Research Assistant Job Posting

Research Assistant
Student Learning Commons - Surrey

The Student Learning Commons – Surrey invites applications for a Research Assistant appointment, for an Integrated Learning Technology Development Program Grant project – ‘Academic Success Kits’ (ASKs), to begin as soon as possible.

Project Description
The project will develop, implement, and assess discipline-specific ‘Academic Success Kits’, to provide undergraduate students ‘just-in-time’ academic success skills and study strategies.

Academic Success Kits (ASKs) are new stand-alone Canvas modules that incorporate a wide selection of (already created) academic success strategies from the Student Learning Commons. Today's students want to know that material is created with them in mind, therefore, the ASKs will be discipline-specific, and the project will work closely with various faculties to tailor ASKs to the specific study needs of students. Working closely with Canvas technical experts in the Teaching and Learning Centre, the ASKs will push the visual boundaries of what students are currently seeing in text-heavy Canvas courses, to incorporate a wider range of educational technologies, and a more engaging and improved user experience.

Research Assistant will, working with the Project lead and the Teaching and Learning Centre:

a) Develop and implement a series of discipline-specific Academic Success Kits (ASKs) by:
   - bringing knowledge of adult education, learning strategies, instructional design and educational technology.

b) Develop site analytics (with the support of Teaching & Learning Centre Team Lead), to assess the frequency and duration the materials are accessed by students.

c) Develop qualitative assessment methods (with the support of the Teaching & Learning Centre Team Lead), to determine the degree of perceived effectiveness the ASKs have for students’ academic growth and development.

Research Assistant responsibilities include (with the support of the Project Lead and the Teaching and Learning Centre Team Lead):

- Using instructional design and user-interface knowledge, develop unique modules for discipline-specific ASKs.
- Liaise and interview various faculty and students to determine exact needs.
- Design and develop qualitative assessment methods, (with the support of the Teaching and Learning Centre Team Lead).
- Support the implementation of the ASKs to faculties.
- Collect, analyse, and summarize analytics and qualitative data, (with the support of the Teaching and Learning Centre Team Lead).
- Where relevant, partner with project lead on distributing findings at relevant conferences.
Required qualifications and skills:
- Be a qualified Masters or PhD student, and have a demonstrated knowledge and understanding in any of the following: adult education, instructional design, educational technology, and/or educational psychology.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including strong oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to work with faculty and students from a wide range of disciplines.
- Experience with basic qualitative and quantitative data analyses.
- Experience with instrument design (especially surveys, rubrics, interview protocols, observation protocols/checklists, self-reflection tools).
- Strongly self-directed.
- Must be willing to work out of the Surrey campus.

Experience and skills that would be an asset:
- Familiar with Learning Management Systems, preferably Canvas, from a program development perspective.
- Familiarity with design principles and user-interface.

Rate of pay: $25 (incl. vacation and statutory holiday pay, no medical or dental benefits) – Total appointment hours: up to 260.

Hours:
Start date as soon as possible.
The structure of the work weeks and hours per week is flexible, and open to discussion.

To Apply:
Applicants should submit:
(1) a 1-page cover letter clearly addressing how the applicant meets the qualifications, skills, and role responsibilities as listed above,
(2) a 1-2 page resume and,
(3) examples of instructional design, and, if available, examples of Canvas-based work (or similar learning management system) with links to these.

Items (1) and (2) should be organized as one PDF attachment and addressed to Cynthia Wright, Coordinator, Student Learning Commons - Surrey, and emailed to cawright@sfu.ca. Item (3) can be included as a link in the above documents, or in the body of an email.

Note: Letters of reference will only be requested from short-listed applicants.

Any questions regarding posting and qualifications can be directed to Cynthia Wright, Coordinator, Student Learning Commons - Surrey, cawright@sfu.ca.

Complete applications received by Tuesday, July 4th @ 4:30 pm are considered. We appreciate all replies to this position posting, however, we will only contact short-listed applicants.