

Graduate Academic Assistant Project:
**Learning Resources to Support Ethical Engagement Practices in Indigenous
Community-based Research**
Call for expressions of interest – DUE June 19th 2020 (or until position is filled)

Overview and job summary

The Indigenous Research Support Initiative (IRSI), the UBC Learning Exchange, the Residential School History and Dialogue Centre (RSHDC) and the Centre for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) are collaborating with other key partners to develop teaching and learning resources to support ethical engagement practices in Indigenous community-based research. Ultimately the goal is for UBC staff, students, and faculty to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to respectfully, ethically and appropriately engage with Indigenous communities. The project will benefit Indigenous communities by building towards a community informed ethics “toolkit” for engagement supported by the creation of practical open educational pedagogical instruments that are respectful of community-based ethics standards and approaches.

We are seeking a Graduate Academic Assistant (GAA) at Masters or PhD level for 4 months to conduct a literature review of best practices for ethical engagement and complete an environmental scan to identify community engaged initiatives with Indigenous Peoples that fall outside of the traditional ethics review process at UBC. The GAA will present their findings in written and verbal form to members of a Steering Committee, other units at UBC and Indigenous community members and partners as requested.

Role of the graduate student

The work to develop the ethics learning resources will be guided by a Steering Committee with members from a number of UBC units including, IRSI, RSHDC, CCEL, UBC Learning Exchange, CIS, FNHL, Office of Research Ethics and expert faculty in community based research and ethics. The GAA will:

- Complete an environmental scan to identify community engaged initiatives at UBC with Indigenous Peoples that fall outside of the traditional ethics review process. This would include MOU’s signed between First Nations and Departments, student-led initiatives, CCEL funded projects and practicums such as SCARP’s Indigenous Community Planning program;
- Complete a literature review of international and national best ethical practices of engagement e.g. student engagement, curriculum, programming, project development and relationship building with Indigenous community partners;
- Investigate and compile examples of promising practices in the areas of ethical partnership building/development in the local context at UBC;
- Draft appropriate presentations for the Steering Committee and other units, Indigenous communities, partners as requested;
- Draft reports with findings and recommendations;
- Work collaboratively with the Steering Committee members and other participating units/programs at UBC;
- Meet regularly with the co-supervisors to discuss tasks, performance, outreach activities, learning objectives, challenges and successes;

Qualifications

The successful applicant will be a responsible team-player with strong-time management and organizational skills. They will be personable with a strong acumen for how to engage with diverse stakeholders and a strong ability to synthesize, analyze and translate complex issues into clear and actionable platforms. The successful applicant must be able to work independently and remotely, be able to respond to changing project needs and be able to meet with stakeholders across the university, including attending some meetings with off-campus partners. The student will have a working knowledge of community engagement issues and best practices and will be able to approach sensitive topics with discretion. The student should be able to synthesize complex material into media designed for a broader, public audience and also be interested in exploring novel ways to share communication. A positive outlook, approachable personality and ability to create, maintain and facilitate new relationships, is considered an asset.

Essential skills:

- Excellent interpersonal communication skills.
- Demonstrated organizational and time management skills.
- Experience leading and facilitating consultations and distilling a broad array of information and perspectives into concise presentations, both written and verbal.
- Excellent problem solving skills.
- Creativity and demonstrated ability to work independently and take initiative.
- Excellent research abilities and written communication skills.
- Ability to think critically and constructively about ideas.
- Experience of project planning and implementation.
- Experience evaluating and assessing work or projects.
- A good understanding of UBC structures and on campus resources.

Education & qualifications

- Currently pursuing a graduate degree in Indigenous Studies, Education, Sociology, Psychology, English, Information Studies or a relevant discipline.
- Previous experience leading consultations at a university or in the community.
- Previous experience working with community an asset.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a team environment; ability to show initiative and judgement.

Supervision

The student will report to co-supervisors, Elizabeth Shaffer (Director, RSHDC) and Susan Grossman (Director, CCEL). The student is expected to work 10-15 hours per week for 4 months starting in June 2020. A monthly stipend will be paid based on skills and experience, at a rate of \$25 to \$30/hour (dependent on experience).

Please submit a letter of interest and a CV that includes any relevant experience by June 19th, 2020 to the following email: Luc Desmarais, luc.desmarais@ubc.ca.