POSITION TITLE: Learning Peer - Biophysics (Learning Development & Success)

POSITION SUMMARY:
Learning Peers are part of the Learning Development & Success team. They volunteer in the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Centre. They could be asked to help in the Virtual PAL Centre (run through Zoom), the In-Person PAL Centre (Room 4139, WSSB) or in both. This is a place where students can go to discuss general or course-specific learning concerns with a Learning Peer in a supportive, peer-run environment.

As a Learning Peer for Biophysics, your role would be to help students develop learning skills and strategies to succeed at university and to respond to a wide variety of student questions about learning in Physics 1028 and 1029 as well as other courses (as you are able). The role also includes participating in exam preparation events as needed during the year.

Learning Development & Success (LDS) offers a variety of services to all students at Western, providing support through individual counselling, the PAL Centre and group presentations. The LDS team helps students cope with the demands of post-secondary learning, assisting them in identifying strengths and developing new skills and strategies for success. All services are available for both successful students wanting to maintain their already strong academic standing and those having academic difficulties (learning.uwo.ca).

What will you gain from this role?
- Develop and enhance skills for interpersonal communication, help peers, obtain teaching and leadership experience.
- Gain exposure to and awareness of learning skills counselling issues.
- Enhance awareness of personal learning strategies.
- Attain personal satisfaction and growth from being involved in a helping capacity.
- Become proficient in using Zoom and Discord (if assisting in Virtual PAL).
- Receive feedback via a midterm and year-end performance review.
- Obtain recognition through Western’s Co-curricular Record.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Work 4 hours per week in the PAL Centre (hours will most likely be divided over two shifts).
- Attend initial training meetings and ongoing professional development meetings.
- Post on the Learning Peers’ OWL discussion forum weekly.
- Attend/review at least two LDS presentations in the fall term and read learning skills material (or watch videos) for professional development as required.
- Complete reflections periodically throughout the year. One reflection task may include goal setting.
- Participate in exam preparation events as needed during the year, outside of PAL Centre hours.
- Promote and maintain a welcoming atmosphere in the PAL Centre.
- When working individually with a student, listen to and understand the student’s questions and concerns (intellectual and emotional) and actively engage in problem solving with the student. (Examples of student questions/concerns: time management, test preparation and test taking, reading strategies, problem-solving, low grades, locating resources, understanding course concepts, etc.).
- Use collaborative strategies to promote learning communities.
• Discuss with supervisor any questions, difficulties, or problems.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:
• Undergraduate students with a strong interest in learning skills who have taken Physics 1028 and Physics 1029.
• Minimum 80% average in undergraduate courses (with a minimum of 80% in Physics 1028 & Physics 1029). NOTE: applicants must provide an up-to-date copy of their grade report with their application.
• Strong communication (attending, listening, speaking) and interpersonal skills.
• Good working knowledge of campus resources.
• Problem-solving abilities.
• Have a computer and stable connection to the internet that allows for videoconferencing (if assisting in Virtual PAL).

WESTERN PEER LEADER (WPL) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:
• Complete Level-1 training: WHMIS, Health & Safety, Safe Campus, AODA, Mental Health Interactive Learning, Intercultural Competence & Global Engagement, Gender-Based Violence
• Complete Confidentiality Agreement and Student Contract
• Student Feedback Forms (per term)

POSITION SPECIFICS:

TERM LENGTH:
One academic year, August 23, 2021 - April 30, 2022

TIME COMMITMENT:
• 4 hours per week (working in the PAL Centre helping students).
• Approximately 10 hours of LDS training in late August/early September.
• Approximately 3-4 hours per month of professional development with LDS.
• Human Resources online training modules:
  - WHMIS (60-90 min)
  - Health & Safety (45-60 min)
  - Safe Campus (30 min)
  - AODA (45-60 min)
• Mental Health Interactive Learning Module (30 min)
• Intercultural Competence & Global Engagement Module (30 min)
• Gender-Based Violence Module (30 min)

** No commitments during December/April exam periods or the Fall/Winter Reading Weeks.

REPORTS TO:
Learning Development & Success PAL Centre Supervisors.

Application Method:
Login to Western Connect, and navigate to the Western Peer Leader posting boards to find this job posting and instructions on how to apply (ex. Uploading/emailing required application documents or redirecting to the Working at Western website).
**Western Values Diversity:**
The University invites applications from all qualified individuals. Western is committed to employment equity and diversity in the workplace and welcomes applications from women, members of racialized groups/visible minorities, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of any sexual orientation, and persons of any gender identity or gender expression. Accommodations are available for applicants with disabilities throughout the recruitment process. If you require accommodations for interviews or other meetings, please contact our Administrative Officer at ralary@uwo.ca or phone 519.661.1111 (89081).