Research Assistant Opportunity Casual Position

IDEA Lab Research Assistant Cohort | Application deadline: 15 January 2023

Tentative Start Date: 1 April 2023

Overview

As a leader in open and online education, AU is transforming the future of digital-first university research through IDEA Lab. IDEA is an award-winning cloud-based virtual research domain (VRD) developed in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Ronin. As both a strategic and signature digital research asset, IDEA Lab enables AU researchers to innovate, discover, explore, and accelerate their work using existing and emerging tools, processes, and data in the cloud for maximum impact.

IDEA Lab will recruit up to 15 Research Assistants. Successful candidates will receive training on cloud technologies and tools to enable them to support, advance, and contribute to research projects developed and supervised by AU faculty researchers. While this opportunity is open to all, AU students will be prioritized in this intake and the opportunity is open to undergraduate or gradate learners with varying levels of digital literacies.

Training

Successful candidates will complete a forward-thinking training program which includes: self-paced AWS courses leading to a certification as an AWS Cloud Practitioner (conferred by exam, fees for successful exams covered by AU), other training on specialized AWS tools and technologies, research data management, knowledge mobilization, research project management fundamentals, and training on launching and managing data storage and computational tools through the Ronin interface.

Participation in the training and professional development opportunities will be required. And obtaining the AWS Cloud Practitioner certification within 1 months of the start date will be required.

Successful candidates who complete the training and support research projects for at least 100hrs will receive a digital badge, notation of AU official transcripts, and a co-curricular letter that captures the technical skills and research proficiencies acquired through the specialized training and project involvement.

Activities

Research Assistants will partner and participate in delivering research using the skills, knowledge, and experience gained through the above specialized training in support of a diverse scope of faculty research projects.

Access to digital tools and cloud storage in the virtual research domain will be coordinated with joint support of the Manager, Digital Research Initiatives and Cloud Business Office. The primary duties of individual Research Assistants will be to support faculty researchers in developing, delivering, and disseminating their projects within the virtual research domain using AWS tools and assets.

Research Assistants will also complete a series of periodic reflections and a summative report on their experiences.

Qualifications

The number of weekly hours will vary but should typically not exceed more than 8 hours per week. Rate of pay will be commensurate with experience and collective agreement provisions. Activities will conclude by September 2023, with possible extension to February 2024. The potential of ongoing opportunities is contingent on ongoing funding and research project needs.

Successful candidates will have the following proficiencies and qualifications:

- Experienced or inclined towards digital approaches to research
- Embraces, learns, and applies new technologies quickly
- Collaborative and takes direction well
- Able to prioritize tasks and manage deadlines
- Able to work effectively remotely
- Previous experience in undertaking or supporting research would be an asset
- Familiarity with cloud computing or AWS would be an asset
- Experience with Python, or other programming languages, would be an asset

The position is open to applicants in any location as all training and activities will be conducted online.

How to apply

Qualified individuals are encouraged to submit their application by email to Dr. Paul Daniels (Manager, Digital Research Initiatives): pdaniels@athabascau.ca

Applications should include all of the following items as a single PDF:

- A one-page cover letter that summarizes their skills, interests, and experience relevant to the position description and comments on proficiencies related to applying technologies for research
- A current resume or CV
- An unofficial transcript

Applicants must also organize for 2 letters of reference to be sent directly from the referees to Paul Daniels. These letters should comment on the fit and potential of the applicant with the present opportunity. At least one letter should be written by a recent or present academic supervisor or professor. An application will not be considered complete without receipt of these letters.

All applicants are thanked for their interest in this position; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Athabasca University and the researchers are committed and seek to support equity in employment and research opportunities. We strongly encourage applications from Indigenous people, people of colour, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ people, women, and other historically marginalized groups. Applicants are welcome, but not required, to self-identify in their application.

For more information on this Research Assistant Opportunity, please contact Dr. Paul Daniels at the coordinates below.

Applications will be accepted until 15 January 2023.