



Postdoctoral Fellow – Refugee Youth Transitions, Belonging, Education and Service Navigation

SSHRC-Funded Project: “UnborderEd Knowledge” (Cluster 2)

Host Organization: ISSofBC (Immigrant Services Society of BC)

Location: Metro Vancouver, BC

Term: 1-Year Full-Time Appointment

Reports to: Chief Program Officer – Settlement and Refugee Services, K. Sherrell Ph.D.

Co-Supervisor: J. Hyndman Ph.D., York University

Salary: (1 FTE) \$56,820 + (Benefit) \$13,180 = \$70,000

Posting Closes: Friday, June 12, 2026 at 4PM PST

Submit Applications to: jobs@issbc.org

UnborderED knowledge/Savoirs sans frontières project is a SSHRC-funded project that seeks to widen, deepen and institutionalize **equitable access to education and research opportunities** for people with lived experiences of **forced migration** in Canada.

Position Overview

ISSofBC invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellow to contribute to the SSHRC-funded **UnborderED Knowledge** research cluster (Cluster 2). This position is designed in alignment with SSHRC guidelines for postdoctoral training and knowledge mobilization and is grounded in community-engaged, equity-centered research. The role will focus on a one-year study of **refugee youth with interrupted university experiences**, examining the nexus between **post-secondary re-entry, work, settlement and employment services, and belonging** in Metro Vancouver.

The Fellow will be embedded within ISSofBC’s Settlement and Refugee Services division and will engage directly with operational teams, post-secondary, local government and community partners, advisory members, and newcomer communities.

Alignment with UnborderED Knowledge and Cluster 2

This fellowship supports:

- advanced postdoctoral training and career development
- interdisciplinary and community-engaged research
- knowledge mobilization beyond academia
- equity, inclusion, and lived-experience-informed scholarship
- policy and practice innovation in systems affecting displaced students and researchers

Project Focus

The successful candidate will lead a focused study on:

- refugee youth transitions after interrupted university or equivalent post-secondary study
- decision-making at the nexus of post-secondary re-entry, work, and service navigation
- belonging, participation, and future pathways for displaced youth
- actionable recommendations for settlement, employment, and post-secondary systems

Core Responsibilities

1. Research Leadership (Postdoctoral Level)

- Co-lead design and implementation of qualitative and/or mixed-method research.
- Conduct in-depth interviews, service pathway mapping, and stakeholder consultations.
- Apply trauma-informed, anti-racist, and equity-centered research methodologies.
- Ensure ethical research practice consistent with SSHRC and institutional standards.

2. Scholarly Outputs

- Lead development of a peer-reviewed journal article with support of Drs Hyndman and Sherrell, as well as other collaborators / partners.
- Contribute to conference presentations / cluster-wide scholarly outputs (as appropriate).

3. Policy & Practice Knowledge Mobilization

- Produce 1–2 practical knowledge mobilization outputs, such as a practice brief, policy brief, pathway map, or operational guidance note.
- Develop accessible knowledge products including briefs, slide decks, and infographics.
- Present findings to service providers, institutional partners, and community audiences.
- Contribute to SSHRC reporting and cluster-wide synthesis activities.

4. Organizational & Sector Engagement

- Collaborate with ISSofBC leadership and program teams.
- Engage with post-secondary and community partners relevant to refugee youth transitions.
- Participate in advisory meetings involving service, policy, and research stakeholders.
- Deliver a staff-facing workshop or presentation to support practice uptake.

Required Qualifications

Education

- Graduate degree. (PhD preferred).

Essential Criteria

- **Lived experience of forced migration (required).**
- Be legally entitled to work in Canada at the time of the application and must be resident in Canada for the duration of the employment contract

Asset Qualifications

- Experience volunteering or working within or alongside community-based immigrant/refugee-serving organizations.
- Demonstrated experience in qualitative and/or mixed-method research.
- Strong scholarly writing record (published or publishable work).
- Experience in community-based or participatory research.
- Commitment to equity, anti-racism, and trauma-informed approaches.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work collaboratively in interdisciplinary and community settings
- Multilingual capacity.

Lived Experience as Research Expertise

This fellowship recognizes lived experience of forced migration as foundational knowledge. Lived experience is not treated as supplementary to academic qualifications, but as central to the design, interpretation, and ethical conduct of research within Cluster 2.

Applicants will be invited to describe how their lived experience informs their research approach, ethical commitments, and knowledge mobilization strategies.

Mentorship & Professional Development

The Fellow will receive:

- Direct mentorship from the Chief Program Officer – Settlement and Refugee Services and Chief Operating Officer, as well as other ISSofBC staff.
- Direct mentorship, where appropriate, from the academic sponsoring institution and faculty member (J. Hyndman.)
- Engagement with an interdisciplinary advisory committee including government representatives and sector leaders.

- Opportunities to co-author and lead publications.
- Exposure to operational decision-making in a large refugee-serving organization.
- Career development.

Equity Statement

ISSofBC is committed to anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and equity-driven practice. This position intentionally centers lived experience of forced migration in research leadership. Applications from racialized scholars, women, LGBTQ2S+ individuals, persons with disabilities, and members of historically marginalized communities are strongly encouraged.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- cover letter (maximum 2 pages) outlining research interests and fit with Cluster 2 and this project
- statement describing lived experience of forced migration, as relevant to the role
- brief statement of vision for knowledge mobilization and community impact
- curriculum vitae
- writing sample (academic or policy-oriented)
- contact information for three references