FarmFolk CityFolk

Farm and Seed Gathering Support – LFS 496 W1 Term

Mentor: David Catzel

Position Location: PO BOX 22316 RPO CEDAR COTTAGE, VANCOUVER, British Columbia V5P 0E2

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
There are two main tasks for the Farm and Seed Gathering Support student:

- In November 2023 we will be holding our 6th biennial BC Seed gathering in Richmond BC, and this person will help with the pre-work needed to run a successful event. The event will be a hybrid in-person/virtual event, so some tech support may be needed the day of.
- The other fall task we need support with is cleaning seeds and moving our Research and Education Seed Farm from our site in Abbotsford to a new location.

Learning Goals

- The student will learn how multiple programs are needed to support a sustainable seed system. We collaboratively run variety trials, grow seeds, breed seeds, mentor others to do so, support seed libraries and community seed saving initiatives, help farmers clean seeds with mobile seed cleaning equipment, and we share through hands-on engagement activities in the field and during our Biennial BC Seed gathering. The student will learn the technical aspects of seed cleaning and event organizing.
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 bcseeds@farmfolkcityfolk.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 August 15th, 2023.

About FarmFolk CityFolk
FarmFolk CityFolk (FFCF) has been working to inspire and equip people to eat food that nourishes themselves and the planet since 1993. We are BC’s oldest and largest food and agriculture charitable non-profit organization. Our current programs go from seed to plate to strengthen BC’s sustainable food systems, engaging a network of farmers, seed growers, researchers, food system advocates, policymakers, community partners, chefs, and eaters. Since 2005, our BC Seed Security program has been working closely with seed growers, seed companies, and communities to support increased vegetable seed production in BC. We support local seed production and seed security by providing seed education, skills training, and infrastructure to BC farmers and growers to increase the production of high-quality seed. Learn more at http://farmfolkcityfolk.ca