

Southlands Heritage Farm

Propagation/Early Season Assistant – LFS 496 Summer Term 2023

Mentor: Alex Kaiser

Position Location: 6767 Balaclava St., Vancouver, BC V6N 1R7

Hours: 18 hours a week from May 15, 2023 - August 19, 2023

Credits: 6 credits

Course Background

The 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 their mentor, 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.

Position Details

As the Propagation/Early Season Assistant for Southlands Heritage Farm, you would be directly working in the gardens by caring for seedlings, transplanting, garden upkeep, and compost management. You will gain valuable hands-on experience on all aspects of early season tasks and should develop a good understanding of small scale propagation, and sustainable farming and gardening practices. Option to work with children or animals to diversify the learning experience.

Specific Duties

The Propagation/Early Season Assistant student will work on the following tasks:

- Caring for and up-potting seedlings, compost management and bed preparation, seedling trays, direct seeding and transplanting.
- Working with or leading various volunteer groups.
- Planning and managing your own garden plot.
- Option to lead themed activities for children attending Summer Camps, however a criminal record check would be required for candidates.
- Option to work with sheep, goats and chickens for candidates interested in gaining animal husbandry experience.

Learning Goals

- Working with the lead farmer, students will gain valuable hands-on experience on all aspects of early season tasks and small scale propagation.
- Sustainable farming and gardening practices incorporating a regenerative approach to soil management.
- Experience with growing various unique types of crops, placing as much emphasis on the health of the ecosystem around us as the productivity of our market crops.

Qualifications

- Must be a UBC student intending to register for LFS 496 for Summer 2023 term
- Must pass a criminal record check for working with children and vulnerable populations
- Interest in and willingness to learn about urban farming, community education and nonprofits
- Education and/or experience in gardening, farming, ecology, or related fields preferred
- Willing to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Able to follow policies and procedures to ensure participant and staff health and safety

How to Apply

Submit a resume and cover letter to alexk@southlandsfarm.ca.

All applications should clearly refer to the “LFS 496 Career Development Course” when applying.

The cover letter should include an introduction, share why you want this position, and what you hope to gain from the position if accepted. Cover letters should be no more than 500 words.

Application deadline **March 31st, 2023**.

About Southlands Heritage Farm

Southlands Heritage Farm is an educational farm located in the city of Vancouver on unceded Musqueam Territory close to UBC. We are fully open to the public and provide a site for sustainable farm, food and animal education. We have an outdoor school program for children K-5, Summer camps, and farmgate markets which run throughout the peak growing season. There are two connected properties which house two vegetable growing plots, hoop houses, an established orchard, ponds and re-wilded areas with an array of native plants important for pollinators. We also do our own composting on-site and adhere to a low impact, regenerative approach to soil management. The goal for our farm has always been to have productive food growing plots

alongside areas which support wildlife, and to show that both are not mutually exclusive in our semi-urban setting. We are strongly connected to the Vancouver Master Gardeners, The David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway Project, and FarmFolk CityFolk's Citizen Seed Trials. We are also often involved in various research projects throughout the year. Learn more at <https://southlandsfarm.pike13.com/pages/home>.