Since 1878, Western University has been committed to serving our communities through the pursuit of academic excellence and by providing students, faculty, and community members with life-long opportunities for intellectual, social, and cultural growth. We seek excellent students, faculty, and staff to join us in what has become known as the “Western Experience” - an opportunity to contribute to a better world through the development of new knowledge, new abilities, new connections, and new ways to make a difference.

Western’s Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) leads system-wide change required to advance truth and reconciliation efforts, achieve equitable outcomes for Indigenous peoples, and implement Western’s ISP. The Office is committed to building and strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities locally, provincially, nationally and internationally, and fostering an academic environment where all students, staff, faculty and community members experience the University as a welcoming, supportive, culturally-safe environment in which Indigenous languages, ways of knowing, being, and doing are respected and supported.

Responsibilities
The Communications Specialist will:
• play a vital role in advancing Indigenous strategic directions across the University, with responsibility for carrying out a variety of communications functions and processes
• support the development of communications strategies and initiatives, with an emphasis on strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities
• support the articulation and promotion of Indigenous strategic directions at Western, through the design, creation, and management of communications and marketing efforts to enhance Western’s brand and reputation as a leader in Indigenous education locally, nationally, and internationally
• provide professional advice and guidance regarding the development of effective communication plans and related projects that are consistent with relevant University guidelines

Qualifications

Education:
- Undergraduate Degree in Journalism, Media Relations, Communications, Indigenous Studies or other related field

Experience:
- 3 years' experience in a communications or marketing role supporting Indigenous initiatives or students
- Experience building relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations is preferred
- Experience in a post-secondary environment is preferred
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:
- Knowledge of Indigenous communities including First Nations’ governance structures and processes, and of Indigenous ways of knowing and perspectives
- Knowledge of culturally responsive and appropriate communications and marketing best practices, processes, trends, and tools
- Indigenous cultural competency with an ability to interact and work effectively with people from different cultures and backgrounds
- Compelling and persuasive communication skills to engage individuals and teams inside and outside the University
- Ability to analyze metrics and consider past communications to craft engaging written communications using social media or other appropriate channels
- Ability to apply creativity and recommend strategies for engagement initiatives in response to cultural and social trends
- Innovative and flexible critical thinking skills to adjust to and implement new processes or technology to the University’s advantage
- Discretion, tact and maturity to deal with public relations issues related to higher education
- Proven ability to build both formal and informal professional relationships within, across, and external to organizational boundaries
- Ability to work independently and effectively as a member of the team to achieve departmental goals

As a member of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, the Communications Specialist will be a champion of Indigenous strategic direction, strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities, and foster an environment in which Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing are respected and supported. In service of these efforts, the successful candidate will possess demonstrated experience in supporting and working with Indigenous populations, and preference will be given to candidates who have lived experience as a member of the Indigenous community.

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 Human Resources at hrhelp@uwo.ca or phone 519-661-2194.

To apply, please visit posting 21754 at www.workingatwestern.uwo.ca. Applications are currently being accepted until May 24, 2021.