

Student Internship



Faculty of Land and Food Systems
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Position Title: Agroecosystem Biodiversity Monitoring 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 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 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, pastures, teaching gardens, and forest stands. The Biodiversity Monitoring Intern will assist a team of CSFS researchers to develop a long-term biodiversity monitoring plan that will allow researchers and UBC Farm staff to better understand how farm management affects agricultural biodiversity and related ecosystem services at the UBC Farm. The intern will assist in planning and completing pilot biodiversity monitoring activities, creating practical data collection techniques and templates, and gathering historical biodiversity data from the UBC Farm. The selected intern will gain skills in agroecology, biodiversity monitoring, species identification, and data collection and analysis.

Interns are expected to enroll in the Career Development Internship course (LFS 496 - 3 credits) twice: once in the Summer semester and once in Winter 1 semester. At the end of the 26-week program, students will be eligible to receive course credit towards their UBC degree.

Duties

The Agroecosystem Biodiversity Monitoring Intern will work alongside the CSFS research and staff team on the following tasks:

- Help plan biodiversity monitoring activities for the growing season
- Help create preliminary biodiversity data collection protocols
- Test and pilot biodiversity monitoring protocols and field methods
- Develop data collection templates for field data collection

Grounded in science. Global in scope.

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- Gather and organize historical biodiversity data from the UBC Farm
- Help create species identification guides for common and important species groups
- Reflect on information gathered during the season and provide recommendations

Preferred Qualifications

- UBC student eligible for LFS 496
- Basic biodiversity/agroecology knowledge (e.g., APBI260/342/360, BIOL317/404/411)
- Capable of using Excel to collect and organize data
- Ability to deliver quality, detail-oriented work on time
- Ability to work both in a team and individual setting
- Willingness to learn and desire to gain research experience
- Willingness to work outside in a variety of weather conditions

Position Details

- May to December 2018
- 6-9 hours per week
- 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:** Matthew Mitchell, matthew.mitchell@ubc.ca
- All applications should clearly refer to "Career Development Internship"
- Applications received by **February 16th 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 and more information about the history of TEGS can be found at <https://thinkeatgreen.ca/>.