

# Student Internship



Faculty of Land and Food Systems  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

## **Position Title:** Organic Farm - Biodiversity & Orchard Intern

### **Background**

Located on unceded Musqueam territory, the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (CSFS) at UBC Farm 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 at UBC Farm 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 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 systems practitioners and faculty to increase their understanding and knowledge of food systems work, from organic agriculture to food production methods, food-focused community engagement, and business management.

Situated within a 90-year-old coastal hemlock forest, the UBC Farm comprises a mosaic of cultivated annual crop fields, perennial hedgerows and orchards, pasture, teaching gardens, and forest stands. The Biodiversity & Orchard Intern will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of farm management tasks including: updating and improving the UBC Farm hedgerow and forest ecosystems management, inventory, and mapping (e.g., agroforestry trail, wood lot blocks); developing and implementing recommendations to improve biodiversity on site; and assisting with the apple harvest (recording, quality control, and taste test).

Interns are expected to enroll in the Career Development Internship course (LFS 496) either:

- Twice: once from May to August 2018 (LFS 496 - 3 credits) and once again from September to December 2018 (LFS 496 – 3 credits), for a total of 26-week of internship focused on biodiversity and orchard management; or
- Once from May to August 2018 (LFS 496 - 3 or 6 credits) for a total of 13-week of internship focused on biodiversity management; or
- Once from September to December 2018 (LFS 496 – 3 or 6 credits) for a total of 13-week of internship focused on biodiversity management.

At the end of the 13-week or 26-week program, students will be eligible to receive course credit towards their UBC degree.

Grounded in science. Global in scope.

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## Duties

The Biodiversity & Orchard Intern will work alongside the UBC Farm team on the following tasks:

- Creating a data collection protocol for the inventory and mapping of the hedgerow system
- Developing a plant inventory of the current hedgerow system
- Creating a GIS Pro map of the hedgerow system
- Developing a set recommendations for the hedgerow system
- Creating a proposal for the naturalization of the wood lot blocks
- Developing a set of suggestions to improve the agroforestry trails
- Harvest the 65 varieties of apples
- Collect all data related to harvest and grading of apples
- Enter data in records at the end of the term
- Assist with other various orchard maintenance tasks

## Preferred Qualifications

- UBC student eligible for LFS 496.
- Basic plant identification skill (APBI/BIOLOG 324 an asset)
- Capable of using Excel to collect and organize data
- Comfortable learning new software (experienced with GIS Pro an asset)
- Willingness to learn and desire to gain experience
- Ability to work both in a team and individually setting
- Capable to work fast while staying detailed-oriented

## Position Details

- May to December, May to August, or September to December 2018
- 6-9 hours per week (if interested in 3 credits/semester); 12-18 hours per week (if interested in 6 credits/semester)
- Flexible schedule to be determined with the candidate
- This is an unpaid, for credits, internship

## How to apply

- Apply by submitting one Adobe PDF document combining a cover letter and résumé.
- The cover letter should be maximum 500 words, state which internship position you are applying for, and 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
- **Email:** Mel Sylvestre, [sylvestre.melanie@ubc.ca](mailto:sylvestre.melanie@ubc.ca)
- All applications should clearly refer to "Career Development Internship"
- Applications received by **January 30<sup>th</sup> 2018** will receive priority consideration, but the position will remain open until filled.
- 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](http://www.landfood.ubc.ca/ubcfarm)