LFS 496 Career Development

Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Position Title: Agroecosystem Biodiversity Monitoring

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 Land & Food Systems Career Development Course aims to engage UBC students with their local food system and create opportunities to experience the working environment of a food sustainability focused organization. Students 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 Agroecosystem Biodiversity Monitoring Student will assist a team of CSFS researchers to conduct a long-term biodiversity monitoring program at the UBC Farm. The student will primarily assist in planning and completing biodiversity monitoring activities, including capturing and identifying bumble bees, collecting earthworms, performing plant and weed surveys, monitoring for amphibians and reptiles, and completing automated monitoring for birds, bats, and mammals (remote microphone and camera setup, maintenance, and download). The student will also assist with diversity data collection, data management, and communication of biodiversity monitoring activities and results to farm staff, farm visitors, and the general public, especially through social media channels. The selected student will gain skills in agroecology, biodiversity monitoring, species identification, data collection and analysis, project/time management, and science communication.

Students are expected to enroll in the Career Development Course (LFS 496 - 6 credits) in their respective programs. At the end of the 13 or 26-week program, students will be eligible to receive course credit towards their UBC degree.
Duties
The Agroecosystem Biodiversity Monitoring Student will work alongside the CSFS research and staff team on the following tasks:

- Assist in planning and completing biodiversity monitoring activities for bumblebees, vascular plants and weeds, earthworms, forest plants, amphibians, mammals, birds, and bats
- Help implement and improve current biodiversity data collection protocols
- Collect field data accurately and complete prompt data entry into an electronic database
- Communicate with farm staff and public visitors about monitoring activities
- Use various social media channels to communicate biodiversity monitoring activities
- Reflect on activities completed during the season and provide recommendations for improvement of the biodiversity monitoring program

Preferred Qualifications

- UBC student eligible for LFS 496
- Basic biodiversity/agroecology knowledge (e.g., APBI 260/342/360, BIOL 317/404/411)
- Ability to deliver quality, detail-oriented work on time
- Ability to work both in a team and individual setting
- Ability to manage time and plan/complete work independently
- Capable of using Excel to collect and organize data
- Willingness to learn and desire to gain research experience
- Willingness to work outside in a variety of weather conditions

Position Details

- May to August or May to December, depending on availability
- Number of hours is dependent on length of the program and number of credits:
  - 6 credits over one semester (May to August 2020 or September to December 2020), for a total of 252 hours (or average of 18 hours per week)
  - 6 credits over two semesters (May to December 2020), for a total of 252 hours (or average of 9 hours per week)
- Flexible schedule to be determined with the candidate.
- This is an unpaid, for credit placement.

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 program 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 “LFS 496 Career Development Course”
- Applications deadline March 15, 2020
- Please no phone calls
- More information about the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm can be found at ubcfarm.ubc.ca