

Ward Summer Research Student (SOAR position) – Summer 2026

Program: Sparking student Opportunities for Advancing inclusive childhood disability Research program

Institution: Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital – Bloorview Research Institute

Principal Investigator: Dr. Tim Ross

Lab: [EPIC Lab \(Engagement and Planning for Inclusive Communities\)](#)

Graduate Department Affiliation: Department of Geography and Planning;
Rehabilitation Sciences Institute

Project Title

Advancing Inclusive Play Opportunities

Project Overview

The Ward Summer Research Student Program offers an interdisciplinary mentorship experience for undergraduate students. Successful applicants will contribute to research within the EPIC Lab, which focuses on understanding disability experiences and identifying barriers affecting the health, well-being, and community participation of children with disabilities and their families.

The student will support **one** of the following research streams:

- A scoping review and/or environmental scan examining inclusive play elements beyond traditional playground settings;
- A scoping review or co-design project aimed at advancing inclusive play opportunities in pediatric healthcare environments;
- A findings publication from a study on supportive housing experiences among people with developmental disabilities.

Students may also have opportunities to collaborate on graduate student projects depending on interest, skills, and workload.

Position Details

- **Role:** Research Assistant
- **Start Date:** May 4, 2026
- **End Date:** July 24, 2026

- **Type:** Hourly
- **Wage:** \$17.60/hour
- **Position Type:** Hybrid
- **Number of Positions:** 1

Responsibilities

- Conduct data gathering and analysis
- Contribute to writing a peer-reviewed article and project report
- Support knowledge translation for advocacy and policy recommendations
- Perform general administrative and clerical research tasks
- Assist with dissemination of study findings
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications

- Enrolled in the last three years of an undergraduate degree
- Minimum GPA of **3.7**
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to work collaboratively with a multidisciplinary team
- Well-organized, detail-oriented, and able to meet deadlines
- Familiarity with childhood disability, disability theory, inclusive play, pediatric healthcare, or community planning/design is an asset
- Proficiency with **Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel**
- Strong data management skills

Application Requirements

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- Unofficial transcript
- Contact information for **two referees**
- Cover letter (optional but recommended)