

Scholarship opportunity (Master of Planning Studies)

The successful applicant will be admitted to Dalhousie University School of Planning as a Master of Planning Studies student, and will conduct research as a team member of the project entitled “Spatial Accessibility to Multitude of Services and Amenities as indicators of health-promoting opportunity structures in communities (SAMoSA Study)”. The student is expected to produce her/his Master’s thesis on a topic related to this project.

Summary of the SAMoSA study:

Nova Scotia has among the highest prevalence rates of some chronic conditions such as obesity, heart diseases and mental health. Accessibility to health promoting services and amenities—such as healthy food, green and recreational space, public transit and family doctors—is likely some of the major factors driving this trend. However, how accessibility to these services together influences health is still poorly understood. The SAMoSA study will investigate the levels of spatial accessibility to these four services and amenities at the community-level in Halifax Regional Municipality, and assess their relationships with health of the population.

This project team is led by Dr. Mikiko Terashima and includes several faculty members in health promotion, epidemiology, environmental science and planning. The student will work closely with the team to conduct research as part of the SAMoSA study.

Scholarship amount: \$12,000/year for two years (September 2018 to August 2020).

Skillssets and experience required:

- A high GPA (3.7 or higher) from previous degree
- Strong writing skills
- Strong research and analytic skills
- Experience in research using Geographic Information Systems
- Self-motivated to work independently as well as a member of a team
- Knowledge of statistics commonly used in social sciences (e.g., understand how to run multivariate regression models, how to assess statistical significance and model fit)
- Ability to pay attention to details

To apply, please send your CV, cover letter outlining your relevant experience and skillsets, and an academic transcript to: Mikiko.Terashima@dal.ca.