



ALGONIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT JOB DESCRIPTION

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Internship

JOB TITLE: RESEARCH ASSISTANT
DEPARTMENT: School of Business and Economics
POSITION STATUS: NOHFC Internship
SUPERVISOR: Dr. Jody-Lynn Rebek
START DATE: October 25, 2021
END DATE: October 21, 2022
WAGE: \$35,000
NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 1

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to provide an opportunity for an intern to engage in the scholarly research and dissemination of research projects that are community-based action research projects. This internship will enhance communication, leadership, professionalism, and critical thinking while improving knowledge in research methodologies and sustainable business development specifically at the nexus of the upper Great Lakes. The intern will also work collaboratively with other faculty members, community members, youth and indigenous communities while learning to develop (or strengthen) their interpersonal abilities as a result of this unique training. These research projects will engage the research assistant in participatory action research methodologies, and work to develop the intern's career path in a way that is relevant and meaningful.

Research Project #1 deals with freshwater, our precious resource that is in scarcity worldwide. At this nexus of the upper Great Lakes, we are connected to 20% of the planet's freshwater. Much work is being done by numerous organizations, however, as residents gaining access to and an understanding of this information can be challenging or cumbersome. In terms of the Northern Ontario Blue Economy, there does not seem to be much attention, if any. Economic development for Northern Ontario is traditionally steeped in the extraction of natural resources. Yet, there are possibilities and solutions to doing things differently, to harness the power of freshwater and our Great Lakes in a sustainable way. What freshwater research and blue economy opportunities and gaps exist in the nexus of the upper great lakes? This research aims to understand issues, beliefs, gaps, and

opportunities in sustainable development and ways that this community can position itself as a leader in freshwater research and sustainable development.

The second research project deals with the need to “fundamentally redesign agriculture” systems locally to improve sustainability and entrepreneurial opportunities (Landis, 2017, p. 1). Evaluating our local landscape will help to identify and achieve resilient and sustainable ecological, agricultural, and economical goals. The research will also entail investigating sustainable ways of living (e.g., zero waste, and local recycling). The information discovered will be shared with project partners and the general public to inform community members of how they can help contribute to sustainable consumption.

QUALIFICATIONS

- University and college graduates who have graduated within the last three years from an accredited college or university.
- Must be graduates of a post-secondary degree or diploma program in Canada. Master's graduates are preferred.
- Project and leadership experience would be an asset.
- Advanced computer skills and web page management preferred (e.g., Word processing, Excel, G-Suite, SPSS, nVivo and/or AtlasTi or other quantitative and qualitative analysis software programs, and reference management software).
- Knowledge of indigenous methodologies and worldviews.
- Familiarity with social media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook) and methods for engaging and recruiting participants preferred.
- Knowledge of, research design & ethics, in addition to APA 7th ed. Referencing would be helpful.
- Certificate in Research Ethics (<https://tcps2core.ca>) - it takes a few hours to complete.

SKILLS

- Strong communication (oral and written) and interpersonal skills to discuss and document research progress, as well as constructive feedback.
- Independently motivated, with strong organizational / time management abilities.
- Accurate problem-solving and critical analysis with technological or methodological issues as they arise.
- Shows initiative and care in relation to freshwater and food sovereignty and/or sustainable business systems and practices.
- Highly developed interpersonal skills and abilities.
- Applies sound research methods and procedures.
- Evidence of project management experience.
- Experience with conducting and disseminating research (e.g., video, presentation, posters, manuscripts, etc.).
- Honours and respects all peoples - promoting diversity and inclusion.

- Technical communication abilities
- Most importantly, interest and enthusiasm for the research being conducted.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Work as part of an interdisciplinary participatory action research mixed-methods team to investigate the challenges and opportunities of freshwater research and local food systems research.
- Assist in the completion of a literature review that identifies blue economy opportunities, research related to the blue economy, and sustainable agricultural systems/businesses in the nexus of the upper Great Lakes.
- Assist in the data collection and identification of the social, economic, and cultural leads and skills in our region via online surveys, interviews, focus groups, workshop artifacts.
- Work collaboratively to recognize and engage stakeholders with provincial, national, and international organizations (i.e., related to freshwater protection, management, and restoration (especially in the nexus of the upper Great Lakes) and sustainable agricultural economies in Northern communities).
- Communicate professionally, effectively, and openly with all stakeholders and form relationships between scientists, educators, economists, and environmentalists, along with members of the public at large.
- Coordinate meetings and send relevant information in a timely and professional manner. Schedule, organize and report on research activities. Provide the main point of contact for external queries relating to this research project.
- Plan and modify research techniques, procedures, survey instruments, tests, equipment, or software.
- Organize/compile the data collected, prepare and scrub data collected, and ensure compliance with research ethics (assist with coding/theming and quantitative analysis, along with maintaining a daily research journal).
- Assist in the development of a map pinpointing organizations in the nexus of the Upper Great Lakes (Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and Michigan), highlighting the current accomplishments and work being done, local blue economy landscapes, related opportunities, and threats faced. In addition, mapping out local and Indigenous agricultural and maker goods/services, and identifying any gaps/opportunities.
- Participate in research dissemination activities, including writing and editing materials for publication and/or presentation, and ensure ongoing communication with stakeholders.
- Communicate research outcomes to the public using various communication tools (media releases, publications, presentations, workshops, an infographic, short film/video, workshops).
- Engage in project management principles and procedures to ensure timeliness, quality, and cost efficiencies, and work to collaboratively establish a team culture.
- Perform other administrative or research activities as assigned by the supervising faculty member.

OTHER CRITERIA:

- Candidates are new entrants into the workforce, are transitioning to a new career, or the unemployed or underemployed who are entering a new field;
- Have not previously participated in a NOHFC-funded internship;
- Are at least 18 years of age; and
- Reside, and be legally entitled to work, in Canada (particularly the Algoma Region).

Please send your CV with a brief description of your research experience and interests (MSWord or PDF file formats) to jody.rebek@algonau.ca

CLOSING DATE: October 18, 2021

Algoma University is strongly committed to fostering diversity and inclusivity within our community and is an equal opportunity employer. The university invites and encourages applications from all qualified individuals, including from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in employment, who may contribute to further diversification of our Institution. In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, upon request, accommodation will be provided by Algoma University throughout the recruitment, selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities. The successful candidate, as a condition of employment, will be required to provide a Vulnerable Sector Police Records Check.

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