Baycrest provides practicum placements supervised by Registered Behaviour Analysts for students enrolled in accredited applied behaviour analysis education programs at Canadian universities.

About Baycrest

Baycrest is an academic health sciences centre providing a continuum of care for older adults, including independent living, assisted living, long-term care and a post-acute hospital specializing in the care of older adults all within one campus.

Baycrest is a global leader in geriatric residential living, healthcare, research, innovation and education, with a special focus on brain health and aging.

Baycrest is also one of the world's pre-eminent distributors of knowledge on best practices in care for older adults. As we work to defeat dementia, we are also educating the next generation of healthcare providers, locally and globally, and creating innovative, technology-based virtual education in response to the evolving needs of our learners.

Fully affiliated with the University of Toronto, Baycrest has an extensive clinical training program in geriatric care. We have trained thousands of students and practitioners from over 50 universities and colleges to deliver high quality care alongside leading experts who are focused on the diseases of aging and care of older adults.

Baycrest is located at 3560 Bathurst Street in Toronto near Bathurst and Wilson streets. It is easily accessible by public transit.

About Behavioural Gerontology

Behavioural gerontology is the application of behaviour analysis to age-related challenges. Behaviour analysis is the science of behaviour. It is used to understand and improve socially significant behaviours. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the application of the science of behaviour which considers how the environment impacts behaviour. The term *behaviour* refers to anything a person says or does, including skills and actions needed to talk, eat, exercise and engage in meaningful activity. Behavior can also be private, and includes thoughts and feelings.

ABA can help increase helpful or functional skills such as communication, activities of daily living, and social skills. It can also help decrease behaviours that are harmful or interfere with daily activity, such as self-injury, aggression, and other responsive behaviours. Behaviour analysts are health-care professionals who practice ABA using evidence-based, non-pharmacological interventions to maintain or increase desired behaviours and decrease undesired behaviours through the manipulation of antecedents and consequences.

Practicum Placements

Placement opportunities are open to diploma, undergraduate, and graduate students enrolled in accredited applied behaviour analysis education programs at Canadian universities. Students will work under the supervision of a behaviour analyst who is registered with the College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario. We offer practicum placements during every academic term (September to December, January to April, and May to August), and the number of placements is dependent on the availability of a supervisor. Exact start and end dates are flexible depending on the needs of the student and availability of the supervisor.

We offer both full time placements (30 to 40 hours per week) and part-time placements (typically 14 to 21 hours per week). Placements are available in the inpatient Behavioural Neurology Unit and in the community-based Behaviour Support Outreach Team.

Practicum students will gain experience in managing behavioural symptoms of dementia using evidence-based non-pharmacological intervention strategies for older adult clients. Students will have the opportunity to participate in (a) functional behaviour assessments including indirect assessments, descriptive assessments, and functional analysis, (b) data analysis to identify function(s) of behaviour, (c) development of behaviour care plans, (d) training, implementation, and monitoring of behaviour care plans, and (e) weekly to biweekly team huddles and interprofessional rounds. Students will have the opportunity to lead aspects of the behavioural intervention process based on their education, prior experience, and goals.

About the Behavioural Neurology Unit

Baycrest's Behavioural Neurology Unit offers a specialized interdisciplinary service that focuses on diagnosis and treatment of complex neurological diseases and associated behavioural symptoms. It is a 20-bed short-term inpatient unit that focuses on assessment and treatment of adults with a diagnosis of neurocognitive disease, specifically dementia. The team develops person-centered individualized care plans to address the goals of admission identified by the patient, family, substitute decision maker/power of attorney, the referring physician/facility, and the team.

The goals of the program are to:

- Stabilize behavioural symptoms in order to enhance the well-being of the client and overall quality of life.
- Improve the ability of families and caregivers to cope with challenges associated with the disease process.
- Clarify diagnosis of dementia in order to provide optimal treatment.
- Facilitate smooth transition from hospital.

The Behavioural Neurology Unit uses an interprofessional team approach to assess and treat each patient's total health care needs. The goal of the team is to work together with patients and families to provide the best possible care and the most appropriate discharge plan.

The team includes professionals in neurology, internal medicine, psychiatry, nursing, personal support workers, behaviour analysis, pharmacy, dietetics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, recreational therapy, music therapy, speech language pathology, and spiritual care.

Please note that this practicum opportunity is **on-site at Baycrest Hospital**.

About the Behaviour Support Outreach Team

The Behaviour Support Outreach Team is an interprofessional team of occupational therapists, social workers, behaviour analysts, nurses, nurse practitioners, and personal support workers who support persons living with dementia who experience responsive behaviours. The team works with the person living with dementia and the people involved in their care to understand and manage behaviour changes without the use of medications.

The goals of the Behaviour Support Outreach Team are to:

- Assess behaviour changes related to dementia
- Create behaviour care plans together with the client's circle of care and care team
- Provide caregiver support and education related to changes in clients' behaviours
- Facilitate smooth transitions from community or acute care to long term care homes within the Toronto Central area and Scarborough

Please note that this practicum opportunity is **based in the Toronto East community** and requires travel to clients' homes. Students must be able to provide their own transportation, either in their own vehicle or using public transit.

Application Process

Students interested in a practicum placement in behaviour analysis at Baycrest should notify their Practicum Coordinator. The Practicum Coordinator should send an e-mail to Dr. Angela Troyer, Inter-Professional Practice Chief, at atroyer@baycrest.org with the following information:

- Student's name, contact information, training program, and previous clinical placements
- An indication of the number of training hours and the dates requested
- Resume and a letter of interest including practicum learning goals

Selected applicants will be contacted for an interview.

For More Information

Phone: 416-785-2500 x2445 | Email: atroyer@baycrest.org | Web: www.baycrest.org

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Baycrest Health Sciences
is fully affiliated with the
University of Toronto.