



Become a Food Systems Innovation Fellow

The UVM Food Systems Graduate program offers two one-year fellowships to talented graduate students who are interested in collaborating with UVM Dining and gaining professional development skills. The fellowships provide a total stipend of \$9,000 and a 12 credit tuition waiver for the student's first year of academic studies.

Application deadline: January 15

Eligibility: Food Systems Master's program applicants are invited to apply. There are two fellowship positions available. Review the descriptions below and choose one to apply for. **Please submit a statement in 350 words** (or less), describing the reasons for your interest and how you can contribute to the work. The statement should be uploaded as a **miscellaneous attachment** to the online graduate application.

Communications and Activities Fellow

The Communications and Activities Fellow supports the implementation of campus dining projects to promote sustainability initiatives, which include local purchasing, waste reduction and plant-based proteins. Responsibilities may include:

- Support UVM Dining to evaluate student needs/demands regarding food values and future metrics for UVM Dining to measure and analyze.
- Research Sodexo local purchasing or sustainability initiatives to present back to the UVM Dining management (for example, plant-based proteins, "less meat, better meat", and food recovery)
- Liaison with the Food Systems program to create long term collaborations and research proposals using the new dining hall and future use of the teaching kitchen.
- Serve on the Dining Advisory Council, as able.
- Promote purchasing initiatives, such as Fair Trade coffee, Black River local beef and UVM purchasing initiatives through Proctor Maple & Catamount Farm.
- Support statewide Sodexo accounts with marketing materials for Harvest of the Month, Vermont First and waste reduction.

To view a complete list of UVM Dining's sustainability initiatives, please visit:

<https://uvmdining.sodexomyway.com/explore/sustainability>

Procurement and Operations Fellow

The Procurement and Operations Fellow plays an integral role in the progress of Vermont First initiatives. Responsibilities may include:

- Develop a working knowledge of the Vermont First program goals and actions
- Serve on the advisory board of Sodexo's Vermont First Initiative
- Support Vermont First meetings and conferences
- Support Sodexo in compiling, analyzing and distributing local food procurement results
- Research supply chains to support new and on-going efforts
- Support the development of annual work plans, writing of annual reports, creation of blog posts and other outreach material for Vermont First.
- Project management support for Vermont First's ongoing projects, including the New England Food Prize and a Working Lands Grant in partnership with Kingdom Creamery.
- Support UVM Dining on other sustainability projects, local food events and marketing.

Expectations of VT First Fellow include:

- Ability to work independently; self-directed
- Accurate work (particularly for data – in such a huge data set, it is hard to check work for accuracy; dependent on work being correct the first time)
- Seek out support and ask questions when needed
- Results-driven & analytically-minded
- Polished writing skills
- Ability to present to various stakeholder groups, from Advisory Board to student groups to Sodexo employees
- Attend Advisory Board meetings (when class schedules allow)
- Seek out other food system groups/meetings you'd like to participate in (Farm to Plate Working Groups, FINE Farm and Sea to Campus Network)

Food Systems Innovation Fellows will develop the following skills and knowledge through their role:

- An understanding of institutional food service operations
- Experience with leveraging institutional purchasing power to shift supply chains
- Experience with integrating value propositions about food with educational initiatives
- An understanding of power dynamics within university food systems
- Project management skills

- Facilitation of multi-stakeholder collaboration
 - An understanding of the Farm-to-Institution (FTI) movement
 - An understanding of social movements in the food system and student activism
 - Familiarity with the Vermont food system
 - Networking with regional and national FTI, food justice and sustainability professionals and activists.
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