



HEALTH CAREER OPTIONS GUIDE

for internationally educated health professionals

Post-Secondary Teaching and Research Assistant

This profession is also known as:

- college laboratory assistant
- college teaching assistant
- graduate assistant - university
- post-secondary research assistant
- research assistant



What is a post- secondary teaching and research assistant?

Post-secondary teaching and research assistants assist university professors, community college and CEGEP teachers and other faculty members in teaching and research activities.

What are the main duties of a post-secondary teaching and research assistant?

Post-secondary teaching assistants perform some or all of the following duties:

- Organize reference materials, visual aids and other materials as required by university professors or college teachers for lectures
- Conduct seminars, discussion groups and laboratory sessions to supplement lectures
- Assist in the preparation and administration of examinations
- Grade examinations, term papers and laboratory reports.
- Research assistants perform some or all of the following duties:
- Conduct literature reviews, surveys, laboratory experiments and other research for use in scholarly publications
- Compile research results and assist professors in the analysis of results and the preparation of journal articles or papers.

What personal characteristics or desired traits do I need?

You need:

- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to work with written instructions and interpret information
- Ability to communicate ideas, and to motivate students
- Ability to work effectively in a team environment
- Good computer skills, and an ability to work with spreadsheets and perform data analyses

Where do post-secondary teaching and research assistants work?

They work in universities, colleges and other educational institutions. They may work independently while conducting research, but may also lead lectures or study groups with students.

What typical work conditions should I expect?

- Post-secondary teaching assistants and research assistants generally work in university and college lecture halls, libraries and laboratories.
- They may have an office on campus, or share an office with other teaching or research assistants.
- Work hours for post-secondary teaching assistants, research assistants, and college and vocational instructors will vary based on the number of classes they teach, whether classes are held during the day or night, and the type of research being conducted.

What qualifications do I need for this work?

Usually, post-secondary teaching assistants and research assistants are enrolled in a master's or doctoral study program while employed by the university or college they are attending. They typically work in their field of study. Most of the work is part time.



What communication skills do I need?

You need strong communication and interpersonal skills to communicate effectively with your employer, co-workers and students. You may be required to teach seminars, supervise laboratory or mark assignments, etc.

What wage may I expect for this work?

Typical Canadian wage for this job: **Low** 10.45 **Median** 21.00 **High** 40.00

Are there Opportunities for Advancement?

There are few to no opportunities for advancement.

Learn more about post secondary teaching and research assistants by viewing these sites

- National Occupation Code 4012
The government of Canada has given a code to each occupation/profession. Use this code to learn more about post secondary teaching and research assistants through government sites.
<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/ProfileQuickSearch.aspx?val=4&val1=4012>
Note: the code for Job Bank is 4122

References

- Outline from CSMLS webpage, accessed 3/25/2016
<http://altcareers.csmls.org/careers/assayer/>
- Government of Canada (NOC 4012)
<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/Welcome.aspx>
- Government of Canada, Job Bank
<http://www.workopolis.com/jobsearch/job/17032419?cid=hrsd>
- Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC)

- <http://cicic.ca/>
Careers Nova Scotia
<https://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/177>