

PhD student

Youth Mental Health Collective

Summary of position

We are seeking a highly motivated and dynamic candidate to pursue a PhD in Mental Health at McGill University, starting January 2026, as part of an international research project based in Colombia, in partnership with EAFIT university (Medellin). The student will be supervised by Srividya Iyer, PhD., Professor in McGill's Department of Psychiatry and Canada Research Chair in Youth, Mental Health and Learning Health Systems (Tier 1). She leads the [Youth Mental Health Collective](#).

The PhD student will have the opportunity to work closely with the Youth Mental Health Collective and EAFIT University teams to work on a bold interdisciplinary project at the intersection of youth mental health and wellbeing, cities, urban design and citizen science. This exciting project involves co-designing and evaluating community-based urban interventions to make cities more youth- and mental health-friendly and thereby promote youth mental health, in close collaboration with youth and local stakeholders. The project will use innovative citizen science methods and data platforms to involve youth and other members of the /community in collecting, visualizing and interpreting data in real time.

The student will grow as a researcher in youth mental health, digital approaches, spaces and health citizen science; and strengthen their skills in equity-oriented, interdisciplinary and participatory approaches. Since this research project links with the larger networks of YMHC and EAFIT University, the PhD student will also have access to many national and international networking opportunities.

Candidate applying for this position must be a **Canadian citizen or permanent resident**; with **fluency in both Spanish and English** (spoken and written) and a **Master's degree in a relevant field** (e.g., Public Health, Epidemiology, Global Health, Health Geography, Psychology, Sociology, Urban Planning/Design, Digital Health, or related field); and meet the eligibility for admission to McGill University's PhD in Mental Health program (<https://www.mcgill.ca/psychiatry/education/graduate-program/prospective-students/phd-mental-health/eligibility>).

A **guaranteed stipend** as per McGill regulations (<https://www.mcgill.ca/psychiatry/education/graduate-program/minimum-funding>) is available and the selected candidate will be supported in applying for competitive doctoral scholarships, such as to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)/ Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) or Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS) / Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC).

Description of tasks

The PhD student will be supervised by Srividya Iyer PhD at the Douglas Research Centre and McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. The student will fulfil requirements of the PhD program in Mental Health at McGill University. The student will also work closely with both YMHC and EAFIT university teams to:

- Contribute to the conceptualization, design, and implementation of the research project

- Co-develop and implement participatory methods to engage youth and community members
- Support data collection and analysis using quantitative and/or qualitative methods
- Collaborate on real-time data collection and visualization using citizen science platforms
- Contribute to knowledge translation, scientific writing, and research dissemination
- Engage in collaborative scholarship and relationship-building with community stakeholders in Medellin
- Support the development of doctoral scholarship proposals
- Travel to Colombia for fieldwork, training, and collaboration, as needed
- Participate in the activities of the YMHC and EAFIT university

Required qualifications and experience

- Master's degree in a relevant field as specified above
- Meets the eligibility for admission to McGill University's PhD in Mental Health (see link above).
- Demonstrated interest in youth mental health, cities, urban design, citizen science
- Experience working with youth or strong interest in gaining that experience
- Experience with community-engaged and/or participatory and global health research is desirable
- Experience in Latin America is an asset

Required skills

- Strong experience with quantitative, qualitative and/or mixed methods approaches
- Research experience using participatory or community-based approaches is an asset
- Fluency in both Spanish and English (spoken and written) required, French language skills an asset
- Strong writing skills (academic and community-facing outputs)
- Familiarity with qualitative or quantitative analysis software (e.g., NVivo, R, SPSS, ATLAS.ti, etc.)
- Excellent interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills
- Experience working in collaborative and interdisciplinary environments is an asset

Required abilities

- Ability to collaborate with youth, communities, and local organizations
- Sensitivity to equity, inclusion, and cultural relevance in mental health research
- Commitment to co-production of knowledge and shared decision-making
- Willingness to travel internationally (to Colombia) for research activities, when needed
- Ability to work collaboratively in an interdisciplinary team environment
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines

Location of Work

- Based at the Douglas Research Centre, Montreal, with fieldwork in Medellin, Colombia (when needed).

Will be required to travel for work?

Occasional travel to Medellin, Colombia, to work with project partners and possibly to participate in national/international research meetings/conferences is required.

Work schedule and duration

- Full-time doctoral student (35h/week equivalent)
- Duration: Four years (funded, subject to satisfactory progress and funding availability)
- Some flexibility in work hours based on fieldwork schedules
- **Start Date:** January 2026

Stipend

- Guaranteed PhD stipend as per McGill University regulations
- Additional travel funds for fieldwork and conferences may be available

How to apply

Please email your application package to Navdeep.kaur.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca before the deadline to apply (20 August 2025) with the subject: “PhD Application – Youth Mental Health Colombia Project”. Include the following as a single PDF:

- Cover letter outlining your research interest and background that aligns with this position
- Curriculum vitae
- Academic transcripts (unofficial acceptable at initial stage)
- Names and contact information for 2–3 academic references

Deadline to apply

20 August 2025

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. McGill University is committed to fostering an equitable, accessible, and inclusive workplace. During the recruitment process, if you require accommodations, please contact, in confidence at Navdeep.kaur.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca to make appropriate arrangements.



McGill University and the Douglas Research Centre are on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Kanien'kehà:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Huron/Wendat, Abenaki, and Anishinaabeg. We recognize and respect the Kanien'kehà:ka as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today. Today, Tiohtià:ke/Montréal is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within Montreal and across the country.
