

# Student Internship



Faculty of Land and Food Systems  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Centre for Sustainable Food System

## Position Title: Organic Farm - Seed Saving 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.

Managed by the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, 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.

Seeds are an integral part of our agricultural system. Locally grown seeds can address key aspects of sustainable agriculture such as regional seed adaptation and seed system sovereignty. The UBC Farm Seed Hub was created in 2012 to explore seed production at the UBC Farm. The project has now evolved beyond production to include plant breeding activities, teaching and research. The Seed Saving Intern will have the opportunity to engage with and learn about the entire seed saving enterprise and process. Specifically, the Intern will assist the UBC Farm team in the field, when harvesting, threshing and cleaning the various seed lots. The Intern will also assess the seed lots by performing germination tests, analyzing results, and if necessary, updating the procedures in place. This is a unique opportunity to engage in the evolving field of seed saving and seed security in British Columbia. Not only will the Intern learn the ins and outs of being a seed steward, but will be able to develop the data collection, field work, and team building skills.

Interns are expected to enroll in the Career Development Internship course (LFS 496 - 3 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.

### Duties

The Seed Saving Intern will work alongside the farm supervisor and other farm staff on the following tasks:

- Harvest seed crops

Grounded in science. Global in scope.

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- Assist with drying and organizing the drying space
- Thresh and winnow the various seed crops
- Perform final cleaning on seed crops
- Perform seed lot assessment to determine purity
- Perform germination test on all seed lots
- Update the protocol for seed germination as needed

### Preferred Qualifications

- UBC student eligible for LFS 496.
- Basic knowledge of food production (seed production an asset)
- Basic knowledge of plant genetic (APBI 328 an asset)
- 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 individually setting
- Willingness to learn and desire to gain research experience

### Position Details

- September to December
- 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:** Mel Sylvestre, [sylvestre.melanie@ubc.ca](mailto:sylvestre.melanie@ubc.ca)
- All applications should clearly refer to "Career Development Internship"
- Applications received by **March 1st 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)