

FoodBridge Internship Opportunity

FoodBridge is committed to strengthening the resilience of agricultural ecosystems and promoting the transition to sustainable agriculture by fostering bold value chain collaborations. Through an internship with us, students will have the chance to work on applied projects that address real-world challenges facing farmers, agri-food businesses and supply chain partners.

The internship opportunity below is designed to provide meaningful hands-on experience while generating valuable insights for the agri-food sector. We offer a unique opportunity to develop professional skills, expand industry networks, and gain practical experience addressing important challenges faced by the Canadian agri-food sector.

The State of Agricultural Finance in Canada

Progress toward reducing agriculture's environmental footprint remains slow. Because farmers depend heavily on financing and supply chain relationships to manage risk and make investments, agricultural finance can be a powerful tool for accelerating the adoption of practices that improve resilience, reduce emissions, and strengthen farm businesses. The intern will be responsible for producing a research report that explores the structure and scale of the Canadian agricultural finance market, including the major financial institutions serving the sector, the types of financing available, and the market share of key lenders. The research will identify emerging sustainable finance products and programs designed to support environmental and climate-related outcomes on farms. Through a review of financing models and case studies from across the country, the intern will assess opportunities and challenges for agricultural finance to support a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector and develop recommendations to strengthen the role of financial solutions to that end. Where relevant, the student will participate in interviews to deepen understanding of current dynamics and emerging initiatives. The work will help inform a project currently underway with FoodBridge, Farm Credit Canada and the Ontario Soil Network, led by the Environmental Defense Fund.

Desired experience and competencies

- Currently enrolled in a Master's or PhD program in Agricultural Economics, Economics, Finance, Business, Agricultural Science, Environmental Studies, or a related field.
- Strong interest in agricultural finance, sustainable finance, and agri-food systems.
- Experience conducting literature reviews, policy analysis, and/or market research.
- Ability to analyze and synthesize complex information from multiple sources into clear, concise reports.
- Strong quantitative and analytical skills; experience working with economic, financial, or market data is an asset.

- Experience conducting interviews and engaging with industry stakeholders is an asset.
- Familiarity with the Canadian agricultural sector is considered an asset.

Additional Details

All candidates should demonstrate:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong organizational and project management skills.
- Initiative, curiosity, and a willingness to learn.
- Ability to work independently while contributing to a collaborative team environment.
- A passion for building a more sustainable and resilient agri-food system.

Internship Logistics:

- Ideal internship start date is Fall 2026.
- This is a remote opportunity. The intern is expected to have a reliable work space to conduct independent work and take virtual meetings.
- Student hours, duration and timeline to completion will be mutually agreed upon prior to the start of the internship. FoodBridge is open to part-time or full-time internships.
- The internship will be focused on an independent project with additional opportunities to be involved in other work being done by the FoodBridge team.

Interested candidates should send an email to Linsey Van Koppen at linsey@foodbridge.ca with their resume and why they are interested in working with FoodBridge on one of these opportunities.