



# Postdoctoral Fellowship 2025–2026 Call for Applications



INTERNATIONAL  
**INSTITUTE FOR  
CRITICAL STUDIES IN  
IMPROVISATION**

The **International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation (IICSI)** invites applications for one (1) twelve-month residential postdoctoral fellowship position to be held at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.

The **International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation's** mandate is to create positive social change through the confluence of improvisational arts, innovative scholarship, and collaborative action. IICSI is a multi-locale research partnership hosted at the University of Guelph, with sites at McGill University; Memorial University of Newfoundland; University of British Columbia; University of Regina; Carleton University; 17, Institute of Critical Studies (Mexico City); and Queen's University Belfast. The Institute seeks to contribute to interdisciplinary research and graduate training in the emerging multidisciplinary field of improvisation studies.

## Duration and Compensation

Valued at **\$58,000 CAD (not inclusive of benefits)**, this twelve-month residential postdoctoral fellowship is for **September 2025 to August 2026** (start time has some flexibility). It is intended for recent PhD graduates who are undertaking original academic work, publishing research findings, and seeking to expand their professional networks. In addition, the College of Arts at the University of Guelph will provide an annual research stipend of **\$2,500 CAD** to the successful candidate.

Note that a teaching offer may also be made to the postdoctoral fellow, contingent on the candidate's areas of expertise, budgetary restrictions, and the needs of the IMPR graduate program. If such an offer is accepted by the candidate, a teaching stipend of **\$8,000 CAD** will be added to the candidate's annual salary.

## Location of Appointment

The successful candidate will be expected to spend at least three days per week on campus at the University of Guelph to facilitate social, cultural, and intellectual engagement.



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

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## Application Criteria

Applicants are invited to submit a research proposal focusing on the social implications (broadly construed) of improvised artistic practices. The successful candidate will be chosen based on a rigorous application process, with IICSI's management team serving as the selection committee.

Criteria for selection are the quality and originality of the proposed research, the fit with the Institute's overall mandate and objectives, the candidate's record of scholarly achievement, and the candidate's potential to benefit from activities associated with IICSI.

The postdoctoral fellow will be eligible for competitive research stipends, logistical assistance for relocation (if required), office space equipped with computers, access to the services of the host institution (library, etc.), and administrative, placement, and research assistance as needed. In return, the fellow is expected to pursue the research project submitted in their application, to participate in the Institute's research and community-engaged activities (colloquia, seminars, partnered projects), and to present their work in progress in the context of the Institute's seminars and workshops. Note that applicants should have completed a PhD by the start date of the fellowship (received after **June 1, 2020**; or to be conferred by **November 1, 2025**).

## Application Requirements

Applicants must send the following materials via email **as a single document** by **April 30, 2025**:

- An 8-page curriculum vitae
- A 1,500-word research statement describing the proposed project
- A 250-word Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion statement
- Indication of language proficiencies
- One scholarly publication or research/creation output produced in the last three years
- Graduate transcripts (unofficial transcripts accepted)

### Also

- Two confidential letters of reference must be emailed to IICSI directly by the candidate's referees before the deadline.

Please send all application materials and letters of reference to IICSI's project manager, Julia Busatto, at [improv@uoguelph.ca](mailto:improv@uoguelph.ca) with the subject line: Last Name, First Name, 2025–2026 IICSI Postdoctoral Fellowship Application.

## Notification of Award: **June 2025**

Please note that we are unable to provide individual feedback to candidates not awarded a fellowship. IICSI's postdoctoral fellowship is supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

