2021/2022 WORK STUDY PROGRAM

JOB POSTING

JOB TITLE: GEOG3 Informal waste diversion in Victoria, BC

DEPARTMENT NAME: Geography

CONTACT NAME: Jutta Gutberlet

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The student will work closely with the Diverters Foundation, a community partner of the Community-based Research Lab (CBRLab) in the Department. The Diverters Foundation was an ‘Our Place Society’ and ‘Vancouver Binners Project’ supported group founded in 2018, officially becoming a registered not-for-profit society in August 2020. Over the past two years, members of the Diverters Foundation have provided contracted waste sorting at a number of events in the City of Victoria (Car Free Day); built relationships with various community stakeholders (The Bottle Depot, community organizations); and have piloted a commercial waste diversion program. The student will monitor the first pilot project with community-pick-up, to be launched in June 2021, in three Victoria neighbourhoods. Health and safety procedures that comply with BC Health Authority covid-19 guidelines are in place. The project provides diverters, who are among the most economically excluded individuals in our community, with extra incomes and builds community relationships by putting a human face to the diverters who supplement their income by returning refundable bottles and cans.

The student will contribute to building a data set on informal waste recovery in Victoria (e.g., quantities of materials recovered and number of people involved in the activity), which will support arguments for resource recovery tackling some of the SDGs and mitigating climate change, by reducing GHG emission reductions and energy savings. In addition, the student will conduct a literature search using academic search engines on informal recycling in North America. The secondary sources, data and information (including film, reports, conference releases, etc.), identified on the topic will be organized by the student into an Excel worksheet, facilitating the analysis and data use. Guided by faculty the student will finally write-up the findings (data analysis and literature review) in form of a brief report on the topic, to be shared with the Diverters Foundation. This is a singular opportunity for a student to become acquainted with community-based research. The student will be working out of the CBRLab, which will provide opportunities for interaction, sharing and collaboration with other students and researchers on diverse research projects. The work study will provide the student with the possibility of building academic research skills and strengths, as well as learning about a grassroots project in sustainable community development.
QUALIFICATIONS:

Academic writing skills, bibliographic research skills (using academic search engines), basic computer skills (Internet Navigation, Spreadsheets, Adobe) and database management. Interest in waste studies, community development and urban sustainability

JOB LOCATION ON-CAMPUS: On-Campus: Community-based Research Laboratory in the Department of Geography

WORK STUDY WAGE: $16.00/hour (including 4% vacation pay)

DEPARTMENT TOP UP:

HOURS AVAILABLE: 200

HOW TO APPLY: Electronically forward a cover letter and resume to the attention of Dr. Gutberlet at: gutber@uvic.ca

APPLICANTS MUST BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK STUDY PROGRAM
For details go to: http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/safa/work-study/index.php