

To Participate:

Contact Josh Dent at (519) 317-3563 or email [jdent3@uwo.ca](mailto:jdent3@uwo.ca) with or without a project in mind.

# The Research Portal

Community Driven Collaboration and Dissemination

<https://insituated.com/research-portal>

*Supported by:*



Timmins Martelle  
Heritage Consultants Inc.



## Pilot Project: Southwestern Ontario – Heritage Focus

Info Sheet

### Background:

The Research Portal was first conceptualized in 2016 as part of a postdoctoral fellowship grant application to the Mitacs Elevate program with the support of Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants and Sustainable Archaeology @ Western. Once awarded, postdoctoral fellow Dr. Joshua Dent began working on the technical design and community networking necessary to realize a test version of the Portal.

### Objective:

Gather and present a list of heritage-related, community-sourced research projects to History, Geography and Anthropology Departments in SW Ontario universities. Graduate students and faculty will use the list to contact and define a relationship with these communities for the purposes of conducting research capable of achieving both academic and community goals. The Portal's effectiveness can then be judged to assess the benefits of expanding the service to other disciplines and regions.

### Definitions:

- Community: Any non-academic organization, possibly individuals, including but not limited to First Nations, not-for-profits, local governments, and private heritage consulting firms.
- Student: Advanced undergraduate or graduate (Masters or doctoral) student affiliated with a recognized university which adheres to a publicly available Research Ethics Review process.
- Faculty: Professor or other research-oriented staff member affiliated with a recognized university which adheres to a publicly available Research Ethics Review process.

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## Roles:

**Community Liaison:** The primary community contact for a research project. The liaison will correspond with the academic researcher outlining community expectations and coordinating available community resources over the course of research. The liaison will also assist with grant applications by providing a reference letter indicating the community's support of the project.

Expected time commitment: low and as necessary.

**Academic Researcher:** The primary researcher, this individual will work with the liaison to outline the research project based on community expectations and the researcher's own academic requirements (i.e., courses, publications, theses). The researcher will then complete this project working with the liaison and, if a graduate student, their academic supervisor. The researcher will also be responsible for fulfilling any university or community Ethics Review obligations. It is expected that the researcher will apply for grants capable of facilitating research.

Expected time commitment: high (consistent with a graduate student research workload)

**Portal Administrator:** Create, maintain and update project listings. The administrator will work with communities to define the scope of new projects and with universities to attract researchers and promote research outcomes. The administrator will also maintain an archive of successful projects with associated testimonials and links to outcomes.

Expected time commitment: variable (scales with quantity and geographic breadth of projects)

## Benefits:

**Community:** Academic-quality research on a subject, or incorporating a subject, of the community's own choosing. Research can be tailored to realizing or contributing to a community goal or initiative. Research outcomes may include joint publications, educational materials, public outreach, policy papers, and any other potentially achievable outcome as negotiated with the researcher at the outset of a project. A solid relationship built between researcher and community should also provide lasting benefits taking a number of forms (i.e., a graduate student being employed by the community after completion of their degree).

**Academic Researcher:** A community-affiliated research project with defined scope and resources capable of fulfilling all or part of various academic research goals. Attractive to granting agencies these projects link novice and established researchers to non-academic organizations who value their research potential. These projects

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develop or hone communication skills and widen networks of potential clients, employers and collaborators.

### **Universities:**

Attractive to regional, national and international granting agencies, and able to access funding unavailable to academic researchers alone, these projects widen a university's community impact footprint to include more social science and humanities initiatives. The immediate value to non-academic communities of the academic research serves to further validate the role of higher education institutions in society particularly in areas of study where this value is less conventionally apparent. Participating in the Portal will foreseeably improve the public profiles of universities, their grant competitiveness and contribute to improved graduation outcomes with graduates better situated for employment.

### Some Possible Risks:

- Not all projects will find a researcher match.
- Projects may fail for a variety of reasons (community and/or researcher-related).
- Participants may not be satisfied with project outcomes.
- Portal Administration will need to develop a sustainable financial strategy to operate in the long-term.
- Unforeseen risks besides those listed here.

### Risk Management:

- Administration will help develop clear project descriptions and expectations with communities.
- Collaborators will negotiate acceptable research processes and outcomes.
- Administration will support priority listing of incomplete projects and projects that have not found matches over a long period.

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Contact Josh Dent at (519) 317-3563 or email [jdent3@uwo.ca](mailto:jdent3@uwo.ca) with or without a project in mind to build a project listing or, as a research department or institution, to enquire about viewing listed projects.

This project is funded through a Mitacs Elevate Postdoctoral Fellowship, Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants and Sustainable Archaeology @ Western University.

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### Did You Know?

The Numbers of Faculty and Graduate Students in SW Ontario Heritage-Related Departments:

| University                 | History |               | Anthro/Archaeology |               |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
|                            | Faculty | Grad Students | Faculty            | Grad Students |
| McMaster University        | 29      | not listed    | 15                 | 27 PHD/18 MA  |
| University of Guelph       | 36      | not listed    | 26                 | not listed    |
| University of Waterloo     | 28      | 9 PHD/7 MA    | 8                  | 10 MA         |
| University of Windsor      | 10      | 25 MA         | N/A                | N/A           |
| Western University         | 45      | 43 PHD/26 MA  | 16                 | 35 PHD/37 MA  |
| Wilfrid Laurier University | 29      | not listed    | 16                 | N/A           |

  

| University                 | Geography |               | Indigenous Studies |               |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
|                            | Faculty   | Grad Students | Faculty            | Grad Students |
| McMaster University        | 24        | 45 PHD/43 MA  | 5                  | not listed    |
| University of Guelph       | 18        | 16 PHD/55 MA  | N/A                | N/A           |
| University of Waterloo     | 31        | not listed    | N/A                | N/A           |
| University of Windsor      | 13        | not listed    | N/A                | N/A           |
| Western University         | 25        | 47 PHD/41 MA  | 2                  | N/A           |
| Wilfrid Laurier University | 29        | not listed    | 2                  | N/A           |