

JOB INFORMATION

Job Title: Graduate Research Assistant & Undergraduate Research Assistant (2 positions)

Department: UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest (MKRF)

Employment Period: May 1 – August 31, 2024

Schedule: Full-time hours (37.5 per week); Monday - Friday

Salary: Graduate Research Assistant: \$5,629.50/month
Undergraduate Research Assistant \$3,844.50/month

Benefits: n/a

Job Location: Maple Ridge, BC

JOB DESCRIPTION

The University of British Columbia's Malcolm Knapp Research Forest (MKRF) is seeking two highly motivated UBC students (one undergraduate and one graduate) to assist research forest staff with a major urban forestry and arboretum development project. The MKRF is an outdoor living laboratory for research and education – and a public space used by local hikers and tour groups. The Faculty of Forestry and MKRF are currently planning to develop a new Welcome & Education Centre at the entrance to the forest. These plans include upgrades and restoration to several outdoor spaces, with an opportunity to integrate and showcase urban forestry practices and upgrade an existing arboretum collection of 50-year-old trees from around the world. Student research assistants will help create the content for and design the interpretive signs while also working with interested parties, such as the UBC Faculty of Forestry Urban Forestry Department, Diamondhead Consulting and the City of Maple Ridge to design new urban forestry demonstration spaces near the existing arboretum. The successful candidates will work closely with all staff members, including the manager, resident forester, research coordinator, education programming and administrative staff. By the end of the project, the student interns will have grappled with key questions like “how does one teach people about urban forests?” and integrated answers to these questions into classroom exercises for subsequent Field Schools.

WORK PERFORMED

The undergraduate research assistant will be exposed to a variety of tasks and assignments, including but not limited to:

a) Research and Planning:

- Research/ visit existing arboreta in the Lower Mainland and other national and international examples to draw upon precedent for their work in urban forestry demonstration
- Develop a detailed site plan, considering signage placement, future tree placement, pathways, seating areas, and interactive learning stops
- Collaborate with partnering external professionals from the Faculty, City of Maple Ridge and consulting firms
- Identify Existing Trees: Update the existing arboretum tree inventory

- Content Creation: Develop educational content for each tree

b) Designing Signage and Placards:

- Design visually appealing, long-lasting signage and placards
- QR Code Integration: For each tree, create a unique QR code that links to a webpage providing detailed information

c) Creating Web Pages:

- Basic Web Development: Students will engage in basic web development, using simple website builders or content management systems
- QR Code Linking: Generate QR codes for each webpage and test the QR codes to ensure they direct users to the intended webpage

d) Installation and Implementation:

- Determine strategic locations within the arboretum to install signage and placards near or on the respective trees
- Conduct trials throughout the arboretum to ensure there is Internet connectivity in all locations

e) Create Educational Modules and Tours:

- Create teaching exercise/module to be led by TAs for students to engage with the new signage, QR code system, and online resources
- Implement these teaching materials in collaboration with participating students
- Students conduct guided tours for visitors

f) Updating Resource and Curriculum Integration/Teaching:

- Create a class activity for students to create content updates
- Periodically update webpage content to include new research, seasonal changes, or any noteworthy items

g) Feedback and Improvement:

- Encourage visitors to provide feedback on new signage and webpages
- Based on feedback, make necessary improvements to signage, placards, or webpages

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Preference will be given to candidates with the following knowledge, education and certifications:

- Currently enrolled in a UBC undergraduate or graduate program with a preference for students with a background in any of the following (or related) disciplines: urban forestry, landscape architecture, ecological restoration, urban planning, graphic design, outdoor education
- Intermediate design skills
- Excellent communication skills (written and oral)
- Tree or plant identification skills, an asset
- Able to synthesize information and work in collaborative multi-disciplinary teams
- Proficient in MS Office
- Proficient in Adobe Creative Suite or similar design application
- Current first aid OFA Level 1 certification, an asset
- Valid Class 5 driver's license

This position will require candidates to be based at the MKRF (Maple Ridge) and work outside in all weather conditions.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a resume and cover letter by email to ionut.aron@ubc.ca April 1, 2024 at 11:59 pm. Only those short-listed will be contacted.