

UBC Farm / Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Organic Farm Biodiversity and Hedgerow Assistant – LFS 496 Summer Term 2023

Mentor: Noah Zimberoff

Position Location: 3461 Ross Drive, University Endowment Lands, BC V6T 1W5

Hours: 3 months at 9 hours per week, or 3 months at 18 hours per week, or 6 months at 9 hours per week.

Credits: 3 or 6 credits options available

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 Biodiversity and Hedgerow intern will be responsible for:

- Creating a data collection protocol for the inventory and mapping of the hedgerow system
- Developing a plant inventory of the current hedgerow system
- Identifying and mapping invasive species in the hedgerows
- Hands-on removal of invasive species and cutting back overgrown species
- Developing a set of management recommendations for the hedgerow system

Learning Goals

- Hands-on learning focusing on on tools and techniques for hedgerow pruning and invasive plant removal
- Develop a deep understanding of the role hedgerows play in sustainable agriculture
- Learn to identify hedgerow plant species and distinguish between native and non-native species
- Gain proficiency using data collection software to inventory and analyze the hedgerow system
- License to develop specific management recommendations for future hedgerow operation

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 non--profits
- 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 noah.zimberoff@ubc.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.

About UBC Farm and CSFS

The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (CSFS) comprises the research, teaching and cultivation activities at the UBC Farm, as well as sustainable food systems research and teaching that takes place elsewhere, be it across UBC campus, British Columbia, Canada, or around the globe. CSFS associate members work on the development of innovations in agroecosystem management for food security and ecosystem services, while honouring, respecting, and protecting diverse ecosystems and knowledge pathways within Indigenous and agrarian food systems.

The UBC Farm

The UBC Farm is the Centre for Sustainable Food System’s main research, teaching and learning space, located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the hənq̓emíñəm-speaking x̣ẉməθḳẉəỵəm (Musqueam) people.

Situated within a 90-year-old coastal hemlock forest, the 24-hectare UBC Farm was started by students in 2001 and since then our integrated organic farm and forest ecosystem has become a key part of the UBC’s agroecology research and education as well as an important Vancouver food hub. The UBC Farm features cultivated annual crop fields, perennial hedgerows and orchards, pasture, Indigenous-led gardens, and forest stands.

The Farm is organically managed, and UBC Farm produce is certified organic through NOOA. We cultivate over 200 varieties of fruits, vegetables, and herbs, and also feature honey beehives and egg-laying, open-pasture hens.

Learn more at <https://ubcfarm.ubc.ca/>.

