

# Student Internship



Faculty of Land and Food Systems  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Indigenous Research Partnerships & Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm  
Faculty of Land and Food Systems at UBC

## Position Title: Culturally Relevant Urban Wellness (CRUW) Intern

### Background

The CRUW program is based at Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS) and operates at the UBC Farm in partnership with the Indigenous Research Partnerships (IRP) at UBC's Faculty of Land and Food Systems, the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at the UBC Farm, and the Pacific Community Resources Society. CRUW uses land-based practices to bring together at-risk youth from diverse Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultures, focusing on four objectives: 1. Honouring Our Diversity, with an emphasis on applying ancestral Aboriginal knowledge and practice to contemporary urban living; 2. Emotional and Cultural Competence, with an emphasis on breaking down stereotypes, bullying and discrimination; 3. Holistic Urban Wellness, with an emphasis on the prevention and reduction of substance misuse, positive mental health, and healthy life transitions through working with the land; and 4. Mentorship, with an emphasis on peer mentorship and Elder-youth connections. Interested applicants are recommended to watch the following [CRUW video](#).

The CRUW Intern will work with program staff to generate, organize, interpret and analyze data in an eight-month study exploring culturally relevant land-based practices as a context for engaging diverse Aboriginal youth in urban centres. The CRUW Intern is expected to enroll in a directed studies course for 6 credits in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, regardless of their program. At the end of the 33-week research program, the Intern will be eligible to receive course credits towards their UBC degree.

### Duties

The primary focus of the Intern's work will be to support an evidence-based study involving the 27 CRUW youth participants and 4 youth mentors. The CRUW Intern will work alongside Dr. Eduardo Jovel, Director of the Indigenous Research Partnerships, Dr. Jeff Schiffer, CRUW Program Supervisor, and Hannah Lewis, CRUW Partner, on the following tasks:

- Attend all CRUW program sessions and support the generation of research data through youth engagement and targeted program participation (interviews, focus groups, garden journals; qualitative & quantitative tools and methods)
- Support the organization of the data between sessions, and participate in debriefs considering emerging trends within the data
- Expanding upon CRUW's current literature review
- Upon completion of data collection in October, the Intern will participate in the interpretation and analysis of the data generated, and may have the possibility to collaborate in publications related to the findings

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## Preferred Qualifications

- UBC student eligible for directed studies credit (you must not have already completed 12 credits of directed studies)
- Undergraduate student in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year or graduate student preferred
- Successful candidates will require a criminal record check (provided free by VACFSS)
- Some experience with youth engagement or research involving youth participants
- Preference will be given to students that identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal or are familiar with respectful engagement with Aboriginal communities and knowledge
- Familiarity with fundamentals of designing and carrying out applied research (working knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies preferred) and a literature review
- Capable of using Excel to collect and organize data
- Comfortable using social media for project updates
- Willingness to learn and desire to gain research experience
- Ability to work both in a team and an individual setting

## Position Details

- March to December 2014
- CRUW is a 16-session program that runs every second Saturday from March 28<sup>th</sup> to October 24<sup>th</sup> 2015 from 09:00 to 16:00. While the internship begins alongside the CRUW program in March, the CRUW intern will not begin the academic directed studies portion of their internship until May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Only one absence is allowed from the 16 CRUW sessions in the March to October period.
- Hours will be determined based on the number of credits taken for the internship: 6-9 hours per week for 6 credits.
- This is an unpaid, for credits, internship.

## How to apply

Along with your resume please write a brief cover letter (max. 500 words) outlining the following:

- Which internship position you are applying for
- Why you would like to do an internship with CRUW
- What you hope to gain from such an experience or how you feel this experience would contribute to your overall learning and education at UBC
- Specific interests or areas that you would like to learn more about
- **Email:** Hannah Lewis at [hannah.lewis@ubc.ca](mailto:hannah.lewis@ubc.ca)
- Acceptable formats include text (within the body of the email), Microsoft Word 2007 or earlier, or Adobe PDF
- Applications must be received no later than **Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2015**
- Please no phone calls
- More information about the CRUW program can be found at [www.vacfss.com/programs/cruw](http://www.vacfss.com/programs/cruw)
- More information about the Indigenous Research Partnerships can be found at [lfs-indigenous.sites.olt.ubc.ca](http://lfs-indigenous.sites.olt.ubc.ca)
- More information about the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm can be found at [www.landfood.ubc.ca/ubcfarm](http://www.landfood.ubc.ca/ubcfarm)