

## Balancing Act

Learning from global examples of effective community support for people with disabilities

### ***Opportunity for a Spanish-speaker to join the research team***

The International Centre for the Advancement of Community-Based Rehabilitation (ICACBR) at Queen's University (Canada) is providing the opportunity for aspiring disability and rehabilitation leaders with fluency in both English and Spanish to complete a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Science (RHBS) at Queen's, with a project that supports an ongoing global case study, 'Balancing Act.'

Balancing Act is a project in which researchers based at **Queen's University in Canada** are working with people at six different countries in order to understand **how disability-related supports for families** might best be balanced to **value and uphold natural support from the community**, while **supplementing with formal support** as needed.

The successful applicant will be involved in the implementation of this project, with a special focus on the Guatemala case study for the Master's degree thesis.

### **Eligibility**

*Scholar eligibility:*

- Scholars must meet Queen's guidelines for eligibility to pursue graduate studies in Rehabilitation therapy. Find eligibility requirements [here](#).
- Scholars must demonstrate leadership capacity and a commitment to working with people with disabilities, families, and communities.
- Scholars must be proficient in English and in Spanish.
- Scholars must have Canadian citizenship or permanent residency status.
- Scholars with lived experience of disability or of supporting a family member with a disability are also particularly encouraged to apply.

### **Funding**

The successful applicants will research a Graduate Research Fellowship to support their work and costs of research. There is also possibility of travel to Guatemala and/or other sites as relevant for the project. For more information about graduate student funding, refer to this [link](#).

### **Supervision**

If your application is successful, you will be supervised by one of the faculty members who form the research team for the Balancing Act project:

- [Dr. Heather Aldersey](#)
- [Dr. Beata Batorowicz](#)

- [Dr. Nicole Bobbette](#)
- [Dr. Afolasade Fakolade](#)
- [Dr. Thomas Abrams](#)

### **Duties and Responsibilities of Graduate Research Fellows**

Graduate student learning will be structured to develop capacity for leadership and engagement with the ICACBR community and in particular with our case partners in Guatemala. In addition to general RHBS coursework and requirements, scholars are expected to be active, contributing members of a vibrant graduate cohort, which will involve monthly meetings, enrichment activities, an ongoing commitment to the Balancing Act project, and other duties as appropriate.

By the end of their training, scholars should be able to:

1. Show mastery of the breadth and depth of knowledge related to RHBS.
2. Formulate and defend arguments based on critical appraisal of the evidence within the RHBS literature.
3. Integrate and situate knowledge generated in the RHBS field more broadly in society.
4. Competently discuss how different techniques of inquiry are used to create knowledge in the field of RHBS.
5. Demonstrate an ability to conceptualize and design research.
6. Apply their knowledge to critically appraise basic, clinical and applied research relevant to their research area.
7. Make informed judgments on the application of appropriate research methodologies to their research area.
8. Demonstrate a sound understanding of the scope, perspectives, concepts, current issues and research methods relevant to international community-based rehabilitation and their specific areas of focus.

## Application Process

Applicants should submit the following documents via email to ICACBR Community Engagement and Research Project Manager Tom Collier at [tom.collier@queensu.ca](mailto:tom.collier@queensu.ca) by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

**1. Copy of transcripts from all current and previous universities attended:**

At the time of application, official transcripts for all current and previous universities attended can be uploaded to the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) online application site.

Note: If you receive and accept an offer of admission to the program, we will require you to make arrangements for us to receive an official hard copy transcript that shows that the degree has been granted and the date of graduation, for each degree completed, from the university's Registrar's Office (or equivalent).

At that time, official transcripts should be mailed directly from the issuing institution to the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA), Queen's University, Gordon Hall Room 425, 74 Union Street, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 3N6.

**2. Resume:**

Applicants are required to list any skills and abilities that you feel are relevant to your area of study. Applicants can also provide employment information in order of relevance to your area of study.

**3. Statement of interest – maximum 4000 characters:**

The statement of interest should outline career goals, how a graduate degree in Rehabilitation Science will help you achieve those goals, and your general area of research interest.

## Further Information

### School of Rehabilitation Therapy

The School of Rehabilitation Therapy is committed to leading and inspiring positive changes that transform lives through rehabilitation research, education and practice. As part of this commitment, our core mission is to educate occupational therapists, physiotherapists and rehabilitation scientists who contribute to health and well-being globally through collaboration, creativity, and the discovery of new knowledge. We are recognized nationally and internationally for our excellent faculty, high-quality professional and research programs, and the ways in which our scholarship contributes to the lives of people affected by or at risk of disability. For further details about the PhD in Rehabilitation Science Program, visit: <http://rehab.queensu.ca/programs/rhbs>

### ICACBR

Established at Queen's University in 1991, the International Centre for the Advancement of Community Based Rehabilitation (ICACBR) is an organization committed to mainstreaming disability and advancing the concept of community based rehabilitation (CBR) practice in partnership with women and men with disabilities and their communities around the world. All of ICACBR's activities are directed towards achieving international excellence in CBR education, policy, service delivery and research. Over its 25+ years' history, the ICACBR has conducted a wide range of CBR and international development projects in many nations around the world. For further details about the ICACBR, visit: <http://rehab.queensu.ca/icacbr>

### Balancing Act

To find out more about the Balancing Act project, please see this [summary](#).