

BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance (BALTA)

Role of the BALTA Project Lead/Supervisor

Student involvement in BALTA research is supported by SSHRC as a means towards **student learning of research skills**. In all cases where students are involved in research projects/activities, there must be an academic or community based researcher (or group of researchers or SERC) leading that research. **Provision must be made for clear supervision of the student(s)**. Supervision of students may be by the project lead themselves or by a separate individual helping with the project as a member of BALTA and responsible for the supervision of the student.

Student learning through the research activity/project, including any relevant training, must be provided as well as a clear process for monitoring and evaluation of students of both their research activities and of the learning that occurs on the part of the students.

Project lead researchers and supervisors are responsible for identifying what support and training individual students may require and ensuring that proper orientation, support and training is provided, as well as supervising students during the course of the research. BALTA's Student Program Coordinator (SPC) is available to assist with orientation and support to student researchers.

The SPC will also assist with identifying opportunities for dissemination of research results and other opportunities for student learning (e.g. through attendance at annual BALTA colloquia and other relevant educational events).

Monitoring and Evaluation

At the end of the student contract, both the student and the supervisor are responsible for filling out an evaluation. It is worthwhile for the supervisor to be aware of those elements of the evaluation that they may wish to keep in mind while supervising the student. Some of the key questions asked of the supervisor include:

- Specifically evaluate the student's performance as a research assistant on this project.
- What new knowledge and skills do you think the student gained as a result of her/his involvement in this project?
 - About research and research methodologies
 - About the social economy and the particular research focus of this project
- Regarding the quality of your interaction with the student, were there any problems encountered during the course of the project? How were they addressed?
- Do you have any general observations about the interaction between the student and BALTA?
- What significant challenges, obstacles or issues during the course of the project were encountered and how were they addressed? What recommendations would you have for how BALTA, supervisors or other students can address these issues in future?

Supervisors may also make recommendations regarding extending a student's contract (if this is possible based on funding and project needs/approvals) or suggesting that student for other BALTA work that may be available.

For further information, project leads/supervisors should refer to the following documents:

BALTA Student Recruitment and Management Policies and Procedures
BALTA Project Development and Management Guidelines
BALTA Ethical Review Process