

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Faculty of Medicine
University of British Columbia
Vancouver Summer Program 2018 – Call for Instructors
(for period of July to August 2018)

The Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology is planning to offer a two-course package to be included within the 2018 edition of the Vancouver Summer Program (VSP). Through this program, students visit UBC to take courses for a 4-week period in July-August. In previous years, the majority of the visiting students were engaged in academic programs at institutions in the PRC. UBC is currently promoting the VSP more broadly for the 2018 program and so students are expected to come to UBC from a number of countries for this limited study term. Based on our experience with the 2015, 2016 and 2017 cohorts, the students are generally at the level of 2nd-year UBC science undergraduates or above, their English language skills are variable but generally very good and many are interested in gaining the background to be positioned to apply to medical school or further advanced life sciences training.

At this stage, we invite expression of interest from those who would be willing and able to assist with the development of the course materials and to deliver the classroom teaching. We cannot yet be certain the courses will indeed be offered until student registration is known, sometime in March 2018. Nevertheless, we are optimistic our courses will again attract sufficient interest and so we now encourage your interest in participation. Based on a number of conversations over the past 2-3 years, our senior graduate students and postdoctoral fellows have expressed an interest in opportunities to gain experience teaching. The VSP program will provide one such valuable and substantive opportunity.

Each of the two courses is intended to provide instruction equivalent to a 3-credit course in one of our undergraduate B.Sc. programs and will therefore involve 36 hours of instruction, together with a course examination. Because students are resident at UBC for only a limited time, these courses are necessarily compressed and intensive. This year we plan to engage two instructors to each teach 9 lecture hours (1/4 course) within the course entitled Biochemistry and Society: Current Issues. The remainder of the teaching will be done by returning instructors who have taught in previous years. The 9 hours of classroom instruction will be broken down into a blend of lectures and other classroom activities. Instructors will likely need to commit a period of at least eight weeks, including preparation of material and classroom teaching. Lecture preparation will begin in April to ensure that all teaching materials are fully detailed well in advance of the commencement of teaching. Although the general structure and aims of each course will be established and advice and support provided, instructors will be responsible for development of lectures and teaching materials, content delivery, student evaluation and all other aspects of managing the course.

Schedule

Preparation of lectures: April 1 – July 13, 2018

Time commitment: 2 days per week

Formal instruction period: July 14 – August 14, 2018

Scheduled class time: 1:30 – 4:30pm

Contact hours: 36 hours per course (~26 hours lectures + 10 hours other)

Stipend

Each instructor will be paid \$4000 for the development and delivery of 9 hours of classroom instruction plus preparation, marking and invigilation of a 3 hour final exam.

General Course Information

Two courses will be offered by the department in VSP 2017: *Molecular Mechanisms of Disease* and *Biochemistry and Society: Current Issues*. These course proposals have been accepted by the UBC VSP Program and are currently being promoted to encourage student enrollment.

Confirmation of enrollments will not be known to us until late March, which explains why we are asking for expressions of interest rather than posting formal job offers. We will certainly formalize our commitment to support the positions financially as soon as we possibly can.

Instructor trainees will work in conjunction with Scott Covey and Michael Krisinger. These mentors will provide a course syllabus and outline of lecture topics. The trainee under the direction of the mentors will develop the course content. There may be flexibility to incorporate the trainee's own content and vision to the course. Drs. Michael Krisinger (mikekrisinger@hotmail.com) and Scott Covey (scott.covey@ubc.ca) have taken the lead in developing the course concepts and liaising with the VSP program staff and will be happy to provide important additional insights.

Ideally, applicants should have a Ph.D. with or without postdoctoral experience in Biochemistry. Candidates nearing completion of their PhD may be considered, especially if they have demonstrated prior teaching experience. A commitment to excellence in teaching, a strong background in biochemistry, and the ability to work well within a team environment are essential.

If you are interested in this teaching opportunity please contact Dr. Lindsay Rogers at 778-836-0140 or lindsay.deborah.rogers@gmail.com **Please respond with the information below by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017.**

- 1) A brief cover letter (1 page maximum)**
- 2) Your curriculum vitae emphasizing your teaching experience**
- 3) Names and contact information of two referees**

Within your cover letter please mention:

- A) your current affiliation to UBC (or other institution, if applicable)**
- B) your availability from April to mid-August and how this will fit with your current (research) obligations**
- C) any experience or expertise which makes you well qualified to teach *Biochemistry and Society: Current Issues***