

Graduate Research Assistant Opportunities

Two positions are currently available for a graduate research assistant (GRA) to help us develop evaluation tools for the following program/courses and analyze the resulting quantitative and qualitative data that result from surveys, interviews, and/or focus groups.

(1) Graduate Research Assistant for the Writing Across the Curriculum Program

The Writing Centre and the Faculty of Science at the University of British Columbia are developing a new Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program in Science. Writing Across the Curriculum programs support the teaching and learning of writing outside of composition classrooms, with an emphasis on writing to learn and teaching students to write within specific disciplines. The intended outcome of our program is to improve students' ability to write scientifically by building expertise in the UBC community of science writing educators. To achieve this goal, we are designing a series of workshops, webinars, and other resources to help faculty and teaching assistants teach writing.

(2) Graduate Research Assistant for new courses in the Department of Chemistry

As a result of a comprehensive curriculum review, the Department of Chemistry will soon offer three new "soft skills" courses. One, CHEM 300: Communicating Chemistry, is a 3-credit course focused on improving writing and critical thinking skills in the context of chemical research. The remaining two, CHEM 319: Practical Skills for Chemical Research and CHEM 329: Research Ethics and Data Analysis Skills, are interactive, 1-credit courses designed to foster a research perspective of chemistry and prepare students for fourth-year research projects.

Working closely with the project teams, the GRA is expected (but not limited to) to do the following duties:

- Review literature to gather published attitudinal surveys of similar nature to help guide the survey development process
- Develop the survey tool (which may include the adaption of statements from existing surveys)
- Run interviews to validate the survey
- Finalize the survey for full implementation
- Administer the survey and analyze data
- Organize and conduct focus groups
- Summarize focus group data
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications

- Completed undergraduate degree with a minimum of one year experience as a graduate assistant, teaching assistant or instructor.
- Knowledge of education research methods and data analysis
- Experience with survey design
- Experience with conducting focus groups and interviews
- Experience working with faculty
- Experience teaching writing
- Interest in faculty views about teaching science writing
- Good understanding of ethical conduct of educational research

Hours may be negotiated depending on availability; pay will be commensurate with experience.

Interested candidates should submit their resume and cover letter to jandciu@science.ubc.ca by June 26th, 2015. In your cover letter, please indicate if you are interested in the Writing Across the Curriculum Project, the new courses in the Department of Chemistry project, or both.

Thank you for your interest.