Research Assistant Opportunity

Decolonizing Teaching: An Integrated Seminar Series and Grant Program
Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines, Simon Fraser University

Are you interested in shaping the student learning experiences at SFU regarding Indigenous peoples, their histories and critical issues by providing your voice and insights around decolonizing SFU’s courses and programs?

Are you interested in gaining valuable research experience and work closely with Indigenous and non-Indigenous faculty members across SFU?

Do you have a passion for improving teaching and learning at SFU?

If you answered yes to the above questions, we invite you to apply for our research assistant position to join our team.

The research assistant position will be a member of the Decolonizing Teaching Facilitation team. The Decolonizing Teaching Seminar Series and Grant Program will begin its first offering in Spring 2018. The goal of the program is for SFU faculty to engage in critical and unsettling reading/dialogue about Canada’s colonial past and present, make changes to their current curricular and pedagogical design, and to investigate the impact on student learning. See (http://www.sfu.ca/istld/dt.html) for more details about the program.

As a member of the team your responsibilities will include:

- Attending all six Decolonizing Teaching seminar sessions (between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Feb 27, Mar 13, Mar 27, May 8, May 22 & Jun 5);
- Reading all materials assigned for the seminar sessions;
- Participating in seminar discussions, adding both a student voice and knowledge of Indigenous perspectives;
- Participating in seminar series planning sessions with the other facilitation team members;
- Helping the facilitation team search for useful readings, materials, activities and resources which faculty members may wish to use in their decolonizing efforts;
- Assisting the ISTLD team design and implement a research plan for studying this initial offering of the seminar series;
- Working closely with the ISTLD team and Episkenew Fellow http://www.sfu.ca/istld/episkenewfellowship.html
- Participating in data analysis and writing related to findings from the study of the seminar series; and
- Attending bimonthly ISTLD team meetings.

What you bring:

- Excellent knowledge and understanding of Indigenous cultures and traditions;
- Knowledge of critical issues in Indigenous histories, politics, and education with a sensitivity to cross-cultural relations;
- Ability to exercise cultural sensitivity when interacting with members of Indigenous communities;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, particularly an ability to participate in complex dialogue about difficult issues sensitively and reflectively;
- An interest in and capacity for constructive critical thinking and analysis;
- Comfort speaking to power – most of those in the seminar sessions will be faculty;
- Aptitude for acquiring new skills and knowledge;
- Ability to work with faculty and graduate students from a wide range of disciplines; and
- Currently enrolled as an SFU student.
Experience and skills that would be an asset:

- Experience with qualitative data collection, particularly: taking narrative field notes and conducting interviews;
- Ability to use MS Word and Excel;
- Familiarity with database and data analysis and management applications (e.g., FileMaker, Zotero and NVIVO);
- Experience in qualitative data analysis; and
- Knowledge of curriculum design and/or inquiry related to teaching and learning.

What we offer:

- Training around and an opportunity to develop facilitation and research skills;
- A fun and collaborative work environment;
- A place where your voice will be heard and have impact;
- A chance to make a difference.

Time commitment: February 19, 2018 (or earlier) to June 15, 2018, 5 – 10 hours per week

Compensation: $20.00 - $25.00/hour (includes 4% vacation and statutory holiday pay), depending on experience and qualifications.

To Apply: Applicants should submit: (1) a 1-page cover letter structured to address the qualifications, skills, and role responsibilities as listed above, and (2) a résumé. These two items should be organized as one PDF attachment and addressed to Sheri Fabian, Director, ISTLD, and emailed to istld@sfu.ca

Note: References will only be requested from short-listed applicants.

Application deadline – January 22, 2018

We appreciate all replies to this position posting, however, we will only contact short-listed applicants.