



Research Assistant Position

Posting date: November 21, 2025

Closing date: November 29, 2025

The Faculty of Law, Queen's University, requests applications from suitably qualified JD students interested in a Research Assistant ("RA") position working with **Professor Virginia Torrie**.

Description:

The research project draws together prior research on small farm insolvency procedures in Canada to develop a high-level policy framework for resolving small farm financial distress in emerging economies. The project reconceives of farm insolvency as a component part of economic development, rather than a standalone legal process. Micro and small enterprises form a significant part of the economies of many developing countries, yet there are few insolvency laws tailored to these business types. International organizations like UNCITRAL and the World Bank have published recommendations, but so far there is no model framework for insolvencies of this business class.

The RA work will consist of literature reviews and adaptation of historical examples to assist in the development of the model framework, as well as assistance with drafting up the proposal in the form of a journal article. This project offers a JD student hands-on experience in comparative legal research, policy analysis, and academic writing. It will deepen their understanding of insolvency law, international development, and the role of legal frameworks in addressing systemic economic challenges.

If you have any questions about the work involved, please contact **Professor Virginia Torrie** at virginia.torrie@queensu.ca

Qualifications:

Second- or third-year JD student with excellent legal research and writing skills, strong attention to detail, and a keen interest in the research project.

The work will be done remotely with regular meetings/touchpoints over Teams or Zoom. RAs must have access to high-speed internet and a computer that meets minimum requirements. All work can be completed during the regular 9-5 work week, but candidates may work outside of that time frame if they prefer.

Length of contract: January 5, 2026, to March 25, 2026

Hours per week: 8 hours on average based on specific project tasks and deadlines over 12 weeks.

Hourly Rate*: \$20/hour plus 4% vacation pay

Application Procedure

The University invites applications from all qualified individuals. Queen's is strongly committed to employment equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace and encourages applications from Black, racialized/visible minority and Indigenous/Aboriginal people, women, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQ+ persons. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority, including any qualified individuals who have a valid legal work status in Canada. Please indicate in your application if you have a valid legal work status in Canada. Applications from all qualified candidates will be considered in the applicant pool.

Interested applicants should submit the following materials:

- (1) a short statement indicating your interests and experience related to the research
- (2) a resume
- (3) an informal transcript from Queen's Law. Applicants can include undergraduate transcripts if relevant to the research, but this is not required. Transcripts can be unofficial (e.g. SOLUS pdf, etc.)
- (4) a writing sample
- (5) any other material the applicant deems relevant (e.g. if you wish, you can include the name of a reference).

Professor Virginia Torrie will follow up with applicants directly.

Please address applications to:

Diana Turner-Oke, Human Resources and Staffing Officer

Email: lawpositions@queensu.ca

The University will provide support in its recruitment processes to applicants with disabilities, including accommodation that takes into account an applicant's accessibility needs. If you require accommodation during the application process, please contact Diana Turner-Oke.

For additional details and information on the position, please contact:

Diana Turner-Oke, Human Resources and Staffing Officer

Faculty of Law, 128 Union Street

Kingston ON K7L 3N6

lawpositions@queensu.ca