Research Assistant
Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines and Faculty of Health Sciences

The Simon Fraser University (SFU) Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines (ISTLD) invites applications for a Research Assistant (RA) appointment for the Teaching and Learning Development Grant project *Interventions that target student critical thinking when reading primary science literature* to begin May 2018, exact date TBD.

This project aims to uncover the student process when reading primary biomedical/life sciences literature and develop interventions that will enhance a student’s reading skills. To date, we have collected data from 19 students using a think-aloud interview methodology. The RA will analyse those interviews and use the findings to develop and assess a classroom intervention for HSCI 212 – *Perspectives on Infectious and Immunological Diseases*.

**Research assistant responsibilities include:**

- Analyse six transcribed interviews of students reading a primary literature article and create “maps” of student reading process
- Work with Principal Investigator (PI) to identify a published reading comprehension framework and compare processes and behaviours used by students in the interviews to the framework
- Work with PI to develop a classroom intervention that enhances student primary literature reading skills. The includes a pre and post activity so as to determine impact of intervention
- Draft a survey that assesses student experience of learning interventions
- Maintain clear records of all work completed

**The ideal candidate will have the following skills:**

- Currently enrolled in a graduate program (MSc, MA, MEd or PhD) at SFU
- Experience with qualitative data analyses
- Experience with instrument design (specifically surveys, rubrics)
- Works well independently
- Excellent strong oral and written communication skills
- Ability to undertake literature reviews in discipline
- Background in life sciences is an asset, but not a requirement
- Experience with NVivo software
- Skilled in use of Microsoft Office suite.

**Experience and skills that would be an asset:**

- Experience with education research.

**Rate of pay:** $20 - $25/hr (incl. vacation and statutory holiday pay, no medical or dental benefits) - based on experience, qualifications and degree program (MA or PhD). Total appointment hours: up to 240.

**To Apply:** Applicants should submit: (1) a 1-page cover letter structured to address the qualifications, skills, and role responsibilities as listed above, this should include a description of 1 – 2 projects that exemplify your fit for this position, and (2) a 1-2 page résumé with two references listed. These two items should be organized as one PDF attachment and addressed to Nienke van Houten, and emailed to nvanhout@sfu.ca with “RA application TLDG#3” in the subject line.

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

Complete applications received by May 1st are assured of full consideration. We appreciate all replies to this position posting, however, we will only contact short-listed applicants.