

Student Internship



Faculty of Land and Food Systems
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Position Title: Shady Acre Farm Assistant

Background

Located on unceded Musqueam territory, the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (CSFS) is a unique research center that aims to understand and fundamentally transform local and global food systems towards a more sustainable, food secure future. The CSFS is a living laboratory committed to finding solutions to both local and global challenges facing food systems sustainability and translating solutions to improve personal, community, and environmental health.

The LFS Career Development Internship aims to engage UBC students with their local food system and create opportunities to experience the working environment of a food sustainability focused organization. Interns work alongside food system practitioners and faculty to increase their understanding and knowledge of food systems research, from organic agriculture to food production methods, food-focused community engagement, and business management.

Shady Acre Farm is a half-acre, small-scale farm in Richmond BC. Started in 2015 by a UBC Farm Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture alumni, the farm focuses on small-scale, mixed vegetables grown according to organic standards, in a way that is sustainable for the earth, the farmers and the community. Shady Acre Farm mixes the methods and experiences of an urban farm, relying mainly on hand-tools and human-labour, with access to an urban market, while also being on ALR land in an agricultural neighbourhood, thus providing both urban and non-urban farming experience. Shady Acre Farm markets vegetables predominantly through a 50-share Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) vegetable box program, as well as through a small farmer's market. Strong focus is placed on customer relations, resulting in a wide variety of vegetables being grown for sale.

This internship provides hands-on farming experience with a focus on harvesting and processing. There will be opportunities to participate in other activities, based on the intern's interest, including working at farmer's market, deliveries, crop planning, soil and fertility management, tool maintenance, customer relations, and CSA planning. The intern will gain practical skills in all aspects of farming in a small-scale operation, as well as opportunities to test new methods if desired. Mentorship will be provided around business planning and management.

Interns are expected to enroll in the Career Development Internship course (LFS 496 – 6 credits) in their respective programs. At the end of the 13-week program, students will be eligible to receive course credit towards their UBC degree.

Grounded in science. Global in scope.

ubcfarm.academic@ubc.ca

Tel: 604.822.5092, Fax: 604.822.3280, 2357 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4

www.landfood.ubc.ca/ubcfarm

STUDENT INTERNSHIP POSTING	DATE	PAGE NUMBER
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Duties

The Shady Acre Farm Assistant will work alongside the farm manager on the following tasks:

- Prepare farm for spring planting, including working with walk-behind BCS tractor
- Perform farm tasks such as crop planning, seeding, transplanting, post-harvest processing, packing, weeding, greenhouse plant maintenance, pruning, and fertility management
- Reach out to existing and potential customers using social media platforms and MailChimp
- Depending on the intern's interest, other tasks may include crop comparisons, water management, business planning, and market development.

Preferred Qualifications

- UBC student eligible for LFS 496.
- Interest in small-scale and/or organic farming practices
- Comfortable using social media and clear communication style
- Willingness to learn and desire to gain hands-on farming experience
- Ability to work independently in an efficient manner

Position Details

- May to August 2017
- 12-18 hours/week
- Flexible schedule to be determined with the candidate
- This is an unpaid, for credits, internship

How to apply

Along with your resume please write a brief letter (max. 500 words) outlining the following:

- Which internship position you are applying for
- Why you would like to do an internship
- What you hope to gain from such an experience or how you feel this experience would contribute to your overall learning and education at UBC
- Specific interests or areas that you would like to learn more about

Email:

Karly Pinch, Shady Acre Farm Manager
shadyacrefarm@gmail.com

- Acceptable formats include text (within the body of the email), Microsoft Word 2007 or earlier, or Adobe PDF
- Applications must be received no later than **March 5th 2017**
- Please no phone calls
- More information about the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm can be found at www.landfood.ubc.ca/ubcfarm