

Dear future tutors,

Congratulations on your new positions at the Writing Centre. We are so delighted to have you be a part of our team! I hope this position treats you as well as it did all of us. I can't wait to hear about your experiences in the place I always thought of as my home away from home :)

Like many of us, I found it difficult to navigate outside my design cohort until I landed here. I've learnt so much from my colleagues and tutees — all the way from writing tips, to sharing our unique interests, and even starting our own little DnD campaign! You'll never have to worry about feeling left out, inadequate or anxious in this space. Everyone is here to help and learn from each other.

My favourite parts of the work included the readings and self-observation assignments. I encourage you to observe the way you work with different kinds of assignments and personalities. How do you change the way you act or the things you say? Reflecting on your experiences, combined with the knowledge from the readings, can help your tutoring journey immensely.

Also, please take care of yourself and put your health first. Tutoring is about shared experiences, so taking care of yourself is incredibly important. Use the break room to take a nap, or have some tea from the cabinets. Sharing snacks during meetings can go a long way too.

Have fun with this work and make the most of the lovely faces around you. Hopefully, I can meet all of you soon!

Good luck,
Janani Ramesh

Dear Future Tutors,

I hope you end up loving this job just as much as I do. I hope you grow from this experience and connect with many different kinds of writers, and people. And, I hope you learn more about yourself through the process of tutoring.

There is not one way to be a good tutor but, from my experience as a tutor and as someone being tutored, compassion and understanding are key. Many writers, regardless of their experience, are terrified when it comes to sharing their work and often diminish the value of their written words. These writers are here to improve their work, but more importantly they are here to feel confident and excited about writing.

Being a tutor at the Writing Centre is about knowing writing, but it's also about knowing people. This is a safe space to share ideas and grow. This is a space of confusion, clarity, frustration, joy, and above all, learning. As a tutor, you will learn just as much as you teach. It is important to remain open and receptive to everyone.

We are here not to help write good papers (though we help with that too); we are here to help create better writers. Writers who are courageous, passionate, and see writing as a tool for good, not something to be feared.

You are here because you love writing and you love helping others. So, I know that you will do a great job at making people feel welcome and help people become the best writers they can be!

Happy Tutoring!

-Vee

Dear future tutors,

Welcome to a wonderful job, and an amazing team!

I first started at the Writing Centre in 2014. I've had the experience and privilege of seeing the WC grow, develop new programs, and even move campus into our current lovely centre. What *hasn't* changed in that time is the dedication and enthusiasm of the people who work here, and the ongoing commitment to furthering our knowledge and skills in the areas of tutoring, writing, reading, pedagogy, and learning in general. And though every appointment is unique, the other thing that hasn't changed is the sense of fulfillment that comes from helping a student with their writing process.

This has been one of my favourite aspects of this job: seeing a student get back on track, helping rekindle their enthusiasm and find their voice. This is endlessly rewarding. You'll find the WC is a place for you to find your own voice, as well—to bring your individual strengths to the work you do.

Don't be afraid to look for support as you start tutoring (or anywhere down the line). One of the most helpful lessons I learned, which was imparted to me from the beginning, is that you don't have to be an expert. Many new tutors are worried that they must always have an answer to everything, or the student won't respect them. However, this is the beauty of being a peer tutor: we are not here to have all the answers and to tell the student what to do. Our ideal goal is helping the student find their own power and direction, and helping them grow as writers, in a way that extends beyond one single assignment.

I just want to offer a big congratulations on joining the team! For many of us that have worked here, it's been the best job we've ever had. I hope that you love it as much as I have!

All my best,

Faolan

HELLO FUTURE TUTORS,

Well that was maybe a bit too excited. But trust me, getting into the Writing Centre was the most exciting part of my undergrad life. This was where I really connected to a community of like-minded people, and learned valuable lessons about working with people.

This is not a typical job, I think, and all of my friends have said the same. Every week I find myself eager to hop on the bus and get to school a bit earlier than my other classmates, because we usually have the Writing Centre meeting in the morning. We go to lengths of academic texts and sometimes even graphic novel pages with each other. We write and express the things that we are most passionate about to share with one another. Somehow, a weekly meeting becomes a bulk of amazing conversations in which I, and hopefully you too, find extremely fascinating.

My favourite part about this job is our devotion to community work, in a range of our activities. Tutoring is a job that you could possibly get used to after a while, but here at the Writing Centre we are constantly working to better our tutoring process. Being the middle-point between students and faculty, we work on how to better accommodate students in the assignments that change over the years, as well as communicating certain needs to the faculty department. Another part I like is the open house days that we've started doing. As someone who bounces around different departments in the school, I find days like that very rare in Emily Carr. The ones hosted at the Writing Centre are such perfect opportunities to meet fellow students, get a sugar rush, and do many more communal activities.

And overall, the best thing about being here is feedback. You can always get feedback from someone on whatever you're doing. The best projects I've done at this school have been made possible by the tutors here, regardless of the work being writing or not. Everyone here gives such wonderful comments that are helpful for both my professional and emotional development. This will be something I miss a lot moving forward.

I hope all of these parts make you feel a bit more excited coming into this job. Aside from tutoring and learning, we eat a lot. Jacqueline makes a wonderful salad, Heather's cake is just lovely, Thu cooks amazing and beautiful food, Dani's pie is hella great, Ellen's quiche is.....I have no words, and Vincent's food is so eye-candy! Don't know who I'm talking about? You'll find out soon enough! :)

Take care. Hopefully we'll meet at the Writing Centre Christmas party!

June

Hi folks,

I was told that this would be a letter to new tutors so congratulations on your new position! It must have been nerve-racking making it through the hiring process, but you're gonna ease into this position in no time.

That being said, I think it's only realistic to expect that it's not going to be smooth sailing all the time. Tutoring requires a great deal of effort to harmonize one's intellectuality and compassion; oftentimes, one will overpower the other. What surprises me most about working at the Writing Centre is that everytime I think I've got the hang of tutoring, we have a new case study (or several case studies) to discuss at the weekly meeting. I'm constantly amazed by the intellectual and artistic inspiration I find in my peers and can never be too proud of myself in this learning process.

In that process, I found myself part of a close-knitted community, one that I can always fall back on. For the first time at a workplace, I am not told that I'm "too quiet" and was allowed proper space to process information and emotion. This new experience somehow seeped into both my tutoring method and the way in which I carry myself on this foreign land. Compassion was never explained to me in the Writing Centre, but I found solace in this space and was able to extend it to others. I realized that I don't have to compromise my intellectuality in order to make room for compassion (I'm not joking; a tutor once asked me that if I was half animal what I would be, right after I was done critiquing performative multicultural policies with another tutor). So yes, this is a plug — expect a lot in the Writing Centre.

I hope this letter finds you well and that you're still finding time to celebrate your achievement in these trying times. Hopefully this will pass soon enough and we will be able to meet in an actual, physical space so that we can properly discuss what matters most: what half animal you would be and your thoughts on performative multicultural policies (and also tutoring).

Until then, stay safe!

Thu