The International Pharmacy Graduate (IPG) program is a unique bridging program designed to prepare IPGs to meet entry to practice competencies in Ontario. The program provides participants with access to university-based courses delivered by an experienced and committed team of instructors and staff. Course modules cover pharmacy-specific areas (such as therapeutics, pharmacy practice, health care systems, drug information, etc.), as well as communication skills and cultural competence. The program is delivered in two models – entirely classroom based and a blended model (online and classroom). The program is in the midst of renewal to align with changes in the pharmacy environment. We are seeking CTAs for the following courses:

**Professional Practice Labs**

The professional practice labs (PPLs) provide learners with an opportunity to apply their knowledge of laws governing pharmacy practice in Ontario. These labs help cultivate the skills required to practice pharmaceutical care and provide medication therapy management. Learners apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to patient cases, professional documentation, verbal communication, drug information, and the technical and legal aspects of pharmacy practice. Learners also practice receiving and dispensing prescriptions in a simulated dispensary setting.

**Patient Counselling Skills**

**CPS I**

The Patient Counselling Skills course introduces learners to various sections of the patient interview including: an interview framework; a profession-specific language; a template for patient counselling/education; a background in professional communication; and a skill set for identifying and resolving drug-therapy problems. Fulfilling these outcomes will require assimilating material from other CPS modules such as Therapeutics, Drug Information, Communication Skills and the Language of Patient Counselling. Learners will hone their counselling skills by participating in a variety of role-plays.

**CPS II**

In CPS II learners will learn to become more proficient communicators. Learners will transition from the basic interview taught in CPS I to patient scenarios of a more complex nature that reflects pharmacy practice. The CPS II role-plays require the learner to use the techniques taught in the LPC and Communication Skills modules,
but with the goal of developing a more flexible interviewing style. As in CPS I, the purpose of the PC skills role-plays is to provide learners with practice in the core pharmaceutical care skills of gathering information, identifying drug therapy problem(s)(DTPs), developing option and management strategies, educating patients and providing follow-up to patients as one would in actual practice. In the CPS II role-plays, learners are also expected to demonstrate flexibility in the methods they use to solve the patient’s chief complaint and have the ability to manage a variety of patient situations they may encounter in practice.

**Clinical Teaching Assistant’s Responsibilities:**

As a Clinical Teaching Assistant in PPL, you will be responsible for assisting in lab set-up, supporting and assessing learners in various PPL workstations, and providing written and verbal student feedback.

As a Clinical Teaching Assistant in PC Skills, you will be responsible for assessing learners during role-plays, acting as a patient, offering verbal and written feedback focusing on communication skills and/or therapeutics, reviewing role-play materials prior to sessions, attending standardization meetings, facilitating online role-plays, and leading therapeutic discussions following role-plays.

The Clinical Teaching Assistant may work in either PPL and/or PC Skills and is expected to collaborate with other CTAs and course coordinators as well as attend a mandatory CTA training session(s). The Clinical Teaching Assistant must demonstrate the ability to work effectively within a team environment as well as have superior communication and organizational skills.

The estimated time commitment for PPL onsite is 5 hours every other week per session with most activities occurring on Tuesday afternoons. There are usually 5 lab sessions per term. The estimated time commitment for PC Skills onsite is 5 hours every week per session with activities occurring on Thursday (spring, summer and fall terms) or Friday (winter terms) afternoons.

The estimated time commitment for online class varies. Activities for online sessions occur over a variety of days. Some activities for the online sessions take place online via Skype. CTAs must have onsite experience with the program before participating in any online sessions.

**Candidate qualifications - Education:** Applicants must be a Registered Pharmacist (Part A) with the Ontario College of Pharmacists and have current experience in a community pharmacy setting in Ontario.

**Contact Info**

Interested applicants should email a current resume or CV, in confidence, to: Kenny Chong at kenneth.chong@utoronto.ca

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