

Kasi Insight/BEKH - Black Graduate Student Researcher

Graduate Student Researcher - Black Entrepreneurship & Strategic Growth

Organization: Kasi Insight Inc.

Project: Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (BEKH 2.0)

Location: Canada - Remote/Hybrid

Term: September 2026 – March 2027

Commitment: Approximately 150–165 hours over the project

Reports to: Project Director, Kasi Insight

Academic oversight: Principal Investigator

About the project

Kasi Insight, in partnership with Carleton University's Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub, is conducting applied research examining how Black-owned businesses can participate more effectively in Canada's emerging strategic growth economy.

Canada is increasing investment across areas including infrastructure, defence, advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, clean energy, digital technologies and trade diversification. The research will identify relevant procurement and supply-chain opportunities, assess the readiness of Black-owned businesses, identify barriers to participation, and develop practical approaches to supplier development and consortium formation.

The pilot focuses on Ontario and includes strategic opportunity mapping, a survey of 100 Black-owned businesses, 20 stakeholder interviews and a multi-stakeholder consortium workshop.

The role

We are seeking a Black graduate student researcher interested in entrepreneurship, economic development, public policy and inclusive growth.

This is an applied research role rather than a purely academic research assistantship. You will work with entrepreneurs, researchers, procurement stakeholders and Kasi analysts to understand how Black businesses can participate in major areas of Canadian economic investment.

Key responsibilities

Research and evidence review: Conduct literature, policy and secondary research on Black entrepreneurship, supplier diversity, procurement, business scaling and strategic economic sectors. Review federal and provincial policies, programs and relevant research.

Entrepreneur research: Support the design and implementation of a survey of approximately 100 Black-owned businesses using the BEEM database. Assist with recruitment, survey administration, response monitoring, data cleaning and preliminary analysis.

Stakeholder interviews: Support recruitment, scheduling and execution of approximately 20 interviews with procurement officials, prime contractors, entrepreneurs and ecosystem organizations. Prepare interview notes and code qualitative findings.

Analysis: Help identify recurring barriers related to procurement readiness, financing, certifications, market access, capacity and consortium formation. Support integration of qualitative and quantitative evidence.

Knowledge products: Contribute to the project's Black Business Readiness Snapshot, Barrier Assessment Brief, Procurement Readiness Checklist, Consortium Opportunity Framework and final report. These are among the formal deliverables required under the project.

Ideal candidate

You are currently enrolled in a master's, PhD or comparable graduate program in a relevant field such as:

- Business or entrepreneurship
- Economics
- Public policy/public administration
- International affairs
- Finance
- Sociology/economic sociology
- Development studies
- Engineering

You should have strong research and analytical skills, excellent written English, comfort conducting interviews, and an ability to turn research into concise practical insights.

Experience with surveys, qualitative research, Excel, statistical analysis, procurement, entrepreneurship or Black business ecosystems is an asset.

What you will gain

This role provides direct exposure to applied research at the intersection of entrepreneurship, government policy, procurement and Canada's industrial economy.

The researcher will also be recognized as a member of the BEKH research project and contribute to research that will be presented at the BEKH annual conference in February 2027. The Prime Agreement specifically includes engagement of Black academic/research students as an expected BEKH research outcome.

To apply, send your CV and Cover letter to info@kasiinsight.com before September 11, 2026