Student Fellowship for the UC Global Food Initiative at UC Berkeley

Focus: Experiential Learning In Food Systems

October 2014

A. INTRODUCTION: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The University of California, Berkeley invites applications for a student fellowship opportunity related to the UC Global Food Initiative (GFI). This fellowship opportunity described below, will allow an outstanding undergraduate or graduate student from UC Berkeley to work on a project focused on “Experiential Learning in Food Systems.” Two other fellowship opportunities posted on this website are focused on Food Pantries/Food Security and Leveraging Research for Policy. The application deadline is midnight on October 22, 2014.

B. ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Brief Background on the UC Global Food Initiative Student Fellowship Program: The overarching goal of the University of California Food Initiative is “to harness the resources of the University of California – its research, people, expertise, and tradition of public service – to put the world on a pathway to feed itself in ways that are nutritious and sustainable.” To engage students in this effort, the UC Office of the President announced the creation of the President’s Global Food Initiative (GFI) Student Fellowship Program. The program provides each campus with $7,500 to fund three (non-need-based) student awards of $2,500 each. These are intended for fellowships or internships on each campus. “This Student Fellowship Program is intended to build upon, expand and/or improve existing UC programs and activities, through the talent, passion, and creative capacities of students.” (UCOP, 2014)

Summary of Student Fellowship/Internships at UC Berkeley: At UC Berkeley, students will be engaged as interns in identifying effective practices in food systems in three areas – experiential learning, leveraging research for policy change, and food security – for which UC Berkeley is designated as a co-leader by UCOP. In these areas, UC Berkeley aims to contribute information, ideas and actions regarding effective practices. One student will be identified for each of these three areas. The students will contribute their perspectives, creative ideas, and expertise in collaboratively achieving these aims.

Experiential Learning (EL) Fellowship: This recipient will help to compile an inventory and summary of experiential learning opportunities in food and farming systems that currently exist in the UC System. The specific responsibilities in the student will include:

- Participate in discussions with faculty, staff members and students involved in the GFI Subcommittee on Experiential learning in food and agriculture, to assist in planning and report on progress of the subcommittee.
- Survey UC campuses to identify key contact people who are engaged in or aware of experiential learning programs in food systems at their campuses.
- Develop and conduct a basic online survey (such as survey monkey) with identified EL program leads, to gather more detailed information about the challenges and strengths of diverse food related experiential learning programs and practices across all UC campuses.
- Compile and organize results from the survey of EL programs.
- Participate in discussions of effective practices (or a “menu” of practices) for EL in food systems in the UC campuses, and ideas about how to improve or expand such programming.

The expected outputs or deliverables are:

- Preliminary overview/inventory of EL opportunities and program contacts across all UC campuses, in a user-friendly format (e.g., in a spread sheet), with more in depth findings from UC Berkeley.
• Draft outline of information for key points and findings about best practices or effective approaches for EL at the UC Berkeley campus and beyond.
• Possible other outputs that contribute to the aims of the Global Food Initiative and are agreed upon in advance in collaboration with supervisor.
• Interim progress updates would be expected every two to three weeks to supervisor.

Note: The lessons learned about will be shared with other university campuses, and may also be shared with community members and other stakeholders involved in experiential learning. Identifying and documenting these practices will contribute to expected outcomes of the Global Food Initiative.

**Funding and Timing:** This fellowship will provide $2,500 for the student selected. The funding will be administered as a stipend. A multidisciplinary committee will review applications, and announce decisions by November 17. The recipient will be expected to serve during the 2014-15 academic year, and will be expected to start this project in November of 2014, or as soon as possible after that. The student will work on the project 10-12 hours a week for 14-15 weeks. (Specific timing will be arranged with agreement of student recipient and supervisor.)

**C. ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS**

Applicants must be matriculated undergraduate or graduate students at UC Berkeley. Applicants should be aware that receipt of a fellowship may affect financial aid packages, if relevant. If you have a question about impact on financial aid, please discuss with your financial aid officer.

Qualifications for the fellowship are the following:

• Outstanding communication skills (oral and written).
• At least two years of experience in researching and/or organizing complex information
• Experience developing and implementing and analyzing results of surveys (using Google Doc, survey monkey, or other similar survey program).
• Experience with facilitation or coordination among diverse people and programs.
• At least two years of work experience and/or public service related to food or agriculture.
• Experience working on interdisciplinary approaches to problem-solving.
• Creativity, innovation, and commitment demonstrated by the candidate.

**D. HOW TO APPLY**

Applicants need to submit the following items by midnight PST on October 22, 2014, through the online application system.

1. Data requested in the online form, including name, contact information (email address, mailing address, and phone), year of matriculation, and major advisor/professor.
2. Cover letter/summary that includes an overview of: a) Reasons for application for this fellowship; and b) Summary of experiences, skills, and/or education that you feel are most relevant. This summary cover letter should be no longer than 650 words. Please state in the cover letter that your application is for the Experiential Learning Fellowship.
3. Your resume (limit 2 pages)
4. Short letters from two references, and one of the references must be a professor or major advisor. (Each letter must be less than one page.)
Applications must be submitted electronically. For any technical questions about this online system, contact gradsys@berkeley.edu. For questions about the fellowship, contact Foodinstitute@berkeley.edu. View this announcement online here.