

Feeding Kids, Nourishing Minds Project (in partnership with the Joannah and Brian Lawson Centre for Child Nutrition)

Supervisor: Professor Alison Olechowski

MEng Project Details:

Canada is the only G7 country that does not have a national school food program. As a result, there is a patchwork of school food programs guided by various policies and guidelines and differ in design, implementation, and reach. For this project, we are seeking an MEng student who is skilled at data collection and manipulation to work alongside researchers at [The Lawson Centre](#) to:

- Review national school food programs, including emergency feeding strategies for marginalized communities;
- Produce a dashboard to help stakeholders visualize data on those school food programs; and
- Help extract insights on food inequality and malnutrition from the collected data.

Stakeholder analysis: Many factors are considered as facilitators and barriers to implementation of school food programs and it is important to understand the perceived challenges and successes to the policy. [The Lawson Centre](#) will conduct a qualitative assessment and stakeholder analysis of implementing school food programs in Canada to inform best practice guidelines.

COVID-19: When provincial governments closed schools in March 2020, schools and organizations adapted and used their existing resources to provide to the most vulnerable students and families. Upon return in September 2020, programs were modified to ensure minimize risk of COVID-19. The Lawson Centre will evaluate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of school food programs and the lessons learnt from the pandemic with respect to the opportunities for leveraging school food programs for food insecure households.

Landscape analysis: The Lawson Centre will landscape, describe and analyse school food programs in Canada in ways aimed at informing best practices, guidelines and future, solutions-oriented research.

Start Date: Fall 2021

Application Deadline: August, 20, 2021

Application Details: Please submit CV, transcript and a single paragraph describing your interest in the project in one file to Alison Olechowski (a.olechowski@utoronto.ca).

Research Area: Information Systems Engineering and Human Factors & Ergonomics