The Implementing Smart Cities Interventions to Build Healthy Cities (SMART) Training Platform *is currently recruiting for new student applications for Fall, 2022 admission.* Admission is open to students in all faculties and schools; however, support funds are available only through the Faculties of Environment and Health.

The local program leads are Professor Dawn Parker and Assistant Professor Leia Minaker (Environment) and Associate Professor Sharon Kirkpatrick (Health).

Requirements:
- Must meet admissions requirements for UW as thesis-program graduate student, or be a current undergraduate with two years remaining coursework, or have a post-doctoral contract for at least two years;
- Must have a committed advisor to sponsor admission, serve as supervisor for the methods course as an independent study, and supervise a healthy cities-focused research output;
- Must have plans for a thesis or publication focus (Master's thesis, PhD thesis, or Post-doc academic publication) on a "Healthy Cities" topic, broadly defined (must focus on population health in an urban context, but can focus on physical, mental, or environmental health, including interactions between population and the built/natural environment). *Note: This research does not need to focus on food systems specifically*
- Commitment to:
  - complete the Fall 2022 Methods core course (see below);
  - complete the Winter 2023 Team Implementation Lab;
  - participate in the virtual Summer 2024 conference.

Admissions: Apply by submitting the following information and materials addressed to Professor Dawn Parker via WICI Administrative Coordinator (bpanasia@uwaterloo.ca), with a subject header of "**SMART HCT Fall 2022 Application Lastname Firstname**":
- A personal statement of 500-1000 words, 12-point font and double-spaced, describing your background and research interests in healthy cities, implementation science, and/or systems thinking. Please address how the training will position you to advance these areas in your research and career goals, and how you might contribute to the training experience of other students. If relevant, please address your situational factors and lived experience as relates to your academic experience and interest in participating in the program.
- An up-to-date CV;
- An unofficial transcript;
- For applicants in the Environment and Health faculties, if you are seeking funding, please include a short statement (<=250 words) describing your current funding (i.e., do you already have a funding commitment from an advisor, fellowship, or fellowship application submitted, a willing advisor but not funding, etc.?); State clearly what funding you are seeking:

- o If you have no other funding source, a funding guarantee for 3 terms of GRS funding with TA funding for other terms
- o A partial GRS top-up for an existing fellowship
- o Additionally, $500 in research dissemination support (note this requires an accepted research dissemination product/presentation opportunity).
- o If your request falls outside of these parameters, please explain in full, taking into account the total limit on funding of 3 terms of GRS per student.
- Please request that your advisor send a short letter addressed to Professor Dawn Parker via WICI Administrative Coordinator (bpanasia@uwaterloo.ca), confirming their support for your participation, and describing your preparedness and capability to participate in the program with a subject header "**SMART HCT Fall 2022 Letter of Reference Lastname Firstname**".
- Applicants should apply to the UW SMART HCT program as soon as they have been confirmed to meet UW program admissions standards through the UW admissions system and have located a sponsoring advisor. **Applications received by Mar. 1, 2022** will be reviewed internally (at UW) and admissions and funding recommendations will be passed to the SMART cross-institution admissions committee by March 15, 2022, where they will be further evaluated.
- ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED!
- Applications will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary committee through a holistic review with attention to equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as academic preparedness. Funding status and requests for funding will not be considered at the admissions stage.

Funding: We have modest funds available to support students admitted to the program (over six years, approximately 9 PhD and 4 Masters level students). Maximum funding under the program is the equivalent of 3 terms of GRS over two years, with the remainder of funding provided through Teaching Assistantships. Funds will be allocated based on these criteria:
- Under the terms of the grant, advisees of the three named investigators (Professors Parker, Kirkpatrick, and Minaker) are prioritized for funding; however we anticipate funds will be available for students of other advisors as well.
- The majority of funds will be prioritized for students without other funding sources, to support their admission to their graduate programs.
- However, some funding will be available for modest GRS supplements for trainees receiving funding through fellowships, scholarships, or graduate research assistantships.
- As an example, if a student is admitted and awarded funding, and then subsequently receives a fellowship or other direct funding to support their studies, the student could translate the 3 terms of GRS funding awarded into small stipend additions over 6 terms of study (for Master's students) or 9 terms of study (for PhD students).
- All participants can apply for one-time research dissemination support up to $500 (for conferences, open-access fees, etc.) for their Healthy Cities research outputs. Participants will be expected to also apply for matching funds when available from other sources, such as their home department, Graduate Studies Office, etc.

- Any funding awards are contingent on continuing participation in training platform course and activities.

Course descriptions:

Core Course #1 – Methods and Fundamentals of Implementation Science

The first core course is a Methods Course to provide all trainees with foundational knowledge of implementation science, in Fall 2022. Students will enroll in an independent study under their advisor but will be part of a larger course that includes trainees from all 10 participating institutions. The methods seminar is open to undergraduate and graduate trainees, as well as postdoctoral fellows and involves:

- Participation in weekly methods-focused seminars through the Fall 2022 term
- Leading at least one discussion through the term
- Completing weekly reflections
- Completing an iterative project that involves, at a minimum, considering how the methods explored can advance implementation of effective interventions in the discipline of interest. Depending on the training level, this project could involve application of methods to existing datasets.

Core Course #2 – Capstone Learning Project (Team Implementation Lab)

The second course will be a capstone learning project (team implementation lab) providing students with real-world problems that will be solved as small, interactive group projects. This course will be delivered virtually and require students to engage through interactive discussions and activities led by Professor Steve Clarke at the University of Guelph. This course is anticipated to begin in Winter, 2023.

Supporting electives at UW and other participating institutions will be announced soon.