

# Student Summer Job Opportunity

## **Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (SAFS)**

Department of Environment, Agriculture, and Geography

### Position 4: Research Assistant in Organic Potato Breeding

We are seeking a research assistant (RA) to work on the Educational Farm during the 2023 growing season. The Educational Farm ([www.ubishops.ca/farm](http://www.ubishops.ca/farm)) is an essential component of the SAFS program, serving as a laboratory for experiential learning, research and community outreach.

#### Job Description

The successful applicant will work with a team of researchers (Dr. Darren Bardati, principal investigator) and students on a Quebec Government-funded project to develop new potato varieties adapted to the needs of organic agriculture and Quebec farmers. Crop varieties that are adapted to organic conditions need to have better disease resistance, make good use of soil nutrients, and also look and taste great! These varieties have a broad environmental benefit because they can help organic farmers produce good crops and help non-organic farmers reduce their use of fertilizers and pesticides. This position is offered by the SAFS program in collaboration with SeedChange and the Consortium de Recherche sur la Pomme de Terre du Québec (CRPTQ).

The RA will help with establishing and maintaining a potato research plot. The RA will work closely with an MSc student (Guillaume Ravel) and farm employees to assist Dr. Bardati (Bishop's), Hugo Martorell (SeedChange), and Kristine Naess (CRPTQ) in following experimental protocols and weekly data collection, as well as harvesting days in September.

#### Dates

- May to end of September, including harvest days: September 12-14, 2023

#### Location

- Bishop's University Educational Farm (3075 chemin Glenday, Sherbrooke, QC)

#### Hours & Salary

- Part-time position: approx. 20 hours/week over the summer period (choice of days can be discussed)
- Salary (undergraduates) = \$17.50/hour (maximum \$9,000 for the season)

#### Qualifications

- The student should be hardworking, disciplined, and punctual
- The student should be organized and able to follow instructions and take careful measurements
- Enrollment in the SAFS program, or having taken AGR courses, is an asset
- Farm experience (specifically in market gardening systems) is an asset
- The student should have an interest in sustainable agriculture and food systems and be keen to contribute to related research and gain research skills

#### How to Apply

Please send a CV and cover letter outlining your interest in this position and relevant experience as **one PDF file**, labelled by your last name.position4 (e.g., Smith.Position4.pdf) to Dr. Darren Bardati at [dbardati@ubishops.ca](mailto:dbardati@ubishops.ca) by March 6, 2023 at 5pm. **Important: if you are applying for more than one SAFS student position you must apply for each position separately, using the correct position number for each application.** Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

*Bishop's University is located on the traditional territory of the Abenaki people.*