Research Assistant
Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines and the School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering

SFU’s Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines invites applications for a Research Assistant appointment for the Teaching and Learning Development Grant project An Examination of Attitudes and Experiences of Students in a Graduate Writing Course for Engineers to begin September 11, 2017 or earlier.

Description of Project: MSE 801 Writing for Engineers, is a required course within the Professional Masters and PhD graduate programs at Simon Fraser University’s Mechatronics Systems Engineering (MSE). This course seeks to accommodate the varied writing-related learning needs of students from the three engineering graduate programs (PhD, MAsc, MEng) who enroll in the course. In this study, we will use qualitative action research to conduct an interpretive case study of MSE 801 students to explore their perspectives about and experiences of writing and writing-related learning within MSE 801 for the purpose of improving the design of the course and to formulate recommendations that can inform departmental discussions.

Research assistant responsibilities: The research assistant’s responsibilities will include, but are not limited to providing research assistance during the research study, such as:
• attending team meetings
• compiling literature reviews
• drafting, editing and proofreading research instruments and reports
• conducting a focus group
• aiding in the qualitative analysis process by coding personal reflections and focus-group notes
• providing administrative support (scanning, copying)
• supporting dissemination of project findings within and beyond SFU

Required qualifications and skills
• Currently enrolled as an SFU student
• Excellent interpersonal skills, including strong oral and written communication skills
• Experience with qualitative data research methods and analyses including conducting focus groups and coding notes and personal reflections
• Experience with instrument design (rubrics, focus-group protocols, observation protocols/checklists, self-reflection tools)
• Ability to undertake literature reviews in disciplines beyond own research area
• Skilled in use of Microsoft Office suite and CANVAS

Rate of pay: $20 - $25/hr (incl. vacation and statutory holiday pay, no medical or dental benefits) - based on experience and qualifications. Total appointment hours: 60-90. Weekly hours will vary throughout the duration of the project. Work schedule to be negotiated with successful applicant. Anticipated project duration is September 2017 to April 2018.

To Apply: Submit a 1-page cover letter structured to address the qualifications, skills, and role responsibilities as listed above, and a 1-2 page CV. These two items should be organized as one PDF attachment and emailed to Maureen Hindy at mhindy@sfu.ca

Complete applications received by September 4, 2017 are assured of full consideration. All applications are appreciated for this position; however, only short-listed applicants will be contacted.