



# ENV440H1: Professional Experience Course

## 2025 Fall Placement Descriptions

## Thank you for your interest in ENV440H1: Professional Experience Course for Fall 2025!

Please find a list of placement descriptions enclosed.

A few important things to note - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

- **Partner priorities:** The priorities of partner organizations may shift between now and the fall term, so please use these descriptions as a guideline of things you may be doing instead of a final checklist of deliverables. A high degree of flexibility, a strong sense of professionalism, and a commitment to being a contributing member of a team are essential.
- **Estimated travel time:** Estimated travel time and cost provided for in-person and hybrid descriptions is based on travel using public transportation from St. George Station. These may vary depending on where you live. All placement locations are based in Toronto unless indicated otherwise.
- **Potential additional costs:** There may be additional costs to participate in this course. For example, weekly transportation (\$7-20/week depending on location) and vulnerable sector checks (~\$30). The School of Environment is looking into ways to offset these costs, but cannot guarantee financial assistance. We will notify applicants if funds become available.
- **Placement grouping:** Placements have been loosely grouped for ease of navigation, though some could fit under multiple categories
- **Navigating the document:** Click headings in the Table of Contents to jump to a specific organization, then **click the caribou** to get back to the Table of Contents



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# CONSERVATION & SCIENCE

## David Suzuki Foundation (DSF)

Tags: conservation, arts, graphic design, program management, events

### # Placements available: 2

We are interconnected with nature, and with each other. What we do to the planet and its living creatures, we do to ourselves.

This is the fundamental truth guiding our work at the [David Suzuki Foundation](#) (DSF).

Founded in 1990, the David Suzuki Foundation is a national, bilingual non-profit organization headquartered in Vancouver, with offices in Toronto and Montreal.

Through evidence-based research, education and policy analysis, we work to conserve and protect the natural environment, and help create a sustainable Canada. We regularly collaborate with non-profit and community organizations, all levels of government, businesses and individuals.

**Location:** [179 John St](#) (Queen St West and John St)

- Closest TTC Station: Osgoode
- Estimated travel time from St. George Station: 15 minutes

### Mode of Engagement(s): **Hybrid (~50/50)**

We are flexible, and still working on fall plans. The students would work independently most of the time, with virtual and in person meetings as required.

### Key Project(s):

Students will be working with the Rewilding team at DSF on the [Rewilding Arts Program](#) and [the Butterflyway Project](#), a national habitat creation and stewardship project.

### Student role(s):

#### Placement #1: Artist Network & Outreach

- Conducting outreach to nature-focused artists

- Assisting with the emerging artist network
- Assisting with possible exhibits

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

- Artist profiles and events

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Interest in art and in drawing connections between art and nature
- Strong communication skills - written and oral
- Comfortable making phone calls/sending emails
- interviewing skills
- Solid event planning skills

We do not expect students to have all these skills/interests/experiences

## Placement #2: Environmental Media & Events

- Updating key habitat gardening resources
- Creating shareable graphics
- Contributing to our native species photo library
- Assisting with planning a possible nature documentary screening

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

- Updated habitat gardening resources, social media posts and graphics for both the projects, wild species photos, artist profiles and events
- Possibly a nature documentary screening

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Some knowledge of or interest in native plants
- Simple but effective graphic design skills/interest
- Interest in species photography (with cell phone is fine)
- Solid event planning skills

We do not expect students to have all these skills/interests/experiences

**What You'll Gain:**

We plan to offer a fun and enriching experience to the students. We will welcome them into the DSF Ontario team and office, and take time at the start of the term to learn about them and what they hope to accomplish.

We will present our ideas and together decide on priorities and a reasonable plan/timeline. All contributions will be acknowledged and celebrated internally and, where appropriate, externally as well.

**Importance and impact of work:**

We anticipate that these students will offer fresh eyes and a different perspective on some of our projects and programs. We also anticipate that their involvement will advance some tasks/ideas which require a little more focused attention.

**Other Requirements:**

None



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# Jane Goodall Institution of Canada

Tags: wildlife conservation, content editor, website

## # Placements available: 1

Inspired by our founder's legacy of inspiring hope through action, we use community-centred conservation to mobilize action on the convergence of three crises: biodiversity loss, climate change, and environmental inequity in Canada and in "Chimpscape" regions of Africa. [Website](#)

**Location:** [149 College St](#) (College St and University Ave)

- Closest TTC Station: Queen's Park
- Estimated travel time: 8 minutes

## Mode of Engagement: **Predominately virtual**

- Some in person
- Weekly check-ins and regular online content reviews

## Key Project(s):

A lot of key content on our website is out of date and requires factual review. This includes content around chimpanzees, conservation, biodiversity, and climate change. We're also looking to improve it for our search engine optimization. This would be a great job for someone who has a bit of environmental background and curiosity!

## Student Role(s): **Content Editor**

## Final Proposed Deliverable(s)

Environmental content reviewed and edited on website, with matching keyword tracker.

## Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:

- Environmental education background
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Search Engine Optimization experience
- Experience with web content development

**What You'll Gain:**

Knowledge of chimpanzees, biodiversity, and climate change dramatically improved. Writing skills, editing skills, technical SEO skills, backend CMS web development, cross-team collaboration, branding and design, ChatGPT and AI content development.

It will be a key effort in our underpinning content strategy, designed to improve long-term sustainability of the organization. It will go a long way to improving public education and awareness of critical conservation issues.

**Importance and impact of work:**

Students will help our public education and awareness initiatives by ensuring accessible, accurate, and compelling content is discoverable by anyone seeking that information.

**Other Requirements:**

None



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# Ontario Streams

Tags: field work, conservation, aquatic sampling, outdoors

## # Placements available: 2

[Ontario Streams](#) is an environmental registered charity dedicated to the conservation and rehabilitation of stream, river, and wetland habitats within Ontario.

Our mission is to promote the protection and rehabilitation of Ontario's streams, rivers, and wetlands through education and community action.

Ontario Streams recognizes that we are privileged to be working on the traditional territory of many First Nations including the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Mississaugas of the Credit, and many bands of Chippewa. Indigenous Peoples were the first stewards of the land and continue to act as caretakers for the environment. Our staff and volunteers are grateful for the opportunity to act as stewards for land and water across the Greater Toronto Area and we deeply appreciate the historic connection between Indigenous Peoples and conservation action and advocacy.

**Location:** [Yonge St and Wellington Rd, AURORA](#)

- Estimated travel time by car: 55 minutes
- Estimated travel time by public transit: 1.5 hours

The successful applicant must be able to meet us at the Ontario Streams' field office for each workday. The Ontario Streams' field office is based out of Aurora, **NORTH OF TORONTO**. While this is accessible via York Region Transit up Yonge Street or by car,

**\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT APPLY TO THIS POSITION IF YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO GET TO OUR OFFICE.\*\*\***

**Mode of Engagement(s):** **In-person**

The student is expected to be on the site one day (a full 8-hour shift) per week on average from mid-September to the end of the first week of December for a fall term placement. Ontario Streams' staff generally works 8:00 to 4:00, Monday to Friday.

We are flexible on what day of the week the intern student chooses to work with us during the fall semester. Ontario Streams also holds several weekend volunteer events (especially in October to mid-November), and the student would have the option of choosing to participate on a weekend day instead of a weekday at times.

**Key Project(s):**

We would like support in multiple projects, such as the "Lake Ontario Headwater Tributaries Rehabilitation Plan", "Southern Ontario Sport Fish Habitat Improvement Initiative", and the "Jefferson Salamander Habitat Rehabilitation Project in Southern Ontario". These projects entail a variety of field activities—see below.

**Student Role(s): Habitat Technician**

The student will be working with the Ontario Streams staff under the direct supervision of an Ontario Streams Project Coordinator/Biologist or Restoration Ecologist. The student will be involved in a wide variety of tasks in the implementation of our stream and wetland restoration projects and fisheries monitoring associated with these projects.

The student will be required to work cooperatively with landowners, volunteers, school groups and local community groups during project implementation. The student will assist with as wide a variety of field projects as possible over the work term.

Project opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

- Native tree and shrub planting and invasive species removal/control
- Construction of fish habitat enhancement structures and stream bank stabilization techniques
- Habitat mapping for the purposes of creating stream rehabilitation plans
- Electrofishing; seine netting; benthic invertebrate sampling for the purpose of monitoring for aquatic health
- Monitoring protocols for the purpose of determining habitat characteristics related to Atlantic salmon egg survival
- Assisting the Outreach Coordinator with the creation of social media content, educational resources, and infographics
- Working with the public at volunteer events such as tree plantings, invasive species control, garbage clean-ups, etc
- Conducting Brook and Brown Trout spawning surveys

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

Assistance in completing our funding deliverables, which include metrics such as:

- # of native trees and shrubs planted
- Area of invasive species managed
- Area of litter removed from riparian zones
- # of in-stream habitat enhancement structures built to protect eroding banks
- # of biomonitoring surveys completed (Electrofishing; seine netting; benthic macroinvertebrate sampling; spawning surveys)

- # of salamander breeding ponds enhanced
- # of volunteers engaged at stewardship events

### **Preferred Student Skills, Knowledge, Experience and/or Qualities:**

- An interest in stream and wetland rehabilitation, wetland ecology, and wildlife and fisheries monitoring
- Willing to work outdoors, doing physical tasks in a variety of conditions
- Able to work cooperatively as part of a team
- Self-motivated; enthusiastic; positive attitude
- Computer proficiency and record-keeping skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- First aid/CPR certification an asset

\*\*\* Please note that this is predominately an OUTDOOR position, which at times can be PHYSICALLY demanding. A positive, enthusiastic attitude and sincere interest in the work is required! \*\*\*

### **What students will gain:**

- Benefits include gaining work experience and training using:
  - Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP) (includes electrofishing),
  - Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) protocol,
  - Bioengineering techniques following Natural Channel Design
  - Brook Trout Spawning Surveys
  - Make a meaningful contribution towards environmental restoration to restore degraded habitat.
- Work culture is friendly and open at Ontario Streams, and we value mentorship and continuous learning with all staff. At Ontario Streams, the students would be encouraged to ask as many questions about the environmental industry as they can to better prepare them for working in this industry.
- We have an "open door" policy, where they are always welcome to approach staff with questions and concerns or have a chat. Students will have access to our manager, who is a Wetland and Restoration Ecologist and is an excellent mentor.
- Opportunity to attend Ontario Streams' Annual General Meeting to learn about the organization, our achievements, goals, and a chance to network. This will be held on a Saturday June 21, 2025, which the future placement students are welcome to come to despite having a fall placement.
- Opportunity to assist the Outreach Coordinator at outreach events with volunteers. These events can involve a stewardship activity (i.e., tree planting, litter collection), or an educational booth.

**Importance and impact of work:**

Students' contribution can enhance the team's capacity by bringing fresh perspectives, new skills, and additional support to ongoing projects. This support helps increase the efficiency of the team, allowing for a greater volume of work to be completed or more detailed attention to be given to specific tasks.

In terms of projects, a student may bring innovative ideas or assist with fieldwork, data collection, or environmental monitoring, which are essential components in conservation initiatives. They can help with the development of strategies for long-term environmental sustainability.

Regarding Ontario Streams' broader initiatives and organizational areas, a placement student's work can provide crucial insights and assist in expanding the organization's impact. For example, students can help with stewardship activities, outreach efforts, or public education campaigns that raise awareness about environmental issues and the importance of conservation.

**Other Requirements:**

Completion of onboarding/training modules.



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# Royal Botanical Gardens – Science Department

Tags: plants, science, digitization, collections

## # Placements available: 4

Located at the head of Lake Ontario, spanning the vibrant municipalities of Burlington and Hamilton, [Royal Botanical Gardens \(RBG\)](#) is Canada's largest botanical garden and one of the nation's earliest and most cherished nature sanctuaries. As a hub for stunning landscapes, inspiring events, and meaningful connections with nature, we take pride in providing an exceptional experience for our guests and staff. RBG is the not-for-profit caretaker of 2,140 acres of land and ecosystems surrounded by Canada's largest urban environment. It is an educator and experience creator delivering cultural, artistic and culinary experiences throughout its diverse network of gardens and natural spaces.

Royal Botanical Gardens' Science Department brings together many unique and rich information resources for the rest of RBG and for outside specialists and the public. Our goal is to generate new knowledge about plants, ecology, RBG's own history and landscape, and the history of gardening and horticulture in Canada. In addition to science staff, we rely heavily upon the assistance and expertise of a range of volunteers.

The Herbarium at RBG is an integral part of our efforts to manage the natural lands, recover at-risk species, record and document horticultural collections, and monitor biodiversity. The Herbarium includes approximately 65,000 plant specimens, including many historical specimens collected in our region and within the nature sanctuaries.

## Location: [680 Plains Rd W, BURLINGTON](#)

- Estimated travel time: 1.5 hours
- Estimated fare from Union GO to Burlington GO: \$22 round trip

## Mode of Engagement(s): **In-person**

## Key Project(s):

The herbarium is working towards digitizing its growing collection to make it accessible online to researchers, managers, artists, educators and the public.

## Student role(s): **Herbarium Digitization Intern**

We are looking for up to four students to help us digitize our herbarium collection during the fall semester. Carefully transcribing data from the specimen labels to our collections

management system will be the students' primary role. They will also help to prepare specimens for imaging, which includes cleaning, repair, and updating nomenclature.

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

- Per student: The labels of 250+ herbarium specimens are transcribed into the collections management system (CMS)

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Understanding of botanical nomenclature
- Careful, patient approach to working with fragile specimens
- Excellent organization skills and attention to detail
- Good computer skills including experience with spreadsheets

**What students will gain:**

Students will work closely with the herbarium curator, who will provide their training and support their learning throughout their placement. They will gain experience working with the collections management system, handling specimens properly, and verifying botanical nomenclature. Through their work, students will have the opportunity to further their understanding of plant diversity.

**Importance and impact of work:**

The students' work will advance the discoverability of and accessibility to RBG's herbarium specimens. Entering the specimen data into our database will make it possible for staff to easily search for the floristic information they need to inform their conservation and restoration work.

The impacts of digitizing our specimens reach far beyond RBG. Together, the world's approximately three billion herbarium specimens are the basis for scientific knowledge of plant diversity. Publishing specimen data online makes them available for continued learning at this critical time of global environmental change.

**Other Requirements:** None



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Access Alliance Multicultural Health & Community Services, Scarborough Cycles Program

Tags: sustainable transportation, cycling, community engagement

### # Placements available: 2

[Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services](#) (AAMHCS) is a Community Health Centre works to improve health outcomes for newcomers. We do this by facilitating access to services and addressing systemic inequities. We envision a future in which diverse individuals, families and communities can achieve health with dignity.

[The Scarborough Cycles program](#) operates three community bike hubs.

**Locations:** [3079 Danforth Ave](#) (Danforth Ave and Victoria Park Ave) **OR** [3939 Lawrence Ave E](#) (Lawrence Ave E and Markham Rd) - \*students can choose which location they prefer

- Danforth Ave
  - Closest TTC Station: Victoria Park
  - Estimated travel time: 30 minutes
- Lawrence Ave
  - Closest TTC station: Kennedy
  - Estimated travel time: 1 hour

### Mode of Engagement(s): In person

- 1 day/week in-person
- 3079 Danforth: Thursdays
- 3939 Lawrence Ave E: Tuesdays or Fridays

### Key Project(s):

Our Scarborough Cycles community bike hub offers access to bicycles, tools, a do-it-yourself repair space, workshops, group rides, a bike mentorship program for newcomers, and civic engagement opportunities for residents.



**Student role(s): Bike Hub Assistant**

The Bike Hub Assistant works alongside our staff and works directly with the public. The Assistant is passionate about helping others, strengthening the local community, and enjoys the outdoors.

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

- Infographics
- Knowledge mobilization
- Internal/external resource development

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Self-starter mentality
- Continually seeks to implement theory into practice by working directly in the community
- Patient and strong interpersonal communication skills
- Comfortable working both independently and in a team environment
- Able to work outside and lift 25 pounds
- Experience with commuting by bike, bike repair and/or mechanical knowledge is helpful, but not required
- Critical data analysis and report writing, experience with Canva is also an asset

**What students will gain:**

- Hands-on skills development
- On-the-ground community development exposure/experience

**Importance and impact of work:**

The program is part of the City's Community Reduce & Reuse Program, which reduces waste and builds sustainable communities by:

- Providing opportunities to reuse, share and repair items
- Offering skills training and creating job and economic opportunities
- Creating spaces for community members to gather

This program promotes cycling culture and waste diversion by repairing bicycles that would have otherwise become scrap metal or gone to landfill.

**Other Requirements: N/A**

# Bikechain

Tags: sustainable transportation, cycling, community engagement, operations

## # Placements available: 2

[Bikechain](#) is an educational bicycle repair space serving the University of Toronto and the public. Since 2005, we have taught over 40,000 people how to fix their bikes and ride safely.

Bikechain hosts a variety of programming and services, including:

- Bike repair education
- Fee bike rentals for students
- Bikes and parts for sale
- Women, trans, and non-binary hours
- Group rides, Workshops, and Events

**Location:** [230 College Street](#) (College St & Huron St; UTSU Student Commons)

- Closest TTC Station: Queen's Park
- Estimated travel time: 15 minutes

## Mode of Engagement(s): Hybrid (~50/50)

- Weekly check-ins will be scheduled with each student to ensure structured supervision
- There will be a mid-term and end-of-project evaluation to provide useful feedback to the students

## Key Project(s):

Project #1: Coordination of Bikechain's outreach efforts on campus, including tabling, orientation events, and a campus bike fair in the fall.

Project #2: Improving Bikechain's shop operation through space improvement projects and organizing archival materials.

**Student role(s):****Placement #1: Outreach coordination**

- Coordination of Bikechain's outreach efforts on campus, including tabling, orientation events, and a campus bike fair in the fall

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

- The student will start by familiarizing themselves with Bikechain's operations
- Working with Bikechain's staff, they will help develop outreach materials and attend fall campus tabling and orientation events
- They will also help plan and deliver a campus bike fair in late fall

**Placement #2: Space improvement and archival organization**

- Improving Bikechain's shop operation through space improvement projects and organizing archival materials

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

- The student will work with Bikechain's staff and help plan and deliver Bikechain's space improvement projects to make our operations more efficient and safe
- They will also help with organizing archival materials from the organization's 20-year history to increase their accessibility

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Excellent communication skills and attention to detail
- Ability to carry out tasks in a timely and organized manner
- Familiarity with Google Suite apps
- Interest in gaining an understanding of small nonprofit organizations
- Ability to lift objects (~20 lbs).
- Being a cyclist and/or familiarity with Toronto's cycling communities would be an asset

**What students will gain:**

Students will be part of an established, vibrant, and busy community bike space, learning about its operation both as a public-facing organization and a small nonprofit.

They will gain experience in communications, event planning, space improvements, processing archival materials, and gain a deeper understanding of how bicycle repair and cycling programs take place on a community level.

**Importance and impact of work:**

The projects will help expand Bikechain's reach on campus, especially to new incoming students in the fall. They will help promote cycling safety awareness, as well as a whole host of resources available at Bikechain.

The improved shop space and organized archival materials will help our space function more efficiently and effectively, increasing both the quantity and quality of the service we provide to the community.

**Other Requirements:**

Forms/paperwork;



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# Downsview Park (Canada Lands Company)

Tags: urban park, public programming, community engagement, grants

## # Placements available: 2

Spanning 291 acres (118 hectares), Downsview Park is one of Toronto's largest urban parks, located atop one of the city's highest elevations. Since its official opening in 2012, it has become a vibrant green space offering a wide range of outdoor experiences. Visitors can explore a commemorative walking trail, an off-leash dog park, an aviation-themed playground, and scenic trails that wind through forests, meadows, and ponds. The park also supports seasonal community events, outdoor education programs, and sustainability initiatives that enhance its role as a welcoming and inclusive public space.

**Location:** [70 Canuck Avenue](#), (Keele St & Sheppard Ave W)

- Closest TTC Station: Downsview Park station
- Estimated travel time: 40 minutes

## Mode of Engagement(s): **In-person**

- Consistent check-ins
- Staff will always be present when students are on site
- The Education Manager, as well as other staff will be supporting students for the duration of the placement

## Key Project(s):

- Grant opportunities - Searching for opportunities and partnership activations
- Program planning and Park activation - Supporting the creation of new program opportunities in the Park and supporting current programming

## Student role(s): **Community Engagement Assistants**

We are seeking two motivated Environmental Studies or Forestry students to collaborate on a short-term internship focused on enhancing community engagement and activation of Downsview Park. This project-based opportunity is ideal for students interested in urban green spaces, community partnerships, and environmental programming.

## Proposed deliverable(s):

Interns will work together to explore and propose strategies for activating Downsview Park through:

- Creation of a document identifying potential or existing community and organizational partnerships to expand offerings at the Park
- Creation of a document summarizing relevant grant opportunities for us or partner organizations and application timelines to support park programming
- Recommendations of initiatives that align with environmental and community goals

May also include:

- Execution of an opportunity for the public that activates the Park with the support of Downsview Park staff

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Experience or interest in park programming/activation/community engagement
- Interest in community development, public spaces, or environmental education
- Excellent customer service
- Strong research and communication skills
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively
- French speaking (preferred, not required)

**What You'll Gain:**

- Hands-on experience in community engagement and environmental programming
- Exposure to real-world applications of environmental studies in urban settings
- Understanding of grant writing
- Connections which could be beneficial post- graduation
- Opportunity to contribute to meaningful improvements in a Toronto greenspace
- A letter of reference upon successful completion

**Importance and impact of work:**

The impact of this internship project on Downsview Park could be quite meaningful, even within the limited timeframe.

By identifying and proposing new partnerships, the interns could help the Park increase interaction with public, which might lead to increased park usage by diverse groups and more inclusive and accessible programming.

Through grant research and partnership development, the interns could uncover funding or collaboration opportunities that support environmental education workshops, conservation initiatives or activations that align with the Park's mission.

The interns' work could contribute to a broader strategy for the park's development by bringing a fresh set of eyes to the space to help highlight underutilized spaces or opportunities. Interns will be providing data and insights that inform future opportunities for growth.

If successful, the project could lead to: more sustainable and environmentally focused programming, increasing public awareness of the park's ecological value and a stronger role for the park in Toronto's green infrastructure network.

**Other Requirements:**

- Vulnerable Sector Check (~\$30, Downsview Park can cover)
- Forms/paperwork
- Completion of onboarding/training modules



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# West Neighbourhood House – Greenest City Program

Tags: climate change, education, outreach, community engagement, urban agriculture

**# Placements available: 2**

[West Neighbourhood House](#) is a multi-service neighbourhood centre that has been serving downtown west Toronto since 1912.

We are a secular, non-profit, registered charity that works with the community to address critical issues through personal and social change. With our neighbours, West Neighbourhood House strives to find solutions rooted in community strengths, collaboration, local impact and equitable public policy.

The Greenest City Program builds healthy, inclusive neighbourhoods centred around place-based climate action. Our work is focused on collective care of the earth (and each other!) and building resilient communities in response to climate change.

**Location:** [201 Cowan Ave](#) (Queen St West & Dufferin St)

- Closest TTC Station: Osgoode
- Estimated travel time: 30 minutes

**Mode of Engagement(s):** **Predominantly in-person with some virtual**

- Weekly check-ins and collaborative goal-setting to support the student's learning objectives and professional development
- Supportive, team-based culture that values student contributions as meaningful and integral
- Mid-term and final reviews with constructive feedback and opportunities for reflection

**Key Project(s):**

West Neighbourhood House - Greenest City is seeking a placement student to support our community-based environmental and climate action programming. The student will contribute to initiatives such as: climate action education & outreach, community food gardens, pollinator habitat, and more.

**Student role(s):** Climate Action and Community Engagement Assistant

The students will play a vital role in supporting Greenest City's climate action and community engagement initiatives throughout the fall term.

This hands-on position involves a combination of educational outreach, practical environmental work, event coordination, and communications.

This role offers valuable experience in environmental education, community organizing, urban agriculture, event planning, and nonprofit communications, ideal for students interested in sustainability, climate action, and community development.

Tasks may include:

- Assist in planning and delivering climate action workshops and community outreach efforts to raise awareness about sustainable urban living and climate resilience
- Support end-of-season activities in community food gardens (e.g. harvesting, seed saving, etc.)
- Participate in pollinator habitat planting and maintenance, helping to increase urban biodiversity and educate community members about pollinator health
- Contribute to organizing and managing the annual Harvest Celebration, including event logistics, promotion, and volunteer support.
- Create and manage social media content, blog posts, and newsletters to share stories, promote events, and engage the community. Help collect and organize program evaluation data and participant stories to support reporting and future program development.

### **Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

A comprehensive Fall 2025 Greenest City Program Report documenting the students' contributions across climate action education, community food gardens, pollinator and native habitat support, event coordination, communications, and program evaluation.

Components may include:

- Summary of impact and key learnings of Climate Action Workshop & Outreach
- Summary of planting efforts, biodiversity supported, community involvement, and ecological impact, supported by photos and records
- Summary highlighting garden productivity, community participation, challenges, and winter preparation
- Post-event summary report for Harvest Celebration Event detailing attendance, participant feedback, and event highlights (post-event)
- Engagement metrics for social media and blog posts
- Summary of program outcomes, community impact and lessons learned

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

We are seeking a student who is passionate about community-based climate action, equity, and sustainability. The ideal candidate will bring a combination of relevant skills, lived or learned experience, and a strong willingness to engage and grow in the following areas:

- Knowledge or willingness to learn about:
  - Anti-oppression and anti-discrimination in environmental and community contexts
  - Working respectfully and reciprocally with Indigenous Peoples and marginalized communities
- Experience or willingness to engage in community outreach, facilitation, or collaborative public programming
- Comfortable physical, outdoor tasks (e.g. gardening and planting)
- Collaborative, respectful, and dependable
- Open to feedback, learning, and adapting to changing conditions
- Basic knowledge of native plants, pollinators, and sustainable urban agriculture (an asset)

We welcome students from diverse academic programs and life experiences, and strongly encourage applications from racialized, Indigenous, newcomer, and other equity-deserving students.

**What students will gain:**

The student placement at West Neighbourhood House, Greenest City offers a rich, community-grounded experience with multiple layers of personal and professional growth.

Key benefits include:

- Hands-on experience in urban agriculture, native and pollinator plantings, and climate action initiatives
- Skill-building in community engagement, facilitation, and event planning
- Exposure to data management and ecological monitoring related to urban biodiversity
- Opportunities to work with and learn from Indigenous communities, newcomers, and marginalized groups in a respectful, relationship-based setting
- Inclusion in reflective practices and dialogue about power, privilege, and equity in climate and food justice work
- A welcoming, inclusive, and community-rooted organization that values lived experience, creativity, and grassroots leadership

**Importance and impact of work:**

The student's contributions will play a vital role in advancing West Neighbourhood House, Greenest City's climate action, food justice, and biodiversity initiatives during a crucial seasonal transition. Their work will directly support our team's capacity to engage communities, care for urban green spaces, and deliver inclusive, educational programming.

By supporting pollinator habitat planting, food garden wrap-up, and climate outreach, the student will enhance the impact of our work across neighborhoods and help deepen relationships with Indigenous, newcomer, and marginalized communities. Their involvement strengthens both our daily operations and our long-term goals for ecological and social resilience.

**Other Requirements:**

- Completion of onboarding/training modules;
- Forms/paperwork;
- Following West Neighbourhood House's 2 week onboarding process - \*students may need to start this process before the fall term begins



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# EDUCATION

## EcoSpark

Tags: citizen science, outreach, program development, school programs, nature, events

### # Placements available: 2

[EcoSpark](#) is an environmental charity connecting people to their local natural environment through education, monitoring and stewardship. Operating since 1996, EcoSpark has developed a reputation as a community leader in local engagement, education, citizen science and collaboration.

The EcoSpark mission is to empower communities to take an active role in protecting and sustaining their local environments. We do this by giving people tools for education, monitoring and influencing positive change.

**Location:** [601 Christie St. Ste. 174](#), Wychwood Barns (Christie and St. Clair)

- Closest TTC Station: St Clair West
- Estimated travel time: 24 min
- Opportunities for outdoor activities across the GTA

### Mode of Engagement(s): **Hybrid (50/50)**

- Weekly check-ins
- Regular communications via e-mail (and Slack, if possible), with organizational documents shared via Google Drive
- For online activities, students may be trained to support EcoSpark's website, social media channels, email system, etc., as needed.
- For outdoor activities, students will be required to have a cell phone number to reach their supervisor

### Key Project(s):

As a team, we will connect activities to climate change action and inclusivity in support of local ecosystems.

- [The School Watch program](#) - delivers curriculum-connected workshops at schools across the GTA. We engage up to 30 students (grades 6-12) and their teacher in half-

day outdoor environmental monitoring activities, with a focus on serving schools with the greatest needs. We lead bird and plant surveys to support climate resiliency and biodiversity.

- **The Park Watch program** - engages community volunteers in citizen science environmental monitoring. The Intern will assist in preparing and supporting public workshops and events in parks.
- **The City Nature Challenge** is a four-day global event in late spring that engages cities across the world in sharing wildlife observations to support biodiversity.

### **Student role(s): Environmental outreach intern**

The Intern will assist EcoSpark with citizen science workshop development, promotion, and delivery.

Tasks may include:

- Assist in creating interpretive training manuals, data visualization and social media (science communication) posts for diverse audiences
- Accompanying EcoSpark staff to observe and support occasional sessions on school grounds - frequency of in-person program support flexible based on student career interests and availability
- Work with Citizen Science Program Manager and other staff to assist in developing in-class protocols and presentations, citizen science data surveys and equipment, and online resources for programs
- Promote the City Nature Challenge using provided materials to schools and communities in the GTA - supporting public engagement for the biggest year yet!
- Optional: GIS map development, communications and data coordination with schools and citizen science researchers

### **Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

We are looking for an enthusiastic, creative and well-organized individual with a passion for environmental science to join EcoSpark's team for school and community science engagement.

- Strong outreach and communication skills - verbal and written
- Experience or interest in field research and comfortable working outdoors
- Strong time management, organizational skills, and ability to work independently
- Strong interest in community empowerment, environmental science, and biodiversity
- Interest in inclusive environmental education and promoting equitable STEM opportunities for youth

- Knowledge of common Ontario insects or birds is an asset but not required (training provided)
- Experience with GIS is an asset
- Experience working/volunteering at a non-profit is an asset

### **What students will gain:**

The Intern's tasks will contribute towards EcoSpark's work toward equity in environmental education, health & wellbeing, and STEM career pathways.

Student placements are integral for EcoSpark's mission, which includes training environmental leaders. Past interns list the following benefits: flexibility to align projects with career goals, welcoming work environment, hands-on training in environmental monitoring, experience educating youth and community volunteers at workshops and events, regular opportunities to engage with nature, direct participation in applied research for conservation, learning from senior leadership, and working with a small team of other students and dedicated professionals in a non-profit setting.

### **Importance and impact of work:**

Students support every aspect of our mission to engage youth and communities in making a positive difference for the environment. Citizen science relies on data contributed from our programs to support local and global conservation. Interns are well positioned to lead project contributions through independent outdoor monitoring.

University students become role models in STEM for high school volunteers and participants. Students bring their recent training and ideas to EcoSpark's team during planning meetings, where their voice is an integral part of the organization.

### **Other Requirements:**

- Vulnerable Sector Check (~\$30)
- Preference for First Aid CPR-C Certification



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# Environmental Leadership Canada (ELC)

Tags: politics, education, alumni network, research, resource creation

## # Placements available: 1

[Environmental Leadership Canada](#) is a Canadian educational charity. We believe that people need to know more about how politics works so they can make politics work for the health of our planet. We aim to build a new generation of environmental leaders and to boost the capacity of everyday Canadians who care about the environment to engage in our democracy. We do this through our political internships for youth (both [federal](#) and [municipal](#)), facilitating civic engagement initiatives like all-candidates debates and providing educational tools on environmental and political knowledge. We do not lobby or take policy positions. Our approach is cross-partisan as we believe that environmental leadership must flourish in every political party for lasting environmental change.

**Location:** Online

## Mode of Engagement(s): **Fully remote**

- We prefer that students attend check-ins during working hours from 9 am - 5 pm
- Weekly or bi-weekly check-ins with the supervisor which will be scheduled depending on the intern's schedule and the projects undertaken
- The intern will be invited to attend weekly ELC team meetings as their schedule allows
- ELC uses Google Drive as the main storage tool, conducts team meetings through Zoom or Google meet and regularly communicates through Slack

## Key Project(s):

- Research for internship curriculum topics, Future Leaders in Politics (FLIP) programming and alumni network initiatives (e.g. finding speakers, compiling or creating content, identifying potential collaborators and/or site visits)
- Research on government structures in different regions (e.g. compiling information on municipal government structure in Manitoba)
- Organizing and/or developing internship content into useable resources for future cohorts (e.g. compiling links from learning sessions into the Municipal Climate Internship (MCI) Resources living document, creating an ELC intern handbook)
- Building out internship databases (e.g. updating internship recruitment lists or speaker options)

\*\*\* Note: This is not an exhaustive list of all activities and organization priorities may change\*\*\*

### **Student role(s): Program Assistant**

The intern will be responsible for assisting program staff with tasks related to the successful execution of ELC's internship programs.

### **Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

- Up-to-date resources documents
- Up-to-date recruitment database
- Up-to-date research for programming content

### **Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Experience or interest in research and ability to effectively synthesize information
- Ability to work independently
- Time management skills
- Knowledge of Excel/Sheets
- Knowledge of Google Workspace Features (e.g. drive, docs, forms, etc.)

Nice to Have:

- Interest in climate and the environment and the intersection with politics and political advocacy
- Experience working on youth programming (age 18-30)
- Project management skills

### **What students will gain:**

This internship provides the student with a view into the workings of an environmental non-profit and the behind-the-scenes work that goes on to deliver successful and effective youth programming. They will have the chance to develop their research, writing, time management and project management skills as well as understand how to work in an independent virtual workplace.

**Importance and impact of work:**

The work that the student completes as part of their internship is an important part of managing ELC's internship programs. It will positively impact both PIE and MCI's 2025- 2026 intern cohorts, providing documents and resources program staff can use to build curriculum that will be delivered as part of the intern's leadership and professional development as well as connect with a wider youth audience.

**Other Requirements:**

- Reliable computer/laptop and internet access



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# Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)

Tags: sustainability, education, civic engagement, project coordination, events, communications, marketing, fundraising, web maintenance

## # Placements available: 1

[LSF](#) is a Canadian charity that was created to integrate sustainability education into Canada's education system.

**Our Vision:** We believe in socially, environmentally and economically sustainable society, with engaged citizens who think and act responsibly, today, and for generations to come.

**Our Mission:** LSF's mission is to promote—through education—the knowledge, skills, values, perspectives, and practices essential to a sustainable future.

**Our Goal:** LSF's goal is to work together with educators, students, parents, government, community members and business leaders to integrate the concepts and principles of sustainable development into education policy, school curricula, teacher education, and lifelong learning across Canada

**Location:** [York University](#) (Keele St and Finch Ave W)

- Closest TTC Station: York University
- Estimated travel time: 40 minutes

## Mode of Engagement(s): **Predominantly virtual with some in-person**

- Onboarding sessions followed by regular communications via chat and email
- Weekly or bi-weekly check-in meetings.
- Mid-term feedback and review meeting,
- Exit meeting
- Option to attend virtual and in-person events

## Key Project(s):

As an independent nonprofit organization with a small staff, students will have ample opportunity to express their creativity, flexibility and initiative while gaining experience in a wide variety of areas.

In the fall we are usually getting our events and programs off the ground, ramping up our communications and social media, and embarking on new research or fundraising projects.

**Student role(s):**

Tasks can be tailored to student interests. Options include:

- Project coordination: Includes ongoing delivery of LSF programs, promotion, admin, communications, event coordination, etc.
- Event coordination: Includes identifying and developing partnerships, coordinating logistics, creating event materials/content, public speaking, etc.
- Marketing & communications: Includes creating & implementing social media marketing strategies & e-newsletter campaigns, designing graphics (e.g. flyers/posters, social media images, reports, etc.)
- Web maintenance/content creation: Includes updating and creating content for LSF's main site and various program websites
- Fundraising: Includes researching new fundraising opportunities, writing grant proposals, brainstorming new program ideas or activities to meet funding expectations, etc.

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

N/A

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Understanding of the concepts and principles of sustainability
- Understanding or interest in the Canadian education system
- Detail oriented
- Previous experience working with youth
- Experience working collaboratively in a team, with ability to self-direct and take initiative
- Communications, social media, marketing (including website upkeep, e-newsletters, or other digital communications)
- Graphic design (formal, or informal e.g. Canva)
- Program and event delivery/coordination
- Research and data analysis
- Fundraising/grant writing
- Software (e.g. Canva, Excel/Google Sheets, Airtable, Wordpress/Elementor)
- French (oral and written) proficiency a major asset

**What students will gain:**

Tasks can be tailored to students' interests, skills, development goals, etc. They will work closely with all team members, including senior leadership. They will have access and opportunity to learn from senior staff.

**Importance and impact of work:**

As a small charitable organization, we rely on student placements to help us during our busiest times of year. Students bring invaluable insights in current sustainability knowledge, research, and issues as we update our programming for schools and teachers.

**Other Requirements:**

Vulnerable Sector Check (~\$30)



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# The Pine Project

Tags: outdoor education, youth, naturalist, public programming

## # Placements available: 2

We're a Toronto-based charitable organization dedicated to helping people, especially children and youth, build a strong, lasting connection with nature.

Since 2008, [Pine Project](#) has grown to become Ontario's leading nature connection organization. We offer year-round outdoor programming designed to nurture curiosity, confidence, and community. From school year programs and day camps to overnight adventures and adult workshops, our programs reach over 2,500 participants each year across more than 230 days.

Mission: The Pine Project fosters confidence, competence, resilience and connection to nature through transformative outdoor experiences for all ages in Toronto and beyond.

**Location:** [King's Mill Park North](#) (Bloor St W & Old Mill) **OR** [Stan Wadlow Park](#) (Woodbine & Cosburn)

- King's Mill Park North
  - Closest TTC Station: Old Mill
  - Estimated travel time: 23 minutes
- Stan Wadlow Park
  - Closest TTC Station: Main Street
  - Estimated travel time: 40 minutes

## Mode of Engagement(s): **In-person**

Weekly check-in with supervisor

## Key Project(s):

Support planning and delivery of nature connection programming for children and youth ages 4-16

## Student role(s): **Program Assistant**

Program Assistants at the Pine Project earn valuable experience in our unique mentoring approach, develop their wilderness skills and proficiency, and gain opportunities to learn



new in-depth naturalist skills from our experienced staff. Our staff are a community of mentors and avid learners. If you're looking to learn new skills and knowledge about nature, education and working with youth, there is no better place!

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

- Assist in providing positive learning and recreational experiences for children and youth ages 4-16 and their families
- Assist in the supervision of educational and recreational activities
- Assist Pine instructors with program set-up and delivery
- Be prepared to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Be available for at least one program each week (programs run from 3.75 to 8 hours)

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Enthusiastic, outgoing, and flexible
- Positive approach to working with children
- Able and willing to work as part of a team
- Good communication, time management, and organizational skills
- Identify with our mission statement
- Have a desire to further their own naturalist and crafting skills, mentoring techniques, and/or nature connection through professional development opportunities with Pine staff members
- Naturalist knowledge and experience working with children are preferred but not mandatory

**What students will gain:**

- A community of learners pushing each other to grow our knowledge and experience
- Weekly experiences in the outdoors and in-depth knowledge of Toronto parks and ravines
- Training in topics related to nature, wilderness travel, wilderness skill development, program planning and design, facilitation
- Opportunities for professional development at Pine community events
- Work with purpose: make a difference for nature and people
- Casual and welcoming work environment

**Importance and impact of work:**

- Positive impact on participants taking part in our programs

- Helping children connect with nature in the city
- Helping children and communities see the importance of nature
- Bringing new knowledge and perspectives the team and to the work we do with children

**Other Requirements:**

- Vulnerable Sector Check (~\$30)
- Forms/paperwork



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# Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival

Tags: film, research, science communication, media

## # Placements available: 1

Planet in Focus is an environmental media arts organization with year-round programming which launched in 1999. Our mandate is to produce cultural events that showcase engaging and artistic films that question, explore and tell stories about the world in which we live. We use film as a catalyst for public awareness, discussion and engagement on a broad range of environmental issues.

Our goal is to enlighten, engage and entertain audiences of all backgrounds - through film.

**Location:** [192 Spadina Ave](#) (Spadina and Queen St. W)

- Closest TTC Station: Osgoode
- Estimated travel time: 20 minutes

## Mode of Engagement: **Mostly in-person with infrequent online**

Planet in Focus has weekly team meetings and student intern(s) participation is greatly encouraged. Task clarification and monitoring as required. We're a small team and questions and communication regarding feedback is always appreciated and respected.

## Key Project(s):

Pre-production and co-ordinating support for the lead up to the 26th anniversary Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival: October 21-26, 2025. The festival will take place live at the Paradise Cinema in Toronto.

## Student Role(s):

Responsibilities and duties include but are not limited to:

- Researching community partners to promote specific film programs that align with their work
- Researching environmental "Action Items" for films
- Updating online 2025 festival listings
- Social media assistance where needed.

The Fall term placement would involve some live production festival assistance with the Festival Industry Conference and other Festival events October 21-26th where the student's schedule would permit.

### **Preferred Competencies/Required Skills and Qualifications**

- Strong research and communication skills
- Graphic design and /video editing experience would be considered a strong asset

### **Proposed Deliverable(s):**

N/A

### **Learning Outcomes (training, learning, skills development, mentorship, exposure)**

Interns will benefit from:

- Being immersed in festival production
- Research and communication training and development
- Exposure to a busy production office
- Opportunity to be involved in a film festival and our partners in multiple ways.

### **Importance and impact of work:**

The Intern will impact our organization by contributing to the 26th anniversary edition of the Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival using film as a catalyst for change. Planet in Focus as an organization includes our filmmakers, students, audiences and community that intersects with both media arts and environmental and climate related issues.

### **Other Requirements:**

None



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# FOOD SYSTEMS & LAND STEWARDSHIP

## FoodShare Toronto – Community Compost

Tags: food justice, food systems, composting, community engagement, outdoors

FoodShare is a food justice organization, advocating for the right to food and working to challenge the systemic barriers that keep people from accessing the food they need to thrive. We support community-led food initiatives and work alongside communities most affected by poverty and food insecurity: Black and Indigenous people, people of colour, people with disabilities, and folks living on a low income. Whether it is supporting urban farms, subsidizing local produce markets or coordinating community kitchens, all of our work is about folks accessing food on their own terms.

FoodShare operates Toronto's largest mid-scale compost program, located at FoodShare's main office and beside our three-acre urban farm at Burnhamthorpe Collegiate. This community-powered system turns food waste into valuable compost that nourishes the farm's soil. Through our compost exchange program, local residents, many of whom live in apartment buildings without access to composting, can bring their kitchen scraps and, in return, receive vouchers to purchase fresh, locally grown produce. Interns supporting this program will gain hands-on experience in sustainable waste management, community engagement, and urban food systems, all while contributing to a circular model that promotes environmental and social sustainability.

**Locations:** [120 Industry Street](#), Unit C

- Closet TTC Station: Eglinton West
- Estimated travel time: 48 minutes

Other compost locations:

- [500 The East Mall](#), Etobicoke (Burnhamthorpe Rd and Kipling Ave)
- [150 Grenoble Park](#) (Don Mills Rd & Eglinton Ave East)
- [10 White Squire Way](#) (Ossington Ave & Queen St West)

**Mode of Engagement(s):** **In-person**

- Mostly in-person with infrequent online
- Onboarding meeting with Manager from Community Food Growing - Online 1 hour
- Weekly check-in at Compost site with the coordinator - 15 minutes

- Orientation to FoodShare and all its programs, as well as farm tour - 2 hours
- Offboarding meeting with Manager from Community Food Growing - online 30 minutes
- Compost activities on Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9 am to 5 pm
- Coordinate with the supervisor on the days and times that you are available

### **Key Project(s):**

Community Compost supports the mid-scale compost and vermicompost operations at FoodShare Toronto, BCI Farm & Sunshine Garden, where food scraps from our Good Food Program kitchens and cafeteria are composted on-site. They help transform organic waste into nutrient-rich compost that nourishes community and school gardens throughout the city. In addition, assistants facilitate educational workshops on composting, vermiculture, gardening, and resource sharing to empower community gardens and promote sustainable urban agriculture.

### **Student role(s):**

Tasks may include:

- Support Community Compost Exchange Programming by assisting with record and data management and engaging with the community.
- Support with Compost (including VermiCompost) tasks such as picking up food scraps, preparing compost, chop materials, turning or moving the system and sifting finished Compost.
- Visit and work on several of Toronto's Urban gardens and farms.
- Support with compost workshops and training
- Assist volunteers at Compost and VermiCompost System and Ongoing communication with them.
- Support track and evaluate compost facility, help with preparing and distributing reports (photography, blogging, recording weight, label etc).
- Work collaboratively with volunteers, student interns, co-op students, and other School Grown staff to complete daily tasks.
- Participate in FoodShare staff and team meetings, all staff training, and reporting requirements such as timesheets and handle other duties as assigned
- Maintain safer space for program participants, including students of colour, queer and trans students, and students with disabilities.
- Maintaining programming in line with FoodShares's Food Justice principles and Body Liberation principle

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

Support the operation and maintenance of mid-scale compost and vermicompost systems at FoodShare Toronto, BCI Farm and Sunshine Garden by managing food scrap collection, processing, and compost production. Facilitate educational workshops on composting, vermiculture, and sustainable gardening practices for community members and partner organizations. Contribute to community engagement through volunteer mentorship, outreach, and supporting produce distribution programs. Participate actively in team meetings, training sessions, and program reporting to ensure alignment with FoodShare's mission and operational objectives.

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

We welcome all students that are able to:

- Work outside in all types of weather
- Lift up to 40lbs to perform repetitive manual labour
- Communicate clearly and effectively
- Work independently and as part of team
- Get a little dirty and break a sweat :)

Additional skills and experience that are a bonus but are by no means essential:

- At least 1+ year of experience in vegetable gardening, growing food, or working with plants
- Understanding waste reduction practices through the composting method
- Demonstrated interest in community-led food projects and/or neighbourhood-based community organizing.
- Demonstrated commitment to principles of food justice and equity
- Demonstrated ability to work within a diverse community (people of different ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds)
- Experience in working in fast paced physical line of work such as food service

**What students will gain:**

Interns will gain hands-on experience in mid-scale composting and vermicomposting, including food scrap collection, compost processing, and system maintenance. They will develop skills in data tracking, reporting, photography, and storytelling to support program evaluation and outreach. Interns and volunteers will also deepen their understanding of urban agriculture by working across multiple garden sites, supporting workshops, and engaging directly with community members. This role offers opportunities to build competencies in community engagement, teamwork, sustainable food systems, and facilitation, while working in an environment that centers FoodShare's Food Justice and Body Liberation principles.

Participants will also benefit from professional development, mentorship, and networking through FoodShare events, training, and team collaboration.

**Importance and impact of work:**

The work supporting FoodShare's Community Compost and vermicompost programs is essential for promoting sustainable waste management and fostering community engagement across Toronto. By assisting with compost collection, processing, and education, this role helps divert food waste from landfills and transforms it into valuable soil amendments that nourish urban gardens and farms. Supporting workshops and volunteer coordination builds community knowledge and empowerment around composting practices. Tracking and reporting program data ensures transparency and continuous improvement. Working collaboratively with diverse participants and maintaining a safer, inclusive space aligned with FoodShare's Food Justice and Body Liberation principles amplifies the social impact of the programs, creating meaningful opportunities for connection, learning, and environmental stewardship.

**Other Requirements:**

- Vulnerable Sector Check (~\$30)
- Completion of onboarding/training modules from FoodShare Toronto



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# FoodShare Toronto – Flemo Farm

Tags: food justice, community engagement, food systems, urban agriculture, outdoors

## # Placements available: 2

FoodShare is a food justice organization, advocating for the right to food, and working to challenge the systemic barriers that keep people from accessing the food they need to thrive. We support community-led food initiatives and work alongside communities most affected by poverty and food insecurity: Black and Indigenous people, people of colour, people with disabilities, and folks living on a low income. Whether it is supporting urban farms, subsidizing local produce markets or coordinating community kitchens, all of our work is about folks accessing food on their own terms.

**Location:** [150 Grenoble Drive](#) (Don Valley Parkway and Lawrence Ave E)

- Closest TTC Station: Broadview
- Estimated travel time: 35 minutes

## Mode of Engagement(s): **In-person**

- Mostly in-person with infrequent online
- Onboarding meeting with Manager from Community Food Growing - Online 1 hour
- Weekly check-in
- Orientation to FoodShare and all its programs, as well as farm tour - 2 hours
- Offboarding meeting with Manager from Community Food Growing - online 30 minutes

## Key Project(s):

- Farming work: assisting with weeding with tools/ equipment, mulching, planting, harvesting, watering, compost bin system, cleaning storage containers, organizing, maintenance, data entry for harvests
- Farmers' Market work: set up/ take down of tents and tables, setting up produce, washing bins, working with customers
- On-site distribution work: assisting with the weekly on-site produce donations to agencies
- Community Compost: supporting with turning bins, intaking compost, harvestin, distributing finished compost, record keeping
- Videographer: planning, taking footage, and editing educational videos for our on-site workshop series

General:

- Work collaboratively with volunteers, student interns, co-op students, and other FoodShare staff to complete daily tasks.
- Participate in FoodShare staff and team meetings, all staff training and reporting requirements such as timesheets and handle other duties as assigned
- Maintain safe space for program participants, including students of colour, queer and trans students, and students with disabilities.

**Student role(s):**

Tasks may include:

- Support with turning bins, intaking compost, harvestin, distributing finished compost, record keepingm provide workshops on compost education for Farmers, classes and community
- Supporting the Flemo Farmers Market by organizing fridge, supplies and inventory, support with set up/ take down of tents and tables, setting up produce, washing bins, wokring with customers, promoting market
- Weeding with tools/ equipment, mulching, planting, harvesting, watering, compost bin system, cleaning storage containers, organizing, maintenance, data entry for harvests, corporate volunteer groups

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

N/A - No deliverable per se; rather ongoing weekly activity as outlined above.

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Demonstrated commitment to principles of food justice, anti-black racism, ableism, environmental intersectionality
- Experience working with youth and vulnerable populations
- Vulnerable Sector Check required (FoodShare will provide)
- Demonstrated ability to work within a diverse community (people of different ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds)
- Excited about working outdoors
- Experience gardening, growing food or working with plants in some capacity.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Willing to work outdoors in all weather

**What students will gain:**

Community engagement with BIPOC community in systemically underfunded community of Flemington, learn about diverse crops and growing them (chickpeas, bittermelon, corns etc.), scientific based approach and effective composting program, learn about circular community based economy, mentorship from two women farmers, benefit from progressive FoodShare policies and more

Interns will provide a positive impact to our organization and Flemo Farm by sharing new information about environmental and social justice.

**Importance and impact of work:**

We've always deeply appreciated students' work on the farm and in our program more generally. Students play an important role in our farm operations with support with daily tasks as an extra pair hands is always welcome on the farm, but also often bring their own skills and knowledge that improve the efficiency of the farm.

**Other Requirements:**

- Vulnerable Sector Check (~\$30)
- Completion of onboarding/training modules.



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# FoodShare Toronto – School Grown - BCI Farm

Tags: food justice, food literacy, food systems, urban agriculture, community engagement

## # Placements available: 4

[FoodShare Toronto](#) is a food justice organization, advocating for the right to food, and working to challenge the systemic barriers that keep people from accessing the food they need to thrive. We support community-led food initiatives and work alongside communities most affected by poverty and food insecurity: Black and Indigenous people, people of colour, people with disabilities, and folks living on a low income. Whether it is supporting urban farms, subsidizing local produce markets or coordinating community kitchens, all of our work is about folks accessing food on their own terms.

**Location:** [500 The East Mall, Etobicoke](#) (Burnhamthorpe Rd and Kipling Ave),

- Closest TTC Station: Islington
- Estimated travel time: 55 minutes

## Mode of Engagement(s): **In-person**

We are pretty flexible with scheduling. Working hours are 8am - 4pm Monday through Friday. There is a market that runs from 3pm - 6pm on Thursday that students are welcome to assist with. Students are encouraged to work at the time and frequency that works best with their schedule within our operating hours.

## Key Project(s):

BCI Farm is an urban farm run by FoodShare Toronto's School Grown program. FoodShare's School Grown, is a schoolyard farming project, growing vegetables and fruits on school rooftops and lawns to create youth engagement in farming and food justice. With urban farming, School Grown is closing the loop on food literacy from how young people eat, grow and learn. BCI Farm is a 2.5 acre farm that features a market garden, orchard, reforestation project, naturalized prairie gardens and a midscale community compost site. Prospective Interns would support in the farm operations, general maintenance of the overall site, and assistance in our community farmers' market.

## Student role(s):

Prospective student interns role would support and maintain farm sites in collaboration with School Grown staff. This includes preparing garden beds, seeding, weeding, watering, and harvesting produce. Additionally, students may assist shifts at the on-site market which

includes working along with other youth and collaborating in handling cash, merchandising products, and delivering friendly customer service if they so choose. Lastly, students are expected to work collaboratively with volunteers, other student interns, co-op students, and other School Grown staff to complete daily tasks

### **Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

The deliverables for this role will primarily correspond to farm-related tasks in the field. Students will be trained on how to seed, plant, weed, harvest, wash and pack veggies, as well as other farm-related tasks using organic growing principles. Deliverables will correspond to tasks given students i.e. weeding a bed of beets, harvesting carrots, washing and packing 25 bunches of kale for market.

### **Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

We welcome all students that are able to:

- Work outside in all types of weather
- Lift up to 40lbs to perform repetitive manual labour
- Communicate clearly and effectively
- Work independently and as part of team
- Get a little dirty and break a sweat :)

Additional skills and experience that are a bonus but are by no means essential:

- At least 1+ year of experience in vegetable gardening, growing food, or working with plants
- Demonstrated interest in community-led food projects and/or neighbourhood-based community organizing.
- Demonstrated commitment to principles of food justice and equity
- Demonstrated ability to work within a diverse community (people of different ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds)
- Experience in working in fast paced physical line of work such as food service

### **What Students Will Gain:**

Students will gain skills in urban agriculture using organic growing principles, midscale composting, youth and community engagement, food justice education, project management, teamwork, and communication.

Much of the aforementioned will involve hands-on training with our program coordinators and other peers, one-on-one meetings with a supervisor for guidance, feedback, and professional development.

FoodShare Toronto advocates for food justice by supporting community-based food initiatives and through ongoing advocacy and public education. As an intern, working in one of our many community-based projects, you'll be directly involved advancing food justice in Toronto.

Additionally there will be opportunities to participate in FoodShare events, potentially attend community events, workshops, or conferences related to food and sustainability. And connect with other professionals in the food system and build your professional network.

### **Importance and impact of work:**

We've always deeply appreciated students' work on the farm and in our program more generally. School Grown is a program particularly focused on providing educational opportunities for youth and students in areas of food growing and food justice.

Students play an important role in our farm operations with support with daily tasks as an extra pair hands is always welcome on the farm, but also often bring their own skills and knowledge that improve the efficiency of the farm.

### **Other Requirements:**

- Vulnerable Sector Check (\$~30)
- Completion of onboarding/training modules.



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# FoodShare Toronto – Sunshine Garden

Tags: urban agriculture, horticulture, composting, social justice, mental health, outdoors

[FoodShare Toronto](#) is a food justice organization, advocating for the right to food, and working to challenge the systemic barriers that keep people from accessing the food they need to thrive. We support community-led food initiatives and work alongside communities most affected by poverty and food insecurity: Black and Indigenous people, people of colour, people with disabilities, and folks living on a low income. Whether it is supporting urban farms, subsidizing local produce markets or coordinating community kitchens, all of our work is about folks accessing food on their own terms.

The Sunshine Garden is a peaceful oasis nestled in the heart of the city—Canada's first market garden located on hospital grounds. Operated as a recreational gardening program for clients at CAMH, the garden provides a restorative space where over 30 in-patients and out-patients each year experience the therapeutic benefits of growing food, connecting with neighbours, and enjoying fresh air.

The Sunshine Garden program uses horticulture as a powerful tool for healing and growth, offering clients transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, and entrepreneurship. Beyond skill-building, many participants share that the garden helps boost self-confidence and restores a sense of hope, routine, and purpose in their daily lives.

In the spring, summer, and fall, clients actively tend to the garden—composting waste, cooking, preserving food, and selling their harvest at the on-site Garden Market. During the colder months, they continue their learning in the greenhouse, nurturing seedlings and participating in hands-on workshops that support skill-building and personal growth.

**Location:** [10 White Squirrel Way](#) (King St and Shaw St) - \*Sunshine Garden is located in front of the building at White Squirrel Way. The garden itself doesn't have a formal address, using this location will get you there.

- Closest TTC Station: Dufferin
- Estimated travel time: 35 minutes

## **Key Project(s):**

- Therapeutic gardening activities
- Community Engagement
- Community Compost on-site
- Local Farmers Market
- Urban Agriculture Farming Best Practices
- Greenhouse production

**Mode of Engagement(s): In-person**

- Mostly in-person with infrequent online
- Onboarding meeting with Manager from Community Food Growing - Online 1 hour
- Weekly check-in at Sunshine Garden with the coordinator - 15 minutes
- Orientation to FoodShare and all its programs, as well as farm tour - 2 hours
- Offboarding meeting with Manager from Community Food Growing - online 30 minutes
- Sunshine Garden activities on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 5 pm
- Coordinate with the supervisor on the days and times that you are available

**Student role(s):**

Tasks may include:

- Support Garden Maintenance: Perform essential gardening tasks such as pruning, weeding, watering, seed starting, harvesting, mulching, and soil preparation
- Support with Volunteer Engagement & Mentorship: Create a welcoming and inclusive environment for volunteers by providing guidance, mentorship, and hands-on learning opportunities
- Support Community Interaction & Outreach: Engage with the public by offering garden tours, interacting with visitors, and potentially speaking at events or with the media about the garden's impact
- Support with Compost tasks such as picking up food scraps, preparing compost, chop materials, turning or moving the system and sifting finished Compost
- Workshop Support: Assist in organizing and facilitating community-based workshops, sharing knowledge about sustainable gardening and food justice
- Support Produce Distribution: Help distribute fresh garden produce through a bi-weekly market stand, community cooking programs, and take-home packages for volunteers
- Support to maintain the compost program by turning and keeping inputs clean and organized
- Support Organizational Participation: Take part in FoodShare staff meetings, training sessions, board-staff retreats, and fulfill reporting requirements such as timesheets
- General Support: Handle other duties as assigned to ensure the smooth operation of the Sunshine Garden and its programs
- Assist with record-keeping (planting logs, crop yields, volunteer hours, etc.) and ensure the volunteer's engagement is maintained
- Participate in FoodShare staff and team meetings, all staff training, and reporting requirements such as timesheets and handle other duties as assigned



- Maintain safer space for program participants, including students of colour, queer and trans students, and students with disabilities
- Maintaining programming in line with FoodShares's Food Justice principles and Body Liberation principles

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

N/A

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

We welcome all students that are able to:

- Work outside in all types of weather
- Lift up to 40lbs to perform repetitive manual labour
- Communicate clearly and effectively
- Work independently and as part of team
- Get a little dirty and break a sweat :)

Additional skills and experience that are a bonus but are by no means essential:

- At least 1+ year of experience in vegetable gardening, growing food, or working with plants
- Demonstrated interest in community-led food projects and/or neighbourhood-based community organizing.
- Demonstrated commitment to principles of food justice and equity
- Demonstrated ability to work within a diverse community (people of different ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds)
- Experience in working in fast-paced physical line of work ,such as food service

**What students will gain:**

By engaging in the Sunshine Garden, clients of CAMH develop valuable skills in teamwork, entrepreneurship, and horticulture.

Through participation in the Sunshine Garden program, individuals will gain a deeper understanding of the connection between urban agriculture and mental health and wellness, develop insight into therapeutic horticultural interventions for individuals living with mental health challenges, and build practical knowledge of horticulture through hands-on experience in both garden and greenhouse settings.

**Importance and impact of work:**

We've always deeply appreciated students' work on the garden and in our program more generally.

The internship placement plays a vital role in promoting food justice, environmental sustainability, and community well-being. Maintaining a thriving garden and compost system it supports local food production and reduces waste. Engaging and mentoring volunteers fosters inclusive, hands-on education and community empowerment, particularly for marginalized groups. Public outreach and workshop facilitation build awareness of sustainable practices and strengthen connections between people and the land. Distributing fresh produce addresses food insecurity, while participation in organizational activities ensures alignment with FoodShare's broader mission. Overall, this work cultivates a more just, inclusive, and resilient food system rooted in care, equity, and collective action.

**Other Requirements:**

- Vulnerable Sector Check (~\$30)
- Completion of onboarding/training modules from FoodShare Toronto



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# Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)

Tags: urban forests, community engagement, outdoors, land stewardship, ecological restoration, data collection

## # Placements available: 2

[LEAF](#) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of the urban forest. We engage citizens in urban forest stewardship through hands-on planting, stewardship and education.

**Location:** [Artscape Wychwood Barns - 601 Christie Street](#), Suite 253 (Christie St & St Clair West)

- Closest TTC Station: Christie
- Estimated travel time: 25 minutes
- \*Please note that the student will be expected to travel to different locations that are GTA-wide (including York and Durham Region)

## Mode of Engagement(s): **Mainly in-person, some virtual**

- Schedule and work plan for the entire placement provided at time of initial on-boarding (virtual)
- In-person team training session for all fall planting staff
- Virtual Health & Safety Training session
- Buddy system for those requiring extra support
- On-going feedback throughout internship
- Event day team debrief to discuss successes, challenges, solutions/improvements
- One-on-one check-in with supervisor (post first event/shift, mid-season and/or as needed)
- Occasional Community Programs and staff-wide team meetings (dependent on student capacity)
- End of placement review/exit interview

## Key Project(s):

[LEAF's Community Tree Planting program](#) engages volunteers and community members in the ecological restoration of public lands in York Region and Durham Region.

Over the fall 2025 planting season, LEAF will host between 8-12 tree planting events, engaging hundreds of participants in the planting of up to 5,000 native trees and shrubs.

Community tree planting events will take place on predominantly on Saturdays/Sundays from mid-September to mid-November.

**Student role(s): Stewardship Assistant**

Work as an integrated member of the Community Programs team with a focus on LEAF's Community Tree Planting program.

LEAF offers a supportive training process to ensure students have a great learning experience and gain quick confidence during their placement. All activities are carried out with careful precautions taken to protect the physical safety of staff, interns and volunteers.

Key activities may include:

- Help organize and deliver hands-on tree planting events (including set up/tear down)
- Learn about environmental stewardship and naturalization methods
- Plant native tree/shrub species at various sites in York and Durham Region
- Assist with collecting data in the field using LEAF's Naturalization Monitoring Protocol
- Provide tree planting and mulching demonstrations to volunteers and event participants
- Educate and engage with participants and volunteers on topics related to the urban forest
- Contribute to post-event team debrief sessions

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

N/A

**Preferred Student Skills, Knowledge, Experience and/or Qualities:**

This Stewardship Assistant position is a great fit for someone who is passionate about environmental action, community engagement and enjoys physical activity and working outdoors.

They are an outgoing, creative student with a passion for the environmental sector and a desire to become well acquainted with the not-for-profit atmosphere. Strong interpersonal and communications skills are important as our work involves significant interaction with volunteers and the public.

Preferred qualifications:

- Excited to work outdoors with plants and with people
- Comfortable with long days and the physical demands of outdoor work in all weather conditions
- Passionate about environmental stewardship, education and community engagement
- Great interpersonal skills and customer service experience

- Excellent communicator – verbally and in writing
- Well organized and attentive to detail
- Ability to determine priorities, multi-task and work independently
- Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team
- Proficiency with Google Suite (Docs, Sheets, etc.)
- Available to work weekends

Additional qualifications that would be considered an asset:

- Emergency First Aid + CPR Certification
- Knowledge of native plant species
- Skills and experience in arboriculture and/or urban forestry
- Skills and experience with native gardening
- Experience working or volunteering with a not-for-profit organization

### **What students will gain:**

The LEAF team values a healthy, respectful and pleasant work environment. [Learn more about our work culture here.](#)

Throughout their work placement, interns will benefit greatly from a truly hands-on experiential education. They will:

- Gain experience in the environmental non-profit sector
- Gain knowledge of urban forestry, arboriculture and naturalization/stewardship practices
- Gain experience with community engagement, public speaking and event planning
- Gain tree planting and native tree/shrub ID skills
- Learn and receive mentorship from a team of experts in the urban forestry industry

### **Importance and impact of work:**

Over the course of their placement, interns will help LEAF in our mission to enhance and protect the urban forest. During their work placement they will contribute to LEAF's naturalization and stewardship efforts by helping to plant up to 5,000 native trees and shrubs, engaging hundreds of volunteers and participants.

### **Other Requirements:**

- Completion of onboarding/training modules
- Forms/paperwork

- Covid-19 immunization required (initial two vaccinations) for those eligible to receive them according to Health Canada



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## The Stop Community Food Centre

Tags: food systems, urban agriculture, community, social justice, outdoors

### # Placements available: 2

Our programs change lives. At [The Stop](#), good nutritious food is a gateway to deeper connection. Most people walk through our door for a meal, but once here, find their lives changed through the empowerment and belonging that arises from extended engagement in our kitchens, gardens, or through the mutual support of peer advocacy.

Our community work is done with the mentality of “nothing about us without us”, meaning that we take direction from our service users. We survey their needs, supports, and public policy priorities to inform the strategic direction of the organization. Additionally, we believe that - while it is important to provide emergency food access and other services - these services do not truly address the long-term systemic barriers many people in our community face. Inadequate social assistance rates, working poverty, inflation, and marginalization all work against our neighbours. We aim to provide immediate services but also focus on the long-term impacts we can make in regard to public policy.

**Location:** [601 Christie Street, Barn 4](#) (Christie St and St. Clair Ave W)

- Closest TTC Station: St. Clair West

- Estimated travel time: 23 minutes

**Mode of Engagement(s):** Predominantly in-Person

Frequent check-ins, Team Meetings as scheduled

**Key Project(s):**

**Farmers Market Placement:** support the Farmer's Market/ Social Enterprise team deliver weekly programming create space and support for farmers, vendors, and artists who offer locally made, ecologically-conscious and ethical goods.

**Community Programs Placement:** support the Urban Agriculture team empower community members to come together, learn how to grow their own food, and spend time in nature in our growing spaces.

**Student role(s):**

Placement #1: Farmers Market Support

Placement #2: Community Programs

Support Urban Agriculture team to deliver community and food justice programming

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

Growing plants, spending time with others in a safe and supportive environment, being active outdoors and contributing to diverse community members being able to access healthy produce harvested locally which can contribute to positive mental health outcomes.

**Preferred Student Skills, Knowledge, Experience and/or Qualities:**

The ideal candidate will be able to stay organized in a fast-paced environment, be reliable, communicate well with community members and work as a team.

Food Handler Certification (Preferred but not required).

**What students will gain:**

Growing plants, spending time with others in a safe and supportive environment, being active outdoors and contributing to diverse community members being able to access healthy produce harvested locally which can contribute to positive mental health outcomes.

**Importance and impact of work:**

We believe that farmers' markets in particular play a critical role in food sovereignty where community members can use their dollars to directly support local farmers and vendors, shortening the gap between food consumers and producers while building connections with the people who grow, produce and prepare our food.

**Other Requirements:**

Forms/paperwork



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# SUSTAINABILITY

## Circular Innovation Council (CIC)

Tags: circular economy, sustainability, research, communications, food systems, waste diversion, program delivery

**# Placements available: 4**

[Circular Innovation Council](#) believes solutions for greater resource efficiency and environmental protection is to advance the circular economy, which decouples economic activity from production and consumption of finite resources.

We are inclusive and collaborative among supply and value chains; and seek to advance circular business models, products, and services that deliver redefined values to equate social, environmental, and economic benefit.

Throughout our history we have played a lead role in uniting stakeholders across entire value and supply chains, and utilize expertise and experience of our diverse membership.

We leverage collaborative efforts to fully understand priority and realize potential. In doing so we are strategically positioned as a resource organization that all actors can use to develop and implement their strategies.

**Location:** Remote (Online) - placements require access to a laptop and stable internet

**Mode of Engagement(s):** **Predominantly virtual**

- Supervised time will take place virtually at the beginning of placement until students are comfortable with current tasks.
- Routine check-ins via email will take place to monitor progress and resolve any questions or concerns students might have.
- Weekly meetings will be held virtually to discuss progress and barriers.
- If students are available at the same time, occasional meetings will be hosted virtually where all can come together to discuss progress and provide cross-project supports.
- A minimum of one in-person meet up will be planned, ideally encompassing all students together. Location: TBD.

**Key Project(s):**

- Share Reuse Repair Hub: Research Assistant & Content Development
- Plastics & Circular Economy: Research Assistant & Content Development
- General Communications Assistant
- Program Delivery and Research Assistant – ICI Circular Food Systems Projects

### **Student role(s):**

In these internships, you will learn the inner workings of our not-for-profit, Circular Innovation Council.

### **Placement #1: Share Reuse Repair Hub Assistant**

If you're excited to contribute to the Share Reuse Repair Hub—a community platform that encourages share, reuse, and repair in Canada—this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Research new small and local businesses, organizations, and learning resources to be added to the platform, and gain skills in website development (no to little coding required).

Have the opportunity to help us create all-new resources to help individuals, businesses, and municipalities participate in the circular economy. You'll be working alongside the team and other interns to solve challenges and input data when required. Learn transferable skills and be a leader in your local circular economy by joining our ever-evolving organization.

This is a remote position.

### **Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

#### *Priorities:*

- Edit content on education websites, including data entry, as requested from CIC staff
- Assist in researching new businesses and resources to be added to the Share Reuse Repair Hub (SRR Hub)
- Support strategy development for the website – how to keep it user friendly, efficient, effective, engaging, eye catching, etc.
- Assist in the long-term monetization strategy of the SRR Hub
- Assist in assembling Metrics Reports for our partner municipalities and help us improve design formatting of the reports

#### *As needed:*

- Develop and create social media content and newsletter blasts
- Come up with ideas for new resources to bring value to our target audiences (i.e., workbooks, one-pagers, signage, etc.)

- Assist with outreach to municipalities and community groups, including occasional webinar assistance
- Research and outreach to find new opportunities for promotion
- Assist with other Education and Engagement websites and content

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Word processing software, such as Word and Google Docs
- Data processing software, such as Excel and Google Sheets
- Experience with Canva
- Experience with social media platform and tools
- WordPress experience, plugins experience with Divi and WP Go Maps is an asset
- Bilingualism in French is a strong asset

We value interns with a high level of independence and confidence. Students are encouraged to ask for help when needed.

## Placement #2: Research and Program Delivery Assistant:

If you're excited to contribute to various circular economy projects—for example, Food Waste Diversion Programming, the Plastic Action Centre, Circular Economy Month, and the Share Reuse Repair Hub—this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Research the latest policy, academic, and news items for several programs as needed, and gain skills in content and web development (no to little coding required). Have the opportunity to work cross-functionally with various team members.

You'll be working alongside staff and other interns to solve challenges and input data when required. Learn transferable skills and be a leader in your local circular economy by joining our ever-evolving organization.

This is a remote position.

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

*Priorities:*

- Research the latest news, academic papers, and policy as needed across a variety of programs.
- Support stakeholder research.
- Support development of new communications content.

*As needed:*

- Assist in content creation for monthly newsletters.
- Edit content on websites, including data entry, as requested from CIC staff.
- Support program delivery.

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Research skills using online U of T library services
- Ability to understand complex topics
- Word processing software, such as Word and Google Docs
- Data processing software, such as Excel and Google Sheets
- Experience with Canva
- WordPress experience is an asset
- Experience with social media platform and tools is an asset
- Bilingualism in French is a strong asset

We value interns with a high level of independence and confidence. Students are encouraged to ask for help when needed.

### Placement #3: General Communications Assistant:

In this internship, you will learn about the inner workings of our not-for-profit, Circular Innovation Council, from a communications perspective.

If you're excited to contribute to a communications website strategy, research timely and relevant topics to improve Canadian society, content creation and gain skills in website development (no to little coding required), this opportunity is for you!

You'll be working alongside the team and other interns to solve challenges. Learn transferable skills and be a leader in the circular economy by joining our ever-evolving organization.

This is a remote position.

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

*Priorities:*

- Maintenance on the CIC website - updating plugins, compressing images, making the website more efficient
- Strategy for the website - how to keep it user friendly, efficient, effective, engaging, eye catching, etc.
- Research social media topics
- Research article topics

- Research and outreach to find new opportunities for promotion, interviews, podcasts, webinars, and conferences
- Assist in strategic planning for content and general communications and marketing for CIC

*As needed:*

- Edit content on the Circular Innovation Council website
- Develop and create social media content
- Webinar assistance

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Experience with Canva
- Experience with social media platform and tools
- WordPress and Elementor Experience is an asset
- Adobe Programs experience, Illustrator, InDesign is an asset
- Bilingualism in French is a strong asset

We value interns with a high level of independence and confidence. You are encouraged to ask for help when needed.

## Placement #4: Program Delivery and Research Assistant – Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI) Circular Food Systems Projects:

If you're excited to contribute to various circular food economy projects, like our Commercial Food Waste Diversion programs and research projects, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

You'll be involved in supporting multiple national projects related to helping businesses divert their food waste from landfills.

Support the implementation of new pilot projects, take part in public and private industry collaboration, and research the latest policy, academic, and news items for our ICI Circular Food Systems projects as needed.

Additionally, gain skills in graphic design and communications, take part in strategic program development, and support with tracking and analysis of our impact data.

You'll be working alongside the circular food systems project manager, as well as other CIC and external support staff to deliver these projects. Learn transferable skills and be a leader in Canada's circular economy by joining our ever-evolving organization.

This is a remote position.

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):***Priorities:*

- Support program coordination, delivery, and stakeholder outreach within existing projects
- Research the latest news, academic papers, and policy as needed within Circular Food Systems and Circular End-Management of Organic Waste
- Assist in updating program impact graphics and outreach material
- Assist in data tracking, management, and analysis as needed for updated impact graphics, knowledge mobilization, and grant reporting requirements
- Assist with workshop (and potential webinar) related to program learnings, research, and municipal policy strategy

*As needed:*

- Assist in strategic planning for future programs and marketing for projects, as needed.
- Support additional stakeholder research as needed (dependent on upcoming projects).
- Come up with ideas for new resources to bring value to our target audiences (i.e., workbooks, one-pagers, signage, etc.)
- Support editing of content on program webpages, as needed.

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Research skills using online U of T library services, grey literature, and general news outlets; ability to understand complex topics and systems-thinking
- Word processing software, such as Word and Google Docs
- Data management and analysis skills, and experience with data processing software, such as Excel and Google Sheets
- Experience with Canva is an asset
- Adobe Programs experience, Illustrator, InDesign, (or Affinity Designer) is an asset
- WordPress experience is an asset
- Experience with social media platform and engagement tools is an asset

We value interns with a high level of independence and confidence. You are encouraged to ask for help when needed.

**What Students Will Gain:**

Students will receive training and experience that is highly valuable in the workforce—all from the comfort of their own home. They will gain experience in the not-for-profit sector and will be giving back to the community by contributing to Circular Innovation Council's initiatives.

As a small organization, they will have proximity to senior leadership. They will also have access to a supervisor that is an alumnus of the U of T Co-op (UTSC program) and will be able to ask questions about what life is like post graduation.

### **Importance and impact of work:**

As a not-for-profit, we often have more initiatives to which we can properly dedicate staff time. Having the help of students with fresh perspectives will be of great importance to the wellbeing of these initiatives, thus having a greater impact on the community and the circular economy sector in Canada. If and when students are placed on tasks directly tied to client deliverables they will gain experience akin to consulting work.

### **Other Requirements:**

Access to laptops, a suitable working space, and stable internet.



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# ICLEI Canada - Local Governments for Sustainability

Tags: sustainability, policy, climate change, government

[ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability](#) is a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

We provide a wide range of services for local, provincial, and federal governments in support of developing sustainable, climate-ready communities. This support includes but is not limited to: adaptation and resilience planning, energy and emissions planning and capacity building.

Our staff are environmental professionals with more than 100 years cumulative experience in the municipal, non-profit and private sectors.

ICLEI's commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging extends to its capacity-building work with local governments as laid out in these resources: [Equitable Climate Adaptation](#); [Integrating equity, diversity and inclusion into municipal climate action](#).

**Location:** [401 Richmond St. West](#), Suite 204 (Richmond St W and Spadina Ave)

- Closest TTC Station: Osgoode
- Estimated travel time: 20 minutes

**Mode of Engagement(s):** Hybrid (~50/50)

- Weekly check-ins with project supervisors; weekly team meetings (depending on project team)
- Check-ins with Operations Manager as needed

**Key Project(s):**

- [Building to Net-Zero project](#): a project that supports small to mid-sized municipalities in the adoption of frameworks that advance local building energy performance



- [Partners for Climate Protection Program](#), a five-step Milestone Framework guiding municipalities in emissions reduction
- [Climate Insight platform](#): an online platform that provides easy access to trustworthy data and climate information
- [ICLEI Peer Network](#): a virtual space where municipal practitioners working to advance climate action in their communities can connect with peers from across Canada to discuss emerging issues and exchange insights.
- [Advancing Implementation Training Initiative \(AITI\)](#): a comprehensive training and collaboration program designed to support municipalities and Indigenous Communities in the crucial implementation phase of their climate adaptation journey.
- May include support for event planning/logistics related to our [Livable Cities Forum](#) and [Adaptation Canada 2026](#)

### **Student role(s):**

#### **Placement #1: Climate Change Project Assistant (Mitigation Team)**

The Climate Change Project Assistant (Mitigation Team) will support municipal climate mitigation initiatives, with a focus on [the Building to Net-Zero \(BNZ\) project](#), the [Climate Insight platform](#), [Net-Zero Action Research Partnership \(N-ZAP\)](#) [Net-Zero Action Research Partnership \(N-ZAP\)](#), and/or the [Partners for Climate Protection \(PCP\) program](#). Based on their skills and interests, the student may assist with research, content development, and engagement activities that contribute to advancing low-carbon, resilient buildings. They will work under supervision and in collaboration with ICLEI Canada staff.

### **Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

Specific deliverables may include:

- Supporting the design or implementation of community and resident engagement activities related to sustainable buildings (e.g., helping draft outreach materials, summarizing feedback, assisting with event logistics)
- Contributing to the development of sample regulatory tools or guidance (e.g., bylaws, policy scans, background research) that municipalities can adapt to improve building energy efficiency, electrification, and resilience
- Assisting in the creation of case studies or summary documents that highlight examples of modular and prefabricated housing approaches, particularly those with sustainability or climate-related benefits
- Supporting the preparation of capacity-building resources for municipal staff on topics such as climate budgeting, climate-related financial disclosure, and climate analysis

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Advanced oral and written English required
- Excellent writing, facilitation, and communication skills
- Strong analytical, research and conceptual skills
- Ability to work carefully and accurately with complex information
- Knowledge of climate change files at the local, provincial and national level
- Understanding of or interest in learning about non-profits/environmental non-governmental organizations
- Familiarity with climate change mitigation and adaptation principles
- Understanding of Canadian municipal decision making and processes
- (Ongoing) undergraduate degree in geography, environmental studies/science, political science or related discipline
- Ability to multi-task in a fast-paced, ever-changing and dynamic environment

## Placement #2: Climate Change Project Assistant (Adaptation team)

The Climate Change Project Assistant (Adaptation Team) will support a range of adaptation and resilience-building initiatives, with a focus on the [Climate Insight platform](#), the [ICLEI Peer Network](#), and/or the [Advancing Implementation Training Initiative \(AITI\)](#). The Project Assistant may also support the event-planning teams with final logistics for this year's [Livable Cities Forum](#) and early planning for [Adaptation Canada 2026](#). This role may shift due to changing priorities. Based on their skills and interests, the student may assist with research, content development, engagement activities, and event planning. They will work under supervision and in collaboration with ICLEI Canada staff.

**Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

Specific deliverables may include:

- Contribute to a diverse range of climate change adaptation, resilience-building, and engagement projects through documentation, research, analysis, and writing
- Assist the ICLEI team in the delivery of climate change related programs and materials for municipalities and community stakeholders
- Help with marketing, social media, and website activities for ICLEI Canada
- Help with event planning and logistics for the Livable Cities Forum, ICLEI Canada's annual conference, and Adaptation Canada 2026
- Support the development of communications tools for ICLEI Canada clients, members, program partners and the public

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Advanced oral and written English required
- Excellent writing, facilitation, and communication skills
- Strong analytical, research and conceptual skills
- Ability to work carefully and accurately with complex information
- Knowledge of climate change files at the local, provincial and national level
- Understanding of non-profits/environmental non-governmental organizations
- Familiarity with climate change mitigation and adaptation principles
- Understanding of Canadian municipal decision making and processes
- (Ongoing) undergraduate degree in geography, environmental studies/science, political science or related discipline
- Ability to multi-task in a fast-paced, ever-changing and dynamic environment

**What students will gain:**

- First-hand experience of the non-profit/NGO workplace with its range of project funding and activities, shifting priorities, and quick pace
- Perspective on the diverse needs of municipalities, communities and Indigenous groups spanning goal-setting, planning, developing networks, and implementing plans to support climate-readiness
- Experience (and an opportunity to develop their skills) in a range of activities including documentation, research, analysis, writing, policy development, case study development, business case development, event planning, and engagement for a variety of applied contexts
- Experience collaborating with and learning from a team of environmental practitioners with diverse training and skill sets

**Importance and impact of work:**

Students will have the opportunity to contribute directly to government-funded projects, programs and/or tools that support municipalities, communities, and Indigenous groups across the country in achieving their specific climate change adaptation and mitigation goals.

**Other Requirements:**

None



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# Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA)

Tags: renewable energy, social media, outreach support, research, administration

## # Placements available: 2

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance led the successful campaign to phase-out Ontario's five dirty coal-fired power plants. We are now working to move Ontario to a zero carbon, 100% renewably powered electricity grid, and lower electricity bills, through an integrated combination of energy conservation and efficiency, cost-effective Made-in-Ontario green energy, and energy cooperation with Hydro Quebec.

**Location:** [192 Spadina Ave](#) (Queen St. W and Spadina Ave)

- Closest TTC Station: Osgoode
- Estimated travel time: 20 min

## Mode of Engagement: **Hybrid (~50/50)**

- Weekly online and/or in-person meetings to review past week's work
- Regular email and in-person contact

## Key Project(s):

These placements will include three aspects: social media and outreach support, research assistance, and admin support.

Past interns have attended rallies, produced posters and signs, distributed literature, organized events, supported the social media team with engagement, undertaken research projects, written politicians and media, helped with mail-outs and more. The role is varied, never boring.

## Student role(s):

Social media support, research assistance, admin support

## Final proposed deliverable(s):

- Social media posts, a research project

**Preferred Student Skills, Knowledge, Experience and/or Qualities:**

- Strong writing and communication skills including social media outreach and design
- Research skills
- Passion about energy and climate issues
- Flexibility, shared accountability and self-motivation highly valued

**What students will gain:**

The opportunity to:

- Apply environmental knowledge
- Contribute to outreach of climate issues
- Build relationships with staff
- Deepen knowledge in electricity issues from climate and economic perspective
- Engage in activism
- Gain an understanding of the environmental non-governmental organization (ENGO) world

**Importance and impact of work:**

We rely on students to contribute to research and help with outreach, to help us develop ideas and connect with the broader community.

**Other Requirements:**

Forms/paperwork



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Tags: sustainable transportation, marketing, communications, social media

**# Placements available: 2**

[pointA](#) is a leading national non-profit for sustainable, cost-effective, and healthy commuting solutions, expertise, and transformation.

Established in 2001, we were the first Transportation Management Association (TMA) in Ontario.

We aim to give people options to get to the places they want to go in a way that benefits the environment, the economy and the well-being of our communities.

Our main programs are the Smart Commute program, multi-site shuttle program, and the Best Workplaces for Commuters designation.

**Location:** [200-1920 Yonge St](#) (Yonge St and Davisville Ave)

- Closest TTC Station: Davisville
- Estimated travel time: 20 minutes

**Mode of Engagement(s):** **Predominantly virtual with some in-person**

Students will have weekly one-on-one meetings with their supervisor, they will attend (if possible) our team meetings on Fridays. All communications will be conducted over slack (communications platform), where they will be able to speak to their supervisor throughout their time.

**Key Project(s):**

The fall is a busy season for pointA. During the month of September, we have Smart Commute Month, a month-long campaign focusing on sustainable transportation. We are also growing nationally and therefore the work that the organization is undertaking is to grow our social media and website presence as a way to promote pointA's work nationally.

**Student role(s): Marketing & Communications**

We will tailor the role based on the skills and competencies of the students, but the work will primarily be focused on marketing and communications.

This may include:

- Creating posts on social media - we have a differentiated social media strategy for LinkedIn and Instagram
- Creating blog content and/or updating our website that focuses on sustainable transportation
- Conducting research for the team, such as finding partners, clients and other funders
- Students, depending on their availability may also attend outreaches with the team so they can see what it's like to do a program manager's position

### **Final Proposed deliverable(s):**

The main deliverables will be a series of social media posts for our social media channels, blog posts, and research that will support our programs team.

### **Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Strong communication skills, including social media experience. Graphics design, knowing how to use Canva, and/or video capturing and editing experience are a bonus.
- Experience or interest in marketing skills
- Interest in sustainable transportation and program management

### **What You'll Gain:**

We are a small but mighty team that is innovative and we want to create a positive environment for everyone who works with us. The students will be working alongside many U of T alumni and have access to everyone on the team (they're always encouraged to meet everyone virtually by having an initial 1-1 with them at the start of their term) and get to learn from them. For us, the remote nature of our work is a perk.

### **Importance and impact of work:**

Students' work will help us significantly because they will be able to see their direct impact on our website and it will remain there. The work that they will do will help us move forward on our programs, marketing and communications efforts, and business development efforts.

### **Other Requirements:**

Completion of onboarding/training modules



# SRS Consulting Engineers

Tags: climate resilient buildings, ecology, AI

## # Placements available: 2

SRS Consulting Engineers Inc. is a Canadian firm specializing in sustainable, nature-inspired, and regenerative building design through the use of [Positive Building](#) Principles

Based in Ontario, the company integrates engineering innovation with environmental and human well-being, offering services like energy modeling and intelligent systems integration. Our mission is to create resilient, climate-positive buildings and communities.

**Location:** [30 Wertheim Court, Unit 5A, Richmond Hill](#) (Hwy 7 and Leslie Street)

- Estimated travel time: 1 hour

## Modes of Engagement: **Hybrid**

- Bi-weekly informal progress report
- Monthly in-person meeting
- Project Presentation

## Key Project(s):

### Placement #1: Designing Positive Buildings

Learn about [Positive Building](#) principles and how they can be applied to assess performance of buildings across various sectors (e.g., residential, educational, healthcare, and commercial).

## Student Roles:

Tasks may include:

- Apply [Positive Building](#) principles to propose recommendations for sustainable, regenerative building design.
- Evaluate building performance in terms of its ability to promote wellness and reduce consumption of resources such as energy, water, and air
- Investigate best practices and case studies for regenerative design strategies.



- Identify suitable systems (e.g., HVAC, solar, indoor agriculture) and products aligned with the Positive Building framework.
- Help prepare materials for presentation to stakeholders.

**Proposed deliverable(s):**

- Develop briefs outlining Positive Building goals, user needs, and key regenerative strategies **OR**
- Performance Summary: A side-by-side comparison showing how different building types meets Positive Building metrics (e.g., energy positivity, water reuse, mental wellness features)
- Case Study Booklet or Poster Presentation: Visually engaging overview of all design types, including infographics, diagrams, and key takeaways **OR**
- Final Presentation Deck: A 10 - 15 minute group presentation showcasing the design, outcomes, and lessons learned.

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Genuine interest in working on sustainable and climate resilient buildings is a must
- Keen interest in biology and natural ecosystems
- Prior coursework in environmental science
- Systems-thinking mindset
- Strong collaboration and interdisciplinary teamwork
- Curiosity to explore nature-inspired solutions

**What students will gain:**

- Strengthened research skills
- Deepened understanding of how buildings can contribute to environmental and human health
- Valuable presentation and communications experience
- Deepened ability to think holistically

## Placement #2: Building an AI Tool for Positive Building Design

Help create an AI tool called [BJQ-PB](#) to design [Positive Buildings](#). The tool will suggest eco-friendly products and evaluate building designs based on positive impacts associated with air quality, water use, energy, food, and mental wellness.

**Student Role(s):**

Tasks may include:

- Collect, organize, and update databases featuring products, certification criteria such as LEED/WELL, and more.
- Test the AI assistant (BJQ-PB) with prompts and assess performance

**Proposed deliverable(s):**

- Create a spreadsheet containing products, best practices, and green building certification criteria
- Demonstrate how the AI tool (BJQ-PB) responds to analysing at least two real or hypothetical buildings
- Document the process and create a summary of lessons learned
- Create a presentation to communicate the purpose, functionality, and potential of the AI tool (BJQ-PB) to a non-technical audience.

**Preferred student skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualities:**

- Genuine interest in working on sustainable and climate resilient buildings is a must
- Interest in, or knowledge of AI applications (e.g. Chat GPT)
- Interest in, or knowledge of sustainable building criteria (e.g. LEED certification)
- Data management and organization
- Technical curiosity and problem-solving mindset
- Attention to logical structure and detail
- Basic computer programming not required but an asset (e.g. Python)

**What students will gain:**

- Hands-on experience working with AI and data systems
- Deepen knowledge of how buildings can contribute positively to environmental and human health
- Experience translating and presenting complex ideas to non-technical audiences

**Importance and impact of work:**

Students will play a critical role in helping SRS Consulting Engineers advance its mission of designing buildings so they have a net-positive impact in terms of energy, water, air, food and mental well-being. By participating in this project, students will produce clear, compelling narratives around the benefits of AI enhancing approaches to data analytics and organization.

**Other Requirements:**

Students should be willing to engage in this project in a proactive manner, managing challenges fairly independently with periodic (monthly meetings) but not daily or even weekly support.



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# THE END