



Internship Description

The Internship is a hands-on experience focusing on practical training in organic gardening and small-scale farming. The intention of the internship is to provide students with a mastery of the basic techniques and methods required to manage organic gardens and small-scale farms. The daily activities of gardening and farming, planning, production, care, and marketing form the basis for this learning.

Interns work alongside the founder and director of LRUF, Chris Hiryak as well as other apprentices and interns in the greenhouses and gardens. Interns are exposed to the different aspects of growing plants organically. The interns selected to participate in the program each year are interested in practical training that will prepare them to teach others and/or to run their own operations.

Interns have gone on to apply the training they have received at LRUF in developing their own personal gardens, starting inner-city community gardens and school gardens, working as environmental educators, participating in international rural development projects and pursuing advanced degrees in agriculture, sociology, biology, ecology and agroecology.

The goal of the internship is to increase the number and diversity of individuals who have a command of the fundamental skills and concepts associated with organic horticulture and agriculture, such that they will be prepared to actively participate in commercial or social service projects that aim to improve human health and environmental quality through organic practices.

Weekly Schedule

The Internship is full-time (40-50 hours a week) and runs from mid-May to mid-August. Program activities take place Monday-Friday.

This is a full-time program involving strenuous physical work five days a week. The program's work schedule is generally from 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 7:30 PM Monday-Friday. The schedule is adjusted in the early spring and fall according to daylight and temperatures. Interns are expected to participate fully in the program by being available for those hours every day. Examples of daily activities include bed preparation, transplanting, seed sowing, watering, weeding, thinning, composting, harvesting, produce handling, storage, and marketing.

Because of the long hours spent working and studying, interns are strongly discouraged from holding part-time jobs or enrolling in school part time. Interns will get the maximum out of this experience by coming prepared - financially, physically, and emotionally.

How to Apply

Before writing your application, carefully read all the material presented above. Consider how well the course might fit your stated interests and goals. It's important that applicants have a realistic idea of what the program involves as well as their ability to fully participate from beginning to end.

Download and complete the application form. Type or print legibly. Send two copies of your application plus the original to:

Internship Applications
LRUF
5910 G Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Foreign language international participants must demonstrate adequate English-speaking and comprehension skills. This is determined by passing the TOEFL exam with a score of 450 or better. TOEFL score reports are due with the application.

Criteria for Selection

The goal of our program is to train future organic farmers, gardeners, teachers, and community leaders. Therefore, in our selection process we strive to choose the individuals who seem most prepared to maximize their training and to then use it for their work, to start their own operations, and/or to teach others.

In choosing individuals who will live and work together for 3 months, we are in effect creating a community. Out of the pool of applicants, we attempt to achieve a balance of interests, geographical and cultural origins, ages, and gender. Consequently, there is no one "preferred" type of applicant. We carefully consider each application in relationship to the entire pool of applicants. While the people selected share a strong interest in organic farming and gardening, they come from diverse backgrounds.