

## **Position Description: Terp Farm Student Summer Staff**

The University of Maryland Department of Dining Services, in collaboration with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has established “Terp Farm”, a University of Maryland sustainable farming operation located at the University’s Upper Marlboro farm facility. Terp Farm offers four-season vegetable production for Dining Services and provides produce to food-insecure members of the campus and College Park communities. The goal of the project is to create a successful farming operation that may be expanded to further meet the food supply needs of Dining Services in alignment with the Sustainable Food Commitment, adopted in 2012 by the Department of Dining Services. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has committed two acres at the Central Maryland Research & Education Center – Upper Marlboro facility for Terp Farm, located 15 miles from the College Park campus. Terp Farm is working to integrate coursework from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to ensure students benefit from this extraordinary new campus program and are able to get their hands dirty in farm operations.

The Department of Dining Services is seeking full-time student staff members for the 2017 summer at Terp Farm. The position runs from late May/early June through late August and offers \$9.25 per hour. Housing on the Upper Marlboro Facility may also be available. The Assistant Director and Lead Agricultural Technician will support the Terp Farm Student Staff by incorporating education and mentorship throughout the workday, as well as opportunities for field trips and workshops, based on Student Staff interest. The Terp Farm Student Staff will support the Assistant Director and Lead Agricultural Technician with the following aspects of farm operations including:

- Production
  - Field preparations including tilling, fertilizing, irrigation and mulching
  - Set up, testing and maintenance of automated irrigation system
  - High tunnel operations
  - Vegetable production from seed starting to post-harvest handling (including planting, pest identification and management, harvesting, washing, packing, etc.)
- Infrastructure
  - Installation of high tunnels, as needed
  - Set up of post-harvest handling area
  - Set up of storage area
  - Basic maintenance of tools and machinery
- Recordkeeping
  - Assist with maintaining log books for maintenance and farm operations

### **Physical Demands/Work Environment:**

- Heavy lifting
- Extreme weather conditions
- Working environment may have allergens—dust, mold, grasses etc.
- Hazardous materials
- Wear and work in personal protection equipment
- Occasional work must be performed beyond normal work hours due to weather & other factors



**Qualifications:** Knowledge and passion for sustainable vegetable production are required. While previous farming experience is preferred, it is not required. However it is essential that candidates are committed to vegetable farming and all that it requires. Preference will be given to applicants with previous farming experience. The ideal candidate is hard-working, self-motivated, and able to maintain a sense of humor and communicate well. Applicants should be able to lift 50lbs regularly. They should also be able to work outside in all weather conditions from rain to mid-summer heat. A valid driver's license is required as well as means of traveling to the farm.

**To Apply:** Please send a cover letter, resume, and two references to [alilly@umd.edu](mailto:alilly@umd.edu). Please write "Terp Farm Student Staff" in the subject of your email.

The one-page cover letter should address the following questions:

- Why do you want to work at Terp Farm?
- What are your qualifications for the position?
- Describe your previous experience with growing vegetables.
- What specific ideas and goals do you bring to this position?

**Applications are due Sunday, February 26, 2017.**

