

## Research Assistant Opportunity Casual Position

“Rethinking Texts and Recovering Contexts of the Dead Sea Scrolls”

**Position start date:** June 1, 2026. Possible earlier start date negotiable.

### Overview:

The Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS), initially discovered in 1947 but not fully published until the 2010s, represent one of the most significant manuscript and archaeological finds in recent history. These some 930 fragmentary manuscripts—written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek—have at once challenged, changed, and confirmed our understanding of ancient Judaism and Christian origins. All RA activities/duties (see below) contribute to an overarching research program addressing two critical questions centered on the new texts and contexts afforded by the scrolls:

1. How did ancient Jewish scribal communities inherit and innovate their sacred religious texts in complex and changing social, political, and cultural environments?
2. How do the DSS reshape our understanding of early Christian identities, thought, practices, and structures within their initial Jewish contexts?

Answering these questions requires multidisciplinary research and will result in broad impact across subdisciplines of religious studies. Findings also have relevance to deepening public understanding and dialogue on foundational topics for Western culture’s shared material, social, and historical heritage.

Applicants may wish to familiarize themselves with Dr. Andrew Perrin’s research in these areas by exploring:

- [www.andrewperrin.com](http://www.andrewperrin.com)
- [www.youtube.com/drandrewperrin](http://www.youtube.com/drandrewperrin)
- <https://pure.athabascau.ca/en/persons/andrew-perrin/>

### Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

The Graduate Research Assistant (GRA 1 – Master's Level) will support Dr. Andrew Perrin (Professor of Humanities, Athabasca University) in research development and knowledge mobilization across ongoing projects in Dead Sea Scrolls studies and digital humanities. Dr. Perrin will provide training, orientation, or resources relevant to duties below.

**Primary Duties:**

- Conduct bibliographic research in English-language print and electronic sources (books, articles, encyclopedias).
- Build and maintain an annotated, tagged bibliography using Zotero.
- Provide editorial support for written projects, including proofreading, source verification, style guide application, and bibliography preparation.
- Assist with production of short-form digital videos and/or podcasts for public engagement via YouTube.
- Contribute to the development and application of AI tools for potential digital humanities components of research activities.

**Required Qualifications:**

- Undergraduate degree (any discipline).
- Current enrollment in good standing in an Athabasca University graduate program (any discipline).
- Documented experience completing university-level research projects.
- Demonstrated experience in digital image, video, and audio production software (e.g., Adobe Photoshop; Adobe Premiere; CapCut; Studio One; or like tools).
- Ability to work independently, remotely, and in an organized manner to meet deadlines.
- Strong critical thinking, analytical reading, and written communication skills.

**Assets:**

- Coursework in ancient religions, biblical literature and/or languages, historical-critical methods, or artificial intelligence.
- Experience with Zotero for bibliographic management.
- Completion of research modules through the AU Faculty of Graduate Studies or Library.
- Experience developing or working with large language model AI tools and openness to innovating their deployment in humanities research.
- Experience communicating research to academic and non-specialist audiences (e.g., Graduate Research Conference, 3-Minute Thesis).
- Background in digital engagement or social media strategy.
- Prior experience in a Research Assistant role.

The successful candidate will receive mentorship and experience in multidisciplinary research, digital humanities, and creative open knowledge mobilization strategies.

Amount of total hours: up to 480 hours (contract end date March 31, 2027).

Anticipated average hours of work per week: 8-12 hours per week, dependent on project milestones and priorities.

Maximum hours per work per week: 12 hours per week. Additional hours may be negotiable, dependent on applicant interest, resource availability, and project progress.

Location: Virtual. Candidates may reside anywhere in Canada. Reliable internet access is required. Candidates must be available for periodic virtual meetings during regular business hours MST.



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### **How to apply:**

Qualified individuals are encouraged to submit their application by email to Dr. Perrin at [aperrin@athabascau.ca](mailto:aperrin@athabascau.ca). Applications should include (as a single PDF file):

- a brief cover letter that summarizes your qualifications, experience, and skills relative to the above position description;
- interests in the opportunity and how it relates to your academic journey and professional development;
- a current resume or curriculum vitae;
- an unofficial copy of your transcript;
- Two reference letters speaking to your relevant and recent experience.

Please submit your complete application by April 10, 2026, which is the date application review will commence. The call will be kept open until successful candidates are found. Only complete applications will be reviewed. All applicants are thanked for their interest in this position; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Athabasca University and the researchers are committed and seek to support equity in employment and research opportunities. We strongly encourage applications from Indigenous people, people of colour, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ people, women, and other historically marginalized groups. Applicants are welcome, but not required, to self-identify in their letter of application.

For more information on this Research Assistant opportunity, please contact Dr. Andrew Perrin via email at [aperrin@athabascau.ca](mailto:aperrin@athabascau.ca).

