



The Opportunity

The SCI Action Canada Lab, under the supervision of Dr. Kathleen Martin Ginis, invites applications for students to start a M.Sc. (2 years) or Ph.D. (4 years) degree in September 2021 at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus.

Our lab conducts research on how to inform, teach and enable people living with spinal cord injury to initiate and maintain a physically active lifestyle. We also study the mental and physical health benefits of physical activity for people living with spinal cord injury. As a community-engaged lab, we work closely with community stakeholders to ensure that our research addresses meaningful questions and that our results can be put into practice.

Students in our lab typically have degrees in Kinesiology, Psychology, or a related area with a focus on psychosocial or behavioural determinants of health. We **are not** a biomedical research group and typically do not accept students with only a biomedical background. You can learn more about us and our research at <https://sciactioncanada.ok.ubc.ca>

Students who undertake graduate work in our lab will pursue research projects linked to the EPIC-SCI trial (Exercise Guidelines Promotion and Implementation in Chronic Spinal Cord Injury). You can learn more about the EPIC-SCI trial here: <https://sciactioncanada.ok.ubc.ca/research/> and <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41393-020-0478-7>

Graduate Students in the SCI Action Canada Lab will have opportunities to receive training on:

- The psychology and theories of health and exercise behaviour change
- Exercise behavioural counseling for adults with SCI
- Exercise testing and prescription for adults with SCI
- Integrated knowledge translation/community-based research
- Measuring the quantity and quality of physical activity participation
- Assessments of psychosocial outcomes in studies involving people with disabilities

Graduate Students will be mentored to develop skills to:

- Work with community stakeholders to develop research projects that address real-world, meaningful questions and issues
- Design and implement community-based interventions and research projects
- Undertake various knowledge translation activities (e.g., scientific writing, writing for general audiences, conference presentations, community presentations)
- Collaborate with diverse scientific and community partners
- Evaluate programs and interventions using mixed-methods (quantitative and qualitative)



Funding

Master's students will receive a minimum of \$21,500/year and Ph.D. students will receive a minimum of \$30,000/year. The funding package is comprised of money from several sources which may include: research grants, scholarships, teaching assistantships, bursaries, research assistantships, among others. Students will be expected to apply for internal and external scholarships.

The University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus

The **University of British Columbia** is a global centre for research and teaching, consistently ranked among the top 20 public universities in the world. Since 1915, UBC's entrepreneurial spirit has embraced innovation and challenged the status quo. UBC encourages its students, staff and faculty to challenge convention, lead discovery and explore new ways of learning. At UBC, bold thinking is given a place to develop into ideas that can change the world.

The Okanagan Campus is located in Kelowna, approximately 400 km east of Vancouver. It is home to over 10,755 undergraduate and graduate students. The 209-hectare (516-acre) campus is the research and innovation hub in the southern interior of the province, in British Columbia's beautiful Okanagan Valley. The campus resides on the traditional unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation.

How to Apply

The application process is competitive. Applicants must have a minimum average of 80% (or equivalent) over the previous two years of study. **Deadline for applications is January 31, 2021.** Applications are made through the College of Graduate Studies at UBC Okanagan Campus for admission through the School of Health and Exercise Sciences.

Please read this information about the M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs offered through the School of Health and Exercise Sciences: <https://hes.ok.ubc.ca/graduate/health-exercise-sciences/>

Please read this information about general admission requirements to Graduate Degree Programs at UBC: <https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/programs-applying/admission-requirements/>

If you qualify to apply, and are passionate about community-engaged research involving people living with spinal cord injuries, contact Dr. Kathleen Martin Ginis to discuss this opportunity (kathleen_martin.ginis@ubc.ca)