and local public health policies).

- Time commitment: up to 20hrs per week until end of August 2022.
- Start date: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022
- Rate: \$22.50 / hour
- The Guelph Lab invites and encourages applications from all qualified individuals, including from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in employment, and/or those with lived experience relevant to the project.
- This position is available to students from any program. Applicants must currently be enrolled as a student at the University of Guelph.
- Interviews will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Questions will be circulated in advance and all efforts made to accommodate candidates' participation.

The [Guelph Lab](#) is a joint initiative of The College of Social and Applied Human Sciences, University of Guelph, and the City of Guelph.