

University of Vermont Post-Doctoral Position in Weight-Inclusive Nutrition

The Weight-Inclusive Nutrition (WIN) Research Group located at the University of Vermont (UVM) invites applicants for a postdoctoral fellow to work collaboratively with our research team to facilitate the adoption of weight-inclusive practices in school environments. The WIN team is comprised of an interdisciplinary group of scholars including College of Agriculture and Life Science faculty Dr. Lizzy Pope and Kelsey Rose, College of Education and Social Services faculty Dr. Bernice Garnett, and College of Nursing and Health Sciences faculty Deborah Hinchey as well as Food Systems graduate student Janet Gamble. Additionally, the WIN Team has relationships with state agencies and multiple schools in Vermont. Dr. Lizzy Pope and Dr. Bernice Garnett will be the principal mentors for the WIN postdoctoral fellow. More information about the WIN team can be found here: <https://site.uvm.edu/efpope/>. The WIN post-doctoral researcher will be funded by the UVM Food Systems Research Center via a Non-Assistance Cooperative Agreement with the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

The WIN postdoctoral fellow will be a key addition to our research work focused on:

1) Furthering our school-based applied research efforts around developing and implementing weight-inclusive practices from kindergarten to university settings to create environments that promote healthy relationships with food and body. The goal of these efforts is to reduce the incidence of disordered eating and anti-fat bias. The WIN team is currently co-designing a high school WIN health education curriculum that we hope to adopt to middle and elementary schools. Furthermore, the WIN team wants to develop WIN educational materials and professional development for coaches and athletes across age groups. Given the ubiquity of weight normativity, permeating multiple ecological domains (classrooms, educators, coaches, school policies) across key developmental life course phases (e.g., adolescence and young adulthood) with weight-inclusive practices will improve outcomes by changing the context around food/bodies.

2) Refining and validating life course and ecological modifications of the Weight-Inclusive Mindset scale. As weight-inclusive nutrition approaches are nascent in the established literature, there are no existing empirically validated quantitative scales that measure weight-inclusive mindsets and practices. The postdoctoral fellow will play a key role in the development, modification, and psychometric validation of a suite of WIN surveys tailored to respective life-course phases and ecological settings. Determining where various stakeholders fall on the stages of change related to a weight-inclusive mindset will allow better tailoring of interventions designed to help foster the adoption of weight-inclusive practices.

Scope of WIN Postdoctoral Fellowship:

- Full and authentic member of our interdisciplinary, community-based action research team located in Burlington, Vermont at the University of Vermont
- Competitive salary and benefits; 1-year, full-time 12 month position, with strong possibility to extend for a second year

- Opportunity to:
 - o Co-author existing and planned research manuscripts
 - o Lead first-authored papers connected to existing and planned curriculum and resource development/implementation in K-16 school environments.
 - o Further develop qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods analysis skills
 - o Gain expertise in educational curriculum and professional development resource design
 - o Join a national network of scholars working on weight-inclusive teaching and research
 - o Contribute to the USDA Food Systems Research Center located at UVM
 - o Continue to publish and develop independent and dissertation-related research
 - o Co-author extramural grant funding opportunities
- Start date is flexible, but no later than January 2025

Required Qualifications:

- Doctoral degree in nutrition, education, public health, food systems, sociology, anthropology or related discipline
- Demonstrated commitment to and understanding of a weight-inclusive approach to nutrition/health and the equity issues weight inclusivity helps to address.
- Experience and engagement with a diverse set of methodological approaches to applied research, e.g. quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, survey research, case studies and/or community based participatory research.
- Comfort with basic nutrition science and nutrition education theories/techniques
- Interest and experience with applied school/community research
- Strong organizational skills

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience coordinating data collection and analysis activities across a mid-sized team.
- A successful record of peer-reviewed publications, or the potential for such
- Interest in producing applied research in partnership with, or of relevance to, school-based educators, policymakers and communities
- Experience in K-16 settings; athletics, instructional, administrative, non-profit community based
- Experience with survey design and validation

Salary and Benefits

Salary range will be between \$56,000- \$61,000, depending on experience. There are also a number of generous benefits associated with the position, which can be found at: <https://www.uvm.edu/human-resources/postdoctoral-associates-fellows-overview>. The post-doctorate will also have opportunities for professional development and travel associated with the projects.

Application Materials:

Interested candidates should send: 1) a letter of application stating qualifications and reasons for interest in the position. Please reference required qualifications in your letter, especially your knowledge around weight inclusivity; 2) a current curriculum vitae; 3) a writing sample (publication, draft manuscript, unpublished dissertation or thesis); and 4) Contact information for two references who may be contacted if applicant is a finalist for the position. Top candidates will be invited to an interview via videoconference. Review of applications will occur on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Please direct any questions to Dr. Lizzy Pope, efpope@uvm.edu.

Please submit completed application materials directly to Dr. Lizzy Pope, efpope@uvm.edu. Subject Line: WIN postdoctoral fellow application.

