Graduate Specialist Program

New Brunswick Libraries

Overview

The New Brunswick Libraries (NBL) Graduate Specialist Program provides opportunities for Rutgers–New Brunswick graduate students to use and develop their skills in a variety of methodologies while working with the Libraries to deliver consulting, workshops, and training.

NBL hires Graduate Specialists to provide support to researchers in topics and methods of growing importance in the scholarly world. Graduate Specialists help the Libraries to expand the range of services offered by bringing advanced skillsets in the latest research methods and tools. Additionally, the Graduate Specialist Program helps the graduate students by giving them a place to prove and hone their skills by bringing services to researchers, gaining significant marketable experience along the way.

The Graduate Specialist Program is strongly and actively committed to diversity and antiracism, and seeks to hire students who will engage with diverse audiences and contribute creatively to the University's multicultural environment. We follow the University's non-discrimination policy.

As of Fall 2022, the New Brunswick Libraries have had several Graduate Specialist positions: Diversity in Data (2), Digital Humanities (1), Data Science (2), Qualitative Methods (1). Graduate Specialists earn $25 per hour.

For more information on the program, see https://libguides.rutgers.edu/graduatespecialist.
The positions advertised in the following document are for **one Digital Humanities and Social Sciences (DHSS) Graduate Specialist**, **two Data Science Graduate Specialists**, and **one Diversity in Data Graduate Specialist**.

Data Science Graduate Specialist (two positions)

As part of its Graduate Specialist program, the Rutgers New Brunswick Libraries seek two **Data Science Graduate Specialists** to provide instruction and consultation in data analytics tools and methods. It is expected that the Data Science Graduate Specialists will develop and deliver workshops, hold virtual office hours, and provide e-mail help to the Rutgers community on their areas of expertise. For Fall 2022, this work will be primarily online, but may include some in-person workshops and consultations.

The first position will focus on statistical programming methods in data science, ranging from introductory methods through machine learning techniques. Python is the primary language in demand, but R or other analytics tools can be explored, depending on the interests and skills of the Graduate Specialist. This position will work under the supervision of the Data Librarian to develop a program for service and outreach.

The second position will provide instruction in the use of free or widely available tools to clean, analyze, and visualize data, providing content that is accessible to a general audience that may not have coding skills. The specific tools supported will depend on the expertise of the Graduate Specialist selected; some examples of tools are OpenRefine, Excel, MySQL, and Tableau. This position will work under the supervision of the Chemistry & Physics Librarian/Science Data Specialist to develop a program for service and outreach.

Requirements

Successful applicants will be highly motivated individuals with a strong interest in data science and instruction. Both positions require strong knowledge of data analysis and data visualization, as well as software and programming skills appropriate to the position (such as Python or Tableau). Experience in providing instruction to students of various skill levels is preferred. Intellectual curiosity and strong interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for learning, are required qualifications for this position, as well as consistent availability for 8-12 hours per week of work during the semester.

Eligibility

These positions are open to current Rutgers–New Brunswick graduate students in relevant disciplines who are eligible for on-campus employment. Students with full-time enrollment status are preferred.

Compensation

These are one-semester, 10-hours-per-week positions paid at an hourly rate of $25.00. The term of employment is September 5, 2022, to December 16, 2022 (15 weeks). Contingent on funding and performance, the positions may be available to continue into the next academic year.

Application Process

Please submit the following materials via e-mail to Charlene Houser at charlene.houser@rutgers.edu
  • Resume or Curriculum Vitae

- Cover Letter describing you meet the requirements for the position; contributions you can make to this position and the New Brunswick Libraries; and how this position will advance your academic goals.
- Names and contact information for two (2) references

First consideration will be given to applications received by **August 15, 2022**. You may apply for both positions with one application – if doing so, please explain in your cover letter your interests and qualifications for each aspect.

For questions regarding the Data Science Graduate Specialist positions, please contact Ryan Womack (Data Librarian) at rwomack@rutgers.edu or Laura Palumbo (Science Data Specialist and Chemistry/Physics Librarian) at laura.palumbo@rutgers.edu. See libguides.rutgers.edu/graduatespecialist *for information about the Graduate Specialist Program, including workshops and guides developed by past graduate specialists.*

Digital Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Specialist

The New Brunswick Libraries seek a Digital Humanities and Social Sciences (DHSS) Graduate Specialist to support the Libraries' digital humanities teaching and outreach. Digital Humanities describes any application of computers in the humanities, and often involves methods adapted from the social sciences. The DHSS Graduate Specialist will work on activities tailored to his or her research interests and skills, while acquiring a general understanding of digital humanities work at a major research university.

Reporting to the Digital Humanities Librarian in Alexander Library, the DHSS Graduate Specialist will develop an agenda of activities that will include teaching workshops and providing consultations on various forms of digital work. Some examples of approaches and methods that have been taught in previous semesters: spatial approaches in the humanities, gathering and organizing data according to "tidy data" principles, computational text analysis, web scraping, digital collection and exhibit building, and web publishing. The DHSS Graduate Specialist is encouraged to have a strong interest in a particular area that they may already be pursuing or plan to pursue.

Requirements

Successful applicants will be highly motivated individuals with a strong interest in digital humanities work within an academic or GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) setting. Knowledge of one or more digital humanities research methodologies is required. Experience in providing instruction to students of various skill levels is preferred. Intellectual curiosity and strong interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for learning, are important qualifications for this position, as well as consistent availability for 8-12 hours per week of work during the semester.

Eligibility

The position is open to current Rutgers–New Brunswick graduate students in a humanities or social science field who are eligible for on-campus employment. Students with full-time enrollment status are preferred.

Compensation

This is a one-semester, 10-hours-per-week position paid at an hourly rate of $25.00. The term of employment is September 5, 2022, to December 16, 2021 (15 weeks).

Application Process

Please submit the following materials via e-mail to Charlene Houser at charlene.houser@rutgers.edu
- Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- Cover letter describing how you meet the requirements for the position; contributions you can make to this position and to the New Brunswick Libraries; and how this position will advance your academic goals
- Names and contact information for two (2) references

First consideration will be given to applications received by **August 15, 2021**.

For questions regarding the Digital Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Specialist position, please contact Francesca Giannetti, Digital Humanities Librarian, at francesca.giannetti@rutgers.edu.

Diversity in Data Graduate Specialist

The New Brunswick Libraries seek a **Diversity in Data Science Graduate Specialist** to investigate issues of diversity relating to data science and present on their findings to the Rutgers Community. Specifically, they will use cultural heritage material to paint a picture of women, children, and local populations through topic mapping and other neural networking techniques. The work location will follow current Rutgers COVID guidelines, which currently require work to be done on-site. It is anticipated that we will hire one Specialist, who will work approximately ten hours per week for one semester. Outcomes include presenting at one or more workshops on their findings and make available summaries.

This position provides an opportunity for the graduate specialist to conduct independent investigation of data practices that reflect systemic racism, unconscious bias, distortion and marginalization of underrepresented groups, best practices to overcome these problems, and similar topics. A few examples of this kind of work are *Data Capitalism and Algorithmic Racism* by Yeshimabeit Milner and Amy Traub, *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code* by Ruha Benjamin, and *Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* by Caroline Criado Perez. This position will work under the supervision of two research partners, the director of the Office of Advanced Research Computing and associate director New Brunswick Libraries, head of Special Collections and University Archives. Together they will develop an agenda for research and presentations.

Potential topics could include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Authorship in historical records or literary texts. Data scientists talk about the 'bag of words' into which all texts have to be chopped up for NLP and data science analysis. But humanities scholars often need to know either who is saying those words, or where they occur in the narrative (e.g. it often matters whether words are being spoken at the beginning or end of a novel, or whether the characters speaking them are friends or enemies).
- Discovering less heard voices in archival documents, such as women, children, non-western people in documents in English.

Requirements

Successful applicants will be highly motivated individuals with AI/machine learning knowledge and a strong interest in data issues relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Intellectual curiosity and strong interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for learning, are required qualifications for this position.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be full-time graduate students in Rutgers University and expect to graduate no sooner than December 2022.
- Available to work approximately 10 hours per week during the semester
- Special consideration will be given to students in the library or information-science tracks with a variety of academic and work experience.

This position is open to Rutgers University graduate students in relevant disciplines who are eligible for on-campus employment.

Compensation

This 10-hours-per-week position paid at an hourly rate of $25.00 for the Fall 2022 semester. Contingent on funding and performance, the position may be available to continue into the next semester.

Application Process

To apply, please provide the following materials: a cover letter describing your interest in the opportunity, and a resume/CV to Barr von Oehsen at barr.vonoehsen@rutgers.edu and Sonia Yaco at sonia.yaco@rutgers.edu.