



DEAD SEA SCROLLS INSTITUTE

Call for Research Assistant Applications

Dr. Andrew Perrin, Director of the Trinity Western University Dead Sea Scrolls Institute, seeks applications for a graduate Research Assistant position for the 2018/19 academic year.

With an expanding profile of projects and planned events oriented around the Qumran Aramaic texts, applicants will be integrated into a research team advancing and implementing an ambitious research program. Current projects include a SSHRC funded commentary on a cross-section of Aramaic texts for the Eerdmans Commentaries on the Dead Sea Scrolls series as well as a volume on the formation and growth of Daniel texts and traditions for Brill's Supplements to Vetus Testamentum series.

Position: As an increasingly collaborative research unit, it is anticipated that applicants will not only contribute to the research foundation of larger projects through hourly paid work but will also develop thesis projects of mutual interest to qualify for a scholarship. As such, the first year of the position involves up to \$5000 of paid hourly work (approximately 8-10 hours per week). Upon successful review of the first year and identification of an appropriate topic related to the themes of the research unit, an offer may be made for year two involving \$4000 of paid hourly work (approximately 6-8 hours per week) and a \$2000 scholarship to enable thesis research and writing. Additional funds are also available to support at least one conference paper presentation on the outcomes of either paid research projects or the student's thesis. Assistants will benefit from shared office space and resources in the Dead Sea Scroll Institute.

Given the position's integration with thesis outcomes, preference will be given to applicants who are commencing studies in the M.A. Biblical Studies program. For information and application procedures for that program, please contact Dr. Craig Allert (allert@twu.ca).

Duties: Specific Research Assistant tasks will be determined upon taking up the position. Between projects and events, it is expected that duties will entail a combination of the following.

- Undertaking textual analysis of materials using published text editions, grammatically tagged software, and digital image plates for fragment/scroll reconstructions.
- Collating information and data related to variations between manuscripts among the Dead Sea Scrolls and later known witnesses.
- Developing bibliographic lists and annotations of secondary source research.
- Writing contributions to conference papers, articles, or focused content for books.
- Assisting with editorial duties related to publications (e.g., indexing and copyediting).
- Assisting with planning, communications, and delivery of lecture series delivered on campus and mobilized online.
- Disseminating research outcomes at select conferences and through social media.

Proficiencies: To succeed in the above listed duties, applicants should have demonstrable expertise and experience in some or all of the following areas.

- Languages: A strong background in at least two biblical languages as established in previous coursework is required (i.e., some combination of Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic). Note that having some command of Aramaic at the outset is an asset. Alternatively, Aramaic is typically offered at the graduate level and may be taken as an elective.
- Software: Familiarity with using Accordance Bible Software as a research tool. Experience with image and video editing software in Adobe Creative Suite is an asset. Assistants must also be comfortable in working in multi-lingual word processors using SBL Unicode fonts.
- Event planning and delivery: Demonstrated experience in planning academic, corporate, or private events is an asset. Applicants should be able to communicate professionally and liaise with both campus departments and external parties.
- Communication: All applicants should have strong research skills and the ability to communicate findings clearly in both speech and writing. Professionalism and experience in social media communications is also a benefit (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogs).
- Work Habits: Successful applicants work well within a team yet can take direction to complete tasks independently, are detail-oriented and excel in projects with deadlines, and have a track record of prioritizing part-time work in an often complex school-life schedule.

Application Process: Applications should be submitted to both Dr. Perrin (andrew.perrin@twu.ca) and Jocelyn Chapman (jocelyn.chapman@twu.ca) by March 31, 2018. Application dossiers will also be considered for the annual Dead Sea Scrolls Legacy Scholarship (\$500-700). Note also that a separate application must be made to the M.A. Biblical Studies program. Only complete applications of the following will be considered:

- A complete and current curriculum vitae.
- A letter of application that addresses the above duties/proficiencies and includes a statement of interest in Dead Sea Scrolls research.
- Two letters of reference from recent academic advisors or instructors.
- Unofficial transcripts from previous degree programs.