Research Assistant Opportunity
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS: STUDENTS' LEARNING EXPERIENCES

The Simon Fraser University's Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines (ISTLD) invites applications for a Research Assistant appointment for the Teaching and Learning Development Grant project *Through the Looking Glass: Students' Learning Experiences* to begin January 6, 2020 (or earlier), with anticipated end of appointment of June 2020 (or soon after).

Our study intends to investigate similarities and differences between students' and instructors' perceptions and expectations of the role of students in studying and learning. The study will focus on first-year university students who have the challenging tasks of transitioning to university while developing their learning awareness and agency. We intend to research the following topics: What studying and learning actions and approaches do students use to enhance their learning experiences? Do students and instructors have similar or different perspectives and understandings of the student's role in developing successful learning, in the context of the students' complex cognitive and social environments?

The research assistant will:
- Consult on development of research instruments;
- Create interview protocols in cooperation with project leads/team;
- Participate in selection of students for the focus groups;
- Conduct one-on-one interviews with 5 first-year science and health science instructors;
- Conduct 5 focus groups with 6-8 selected first-year students per each focus group;
- Audio record interview and focus group conversations;
- Maintain field notes during all interviews and focus groups conversations;
- Transcribe all interviews and focus groups conversations;
- Perform qualitative data analysis, which includes coding of transcribed materials;
- Prepare and summarize project findings (create a poster and assist with project final report);
- Attend meetings or communicate electronically with project leads/team.

Required qualifications and skills:
- Excellent organizational skills;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including strong oral and written communication skills;
- Ability to communicate with faculty members, instructors, and first-year students;
- Expertise in qualitative data collection through conducting interviews and facilitating focus groups, including creating interviews and focus group protocols;
- Experience transcribing interviews and note-taking;
- Expertise in qualitative research analysis, including coding;
- Expertise in academic writing skills, as demonstrated by prior completion of similar projects;
- Ability to work independently, productively, and creatively;
- Experience working with qualitative analysis software (e.g., NVIVO);
- Currently enrolled in a graduate program at SFU (M.A., MEd, PhD, EdD or equivalent combination of skills and experiences). Qualified undergrads would also be considered.

Experience and skills that would be an asset:
- Education in the humanities.

Rate of pay: $20 - $25/hr (incl. vacation and statutory holiday pay, no medical or dental benefits) - based on experience, qualifications and degree program. 100 hours with the possibility of additional hours.

To Apply: Applicants should submit:
(1) A 1-page cover letter structured to address the qualifications, skills, and role responsibilities as listed above. Please include your SFU email and your Skype name, for the purpose of conducting an online interview if selected.
(2) Current academic transcript.
(3) A 1-2 page resumé. These should be organized as one PDF attachment and addressed to Dr. Ivona Mladenovic and emailed to imladeno@sfu.ca.

Note: References will only be requested from short-listed applicants. Applicants must be able to legally work in Canada with a valid work visa and social insurance number.

Application deadline: December 6, 2019. Interviews will be week of December 9th. *We appreciate all replies to this position posting however, we will only contact short-listed applicants.*