

2018 Request for Grad Innovators: IIFH FoodShot Fellowship

A FoodShot Global Partnership

Description

The Innovation Institute for Food & Health (IIFH) is partnering with FoodShot Global to offer graduate students from the University of California at Davis a unique fellowship opportunity. This year, an IIFH FoodShot Fellow will spend six months exploring the growing food/agriculture/technology venture ecosystem at FoodShot Global in New York, after which the student will spend six months applying their learnings to the research concept at their home campus. By providing entrepreneurial training in a mission-driven setting, the IIFH FoodShot Fellow will be exposed to the process of landscaping and to vetting startups in the food/ag ecosystem. Exposure to the business of food/agriculture innovation will provide essential insight on what it takes to bring a concept to market and succeed.

About FoodShot Global

FoodShot Global empowers bold ideas and innovative companies to accelerate the transformation to a healthy, sustainable and equitable food system. It is a collaborative platform of innovators, investors, industry leaders and advocates working to solve our biggest food system challenges. By connecting knowledge, networks and funding across private and public sectors, FoodShot creates scalable, impactful, and inspired solutions – MoonShots for Better Food. With a global network of food industry leaders and aligned equity, debt and prize dollars, FoodShot empowers best-in-class entrepreneurs, researchers and advocates to transform the most critical food system challenges into opportunities for collaborative investment and meaningful change.

Each year, FoodShot Global selects a Challenge – an identified obstacle to a healthy, sustainable, and equitable food system. FoodShot invites entrepreneurs and innovators to submit businesses that address the challenge for funding consideration, while experts in the challenge area provide issue-specific insights and nominate candidates for the GroundBreaker prize. FoodShot vets and reviews submissions for boldness, viability and impact to determine the best-of-class candidates. Finally, FoodShot and its partners award equity, debt, and prize dollars to the finalists, as well as providing post-investment capacity resources to ensure greater scale and impact.

About the Innovation Institute for Food and Health

The IIFH makes uncommon connections between sectors and disciplines to catalyze innovation across food, agriculture and health. It works to accelerate the deployment of products and processes to enable safe, sustainable and secure nutrition for all. Together with strategic partners, IIFH identifies systemic issues as the basis for collaborative programs using both top-down (partner-driven) and bottom-up (investigator-initiated) approaches to formulate systemic solutions. This reduces the time from conception to application for transformative impact.

Innovator Fellow Roles and Responsibilities

Part One – Placement in New York City at FoodShot Global

Following selection, the Fellow will join FoodShot Global on location in New York City in mid-July 2018, where they will be instrumental in working on the annual FoodShot Challenge. The Fellow will have the opportunity to explore FoodShot's strategic ecosystem and extensive network of assets in evaluating and vetting the various submissions. The Fellow will learn what kind of companies and technologies are considered investable and will engage with expert council members to understand where there are opportunities in the food/agriculture innovation space. By supporting critical parts of the investment process, the Fellow will gain invaluable knowledge about what investors look for in entrepreneurs.

Part Two – Application to UC Activities

Returning to their UC campus after six months in New York, the second portion of the fellowship will begin in mid-January 2019. The Fellow will resume doctoral research and for six months will apply the FoodShot learnings to research activities, especially by exploring the greatest impact of translation to market. Possibility exists to further the innovator training with a formal on-campus Entrepreneurship Academy, development of a basic business plan, identification of potential investors, and research on the target landscape. At the end of the program, the Fellow will be expected to provide a brief report on the results and impact of their fellowship, and present their work at the annual IIFH Innovator Summit in spring 2019.

Location & Timing

New York City: Mid-July 2018 – Mid-January 2019

UC Davis: Mid-January 2019 – Mid-June 2019

Eligibility

- 1) UC Davis Ph.D. student expecting to finish their program in the next 1-2 years
- 2) Ability to relocate to New York City for six month period

Funding Available

UC Davis PhD salary plus program tuition. Reasonable costs related to an initial meeting in New York City with the Fellow, project PI, and FoodShot team will also be covered. In addition, the IIFH will provide up to \$10,000 in funds to support research expenses as appropriate.

Application Requirements

- 1) Completed application
- 2) Curriculum Vitae (PDF)
- 3) Letter of interest detailing current PhD research, why the program is of interest to you, and how your career goals align therewith (max. 2 pages, PDF format)
- 4) Letter of support from faculty PI of research project (max. 1 page, PDF format)

Application Deadline

April 8, 2018. [Click here to apply.](#)