

Farm Liaison – The Farm at Butler University

The Farm at Butler—an initiative of the Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability (CUES)—is seeking motivated students to fill paid Farm Liaison positions, with a preference for students interested in continuing the position over multiple years. Successful applicants will work eight hours per week on the campus farm and will spend two hours per week learning more in-depth about social, environmental, and economic issues in food production and consumption systems. Farm Liaisons will utilize this applied knowledge to deepen the experience of Butler classes visiting the farm by connecting class projects and topics to farm production and local/global food system challenges. This position will provide a long-term and potent opportunity for self-motivated students to develop practical experience through the application of gardening skills and communicating the importance of food system sustainability with Butler classes. Farm Liaisons will be given preferential consideration for paid summer labor positions at 20-25 hours/week.

The Farm at Butler is a one-acre diversified farm located on Butler's campus that produces up to 75 different food crops for the Butler community. The Farm's three-pronged mission is:

1. To promote excellence in education and research across the University curriculum,
2. To educate Butler University and the Indianapolis community about sustainable agriculture and the local food system, and
3. To serve as an example of sustainable urban agriculture through the exploration of local food production and sales.

The Farm has long been a resource to Butler courses and the Indianapolis community by connecting disciplinary content and organizational missions to urban ecology, sustainability, and community empowerment. This is done through class and community tours of The Farm, grant-funded projects, and facilitating student projects that tie directly to a variety of disciplines from biology and business to communications and the arts and beyond. See more information about The Farm at:

<https://www.butler.edu/farm>.

Responsibilities:

Farm Liaisons are expected to work 8 hours per week on farm labor and 2 hours per week learning about food production and food systems for a total of 10 hours per week. Farm labor will enable the liaisons to learn more about aspects of farm operations to improve their ability to converse and connect with diverse classes and student interests.

- Assist Farm staff with the operation and maintenance of The Farm including: soil preparation, planting, weeding and cultivating, harvesting, preparing for markets, and running the Farm stand
- Complete assigned readings and identify key points and topics that could be used in conversations with visiting classes
- Research additional readings and resources to stimulate learning in food systems
- Create a guiding document of food production, ecological, and food system key points and topics for use by all farm assistants
- Compile a record of visiting classes and their topics of study and connect food production and the importance of the class work to farm and food system knowledge
- If academic schedule allows, meet with classes visiting The Farm and be prepared to converse with students about their coursework, how it benefits The Farm or food system knowledge in general, and answer questions

Qualifications:

- Open to all students at Butler University, but first- and second year students interested in continuing the position over multiple years are preferred
- Availability to work 10 hours/week each semester for the duration of employment
- Self-starter, motivated, positive learner
- Willingness and ability to learn about sustainable food production, why it's important for food system sustainability, and how this information connects to content in Butler courses engaging with the farm space.
- Ability to convey often complex information to a wide audience
- Ability to manage time effectively and arrive to work on time and prepared to contribute
- Ability to critically engage with The Farm and the farm manager to understand the why and how of sustainable food production best practices
- Blocks of time 2 hours or greater in their academic schedule
- Willingness to work some weekends
- Ability and willingness to work hard physically in all types of weather
- Ability to accept constructive criticism of work and make changes as necessary
- Capacity for detail-oriented tasks, independent work, and creative problem solving
- Enthusiasm for the mission of the Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability (CUES) and The Farm

Starting pay is \$10 per hour, with the possibility for increased pay for each semester of employment, depending on performance.

To apply:

1. Prepare a cover letter and resume
2. Email your cover letter, resume, and current academic schedule to cue@butler.edu