

Organization and Internship Description:

Cloud Mountain Farm Center (CMFC) envisions a thriving, collaborative community in which regional agricultural businesses are prosperous and contribute to a healthy environment and the well-being of all citizens. The Cloud Mountain Farm Center Internship is designed for those interested in pursuing a career in agriculture, and includes both employment and education. Interns gain working experience in both fruit and vegetable production and learn first-hand what it takes to keep farmlands healthy and agricultural businesses thriving.

CMFC operates both annual and perennial cropping systems as well as a retail nursery. Our annual organic vegetable production is on 5 acres of tractor cultivated scale and includes row crops, high tunnels, and leafy greens production. Our perennials include 5 acres of conventional and organic fruit trees and vineyards that include pome/stone fruit and table/wine grapes. Our retail nursery offers both fruit and ornamental plants. Interns engage with all areas of production on the farm.

Work and Education Structure

Lectures, Workshops, and Field Trips (approx. 8 hours/week)

Through instruction and exposure via lectures, workshops, and farm tours, interns complete a curriculum that introduces them to the following topics:

- Business and Marketing: business planning, enterprise accounting, value-added production, overall farm finances
- Soils and Land Management: soil science, tillage, cultivation, fertility, and cover crops
- Crop Production: irrigation, crop culture, weed management, crop planning, integrated pest and disease management, and orchard and vineyard management
- Propagation and Nursery: vegetative propagation, seedling care, and greenhouse management
- Environmental and Social Systems: natural resource conservation, food access and food justice

Tuition for the 2020 season is \$5,500 with a \$500 rebate upon completion of the program. Tuition is due at the beginning of the program and covers all guest speakers, workshops, field trips, and educational materials over the course of the program.

Employment (approx. 30-32 hours/week)

The majority of interns' time is spent working on the farm as an integral part of the field crew, and they are paid hourly at \$13.50/hour. Work schedules will vary throughout the season and interns can expect to work some weekends. Hands-on education happens through meaningful work in our vegetable, fruit and nursery enterprises. Farm work is fast paced and physically demanding involving repetitive tasks and will include working in sometimes extreme weather conditions. You can expect to work outside in the cold, rain, and heat. Interns work in the following areas of production:

- Annual Vegetables: seeding, transplanting, cultivation, irrigation, harvest, and high tunnel production
- Perennial Orchards and Vineyards: pruning and training, pest and disease monitoring, orchard maintenance, and harvest
- Retail Nursery: plant propagation and container growing
- Post-Harvest: washing and packing produce for wholesale and local accounts and selling product at the Bellingham Farmers Market

Sustainable Connections is a nonprofit organization that creates thriving communities through innovative ideas, collaboration, and action. Cloud Mountain Farm Center, an integral part of Sustainable Connections' Food & Farming program, is a nonprofit educational farm set on 42 acres in Everson, Washington.

Pay and Tuition

CMFC values and depends on the work performed by interns throughout the season and as such, we've structured the program so interns are paid for their work during the 30-32 hours/week of employment as outlined above. Additionally, interns will pay tuition for the educational portion of the program.

Partial Tuition Fee Waivers

We offer a limited number of partial tuition fee waivers that are need-based. Upon acceptance into the program, participants will have the option to apply for a partial fee waiver. We do not want finances to deter people from participating in the program. Please inquire for more information.

2020 Program Dates

Mid-March through October 2020

Housing

Housing is not included in the program fees. Limited housing is available to rent. Please inquire if housing is needed.

Off-site Intern Tracks

CMFC partners with other farms to offer our educational programming for interns working at partner farms. Applicants with interest in enterprises beyond our scope such as livestock or flowers, please inquire and we will connect you with a partner farm. Terms of employment will be negotiated between intern and partner farm.

Skills and Qualifications

Priority will be given to applicants with the following skills and qualifications:

- Desire to operate a farm business or be a key employee at a farm business
- Some background knowledge of plant cultivation and at least one-year experience working at a production farm or nursery
- Demonstrated ability to take initiative with a strong work ethic and ability to work well within a team setting
- Physical ability to do demanding work in all weather and lift 40 lbs. repeatedly

University Credit and Partnerships

The Internship is accredited by Washington State University's Cultivating Success Program. Upon completion of the program, interns will receive up to 12 continuing education credits from WSU. Students from other colleges and universities have received credits through participation in the program. If you are currently a student at another local college or university, please inquire about other credit and/or work study opportunities.

Apply Now!

Applications are due for the 2020 program by **October 31st, 2019**. We will continue to accept applications and conduct interviews on a rolling basis until all positions are filled. Please send the following application materials and all other program inquiries via email to

annah@cloudmountainfarmcenter.org

- A completed application form from the next page (also available to download at cloudmountainfarmcenter.org/education/internships)
- Responses to the essay questions found on the application form
- Your current resume including education and work experience
- A list of 3 references. Two of them must be professional. Please include their name, address, email and phone number.

We look forward to connecting with you!

2020 Farm Internship Application Form

Please send completed application form, essay question responses, resume, and 3 references to annah@cloudmountainfarmcenter.org. Applications are due October 31st and will be accepted after this date on a rolling basis until all positions are filled.

Personal Information			
_____	_____	_____	
Last name	First name	Middle	
_____	_____	_____	_____
Address	City	State	Zip
_____	_____		
Email	Phone		
Internship Information			
How did you hear about the internship? _____			
Have you ever been to Cloud Mountain Farm Center? _____			
If yes, when? _____			

Please answer each of the following questions in 300 words or less:

1. Please describe your previous experience in farming.
2. This is a rigorous program with high expectations of active participation and engagement with a weekly full time schedule. Explain how this program fits into your life right now.
3. How do you envision your agricultural career after this internship?
4. What are your 3 top outcomes you are hoping to achieve from participation in this program?