Call for a Graduate Community Engagement Internship in the Downtown Eastside

The Department of Language & Literacy Education and the UBC Learning Exchange is seeking qualified candidates to serve as Graduate Academic Assistants at the UBC Learning Exchange for the 2020-21 academic year.

Position: Graduate Community Engagement Internship in the Downtown Eastside
Position Type: Graduate Academic Assistant (GAA)
No. of Positions: One
Period: November 2020 – April 2021 (start and end dates negotiable)
Salary: $20 per hour. Total possible salary: $3,720
Hours: Approximately 10 hours/week, variable based on project demands.

The Department of Language and Literacy Education (LLED) and the UBC Learning Exchange (LE) are launching their third annual call for a Graduate student position. The role of the graduate student will be to support the UBC LE’s programming through a paid internship with a focus on promoting English language and digital skills literacy through a special project with Chinese senior language learners.

The UBC Learning Exchange is a university-community initiative that has operated in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (DTES) since 1999, proudly celebrating 20 years of community engagement. Offering a range of free community programming, including basic and advanced computer classes, a conversational English language learning program, arts and cultural workshops and events, and a drop-in social space for residents of the DTES, the LE provides a unique learning environment for a graduate student to contribute to and learn from. Programming is currently primarily online.

Description and Duties
The successful applicant(s) will work collaboratively with the Learning Exchange’s English Conversation program coordinator. The Graduate Intern will conduct a needs assessment of current lower level English language learners (native Mandarin and Cantonese speakers) to determine their willingness and ability to attend online conversation classes and/or modified in person classes during COVID-19. The Graduate Intern will assist with participant recruitment, provide technical support and deliver a new curriculum developed with the UBC English Language Institute.

- Needs assessment of lower level language learners
- Recruit learners for online and/or in person classes for Jan to Mar 2021
- Provide technical support to learners via phone or potentially in person
- Pilot newly developed curricular materials for English language learning Jan to Mar 2021
Benefits to the Student
This position will provide the student with opportunities including:

- Practical grounding in community-based and adult educational theory and application
- Refinement of skills such as classroom and time management, curricular and workshop development, space, transition, and teaching techniques in a unique primarily online community-based setting
- Experience working with diverse populations, including seniors and residents of the Chinatown community, and more
- Professional development and reflection on one’s role in the teaching profession
- Contribution to the Learning Exchange’s programming and DTES community
- Collaboration with the Learning Exchange partners including the English Language Institute, and other community partners
- The potential to influence, shape and guide your thesis/dissertation research, and/or future publications and presentations

Qualifications

- Enrolled in full-time graduate studies in LLED (M.Ed., M.A. or Ph.D.)
- Fluent in Cantonese (required) and Mandarin (both preferred)
- (Preferred) Experience working in a community setting, as a volunteer, and/or in adult education
- Ability to work independently, while following timelines and meeting deadlines
- (Negotiable) Must be available for shifts during UBC Learning Exchange operational hours: Monday to Friday between 9am to 5pm (closed for lunch between 12-1 and all weekends/holidays)

This position is open to both international and domestic students.

How to Apply:
If you are interested in this position, please submit in PDF an updated CV (required) and a brief description of the personal qualities and past experiences that make you suitable for this position. (To get a sense of the Learning Exchange’s activities, visit their web site: http://learningexchange.ubc.ca). Send applications to lled-posting.educ@ubc.ca before the deadline.

Due to the number of applications we receive, we are not able to confirm receipt of submissions over the phone or by mail, nor can we provide status updates on the posting or the status of applicants except to those who are selected for an interview.

Application deadline: Monday, October 12, 2020

Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person.

We encourage all qualified persons to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.