Big Bang Cider

Farm Hand / Cider Production Assistant – LFS 496 W1 Term

Mentor: Colin Rombough
Position Location: 1235 Nanaimo Lakes Rd, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5P4
Hours: Winter Term 1, September-December 2023. Option for 9 or 18 hours per week
Credits: Option for 3 or 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.

Specific Duties
The Farm Hand / Cider Production Assistant student will work on the following tasks:
- A student in career development placement on our farm would have the opportunity to work and gain experience at every step of the cider making process. This includes growing, harvesting, processing, fermenting the apples, and packaging the cider.
- The learning objectives of any career development placement could be tailored to suit the individual student's interests.

Learning Goals
- The student will gain hands-on experience working in an orchard setting learning the steps and skills required to grow apples.
- The student will gain an in-depth understanding of how to maintain ecosystem balance on a farm setting.
- The student will develop a greater understanding of the entire beverage production process. From growing the ingredients to fermenting a finished product.
- The student will come to appreciate the nuances, difficulties, and importance of farming and food production.
Qualifications

- Must be a UBC student intending to register for LFS 496 for Winter Term 1
- 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 colinrombough@gmail.com. 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 August 15th, 2023.

About Big Bang Cider

Big Bang Cider is a farm based cidery located in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. The apples in our orchard are grown with the aim to produce cider that focuses on elevating and showcasing cider apples. We use apple varieties that have been specifically selected, for hundreds of years, to produce delicious, complex, and balanced ciders. Although we are a relatively new business, with over 5000 trees our orchard is the largest apple orchard on the south coast and one of the largest cider apple orchards in BC. We live where we farm and care deeply about the land. We therefore farm in a way that fosters and supports ecosystem function. Our farming practices integrate production agriculture with organic and regenerative techniques to produce delicious sustainable cider. The owners Kate and Colin would be working directly with the student. In addition to being farmers and cider makers, Kate is a high school teacher and Colin in a professional biologist. The skills and knowledge we have gained through our various professions, both past and present, make us a natural fit to provide mentorship to a student studying Land and Food Systems. Learn more at Big Bang Cider’s Instagram page @bigbangcider