



IIFH Better Ventures Fellow

A unique opportunity to join our 2020 innovation partners onsite to gain first-hand experience on what it takes to have a successful startup

- **\$70K fellowship:** 1 year salary, tuition, travel and research expenses (up to \$70K by [IIFH](#))
- **Timeline:** Summer/Fall 2020 to Spring/Summer 2021 ([flexible](#) start date, virtual option if required)
- **Eligibility:** UC Davis post-doctoral fellows, or PhD students in their last 1-2 years of study
- **Experiential Learning with Venture Capital Group:** During the first quarter of the fellowship, the fellow will work with the host to evaluate startups in the food system and identify investable ventures, kicking off with an onsite residency in Oakland, CA (up to \$10K travel, accommodation and conference allowance provided). During the second quarter upon return to Davis, the fellow will engage in regular virtual and in-person meetings to conclude with the venture capital host.
- **Developing and De-risking Innovative Concept:** Using the knowledge gained in the first phase of the program, fellows will have an additional two quarters on campus to conduct critical studies for de-risking a potential technology, product or process they want to develop.
- **DEADLINE May 15, 2020 – OR UNTIL FILLED:** [Click here to apply.](#)

About Better Ventures

[Better Ventures](#) is a venture capital firm that provides funding and support to companies creating scalable solutions to some of the world's biggest challenges, including re-tooling for a sustainable economy, tackling data-driven health care, and enabling an adaptive workforce. They invest in software, data science, and life sciences startups to deliver profitably and progressively toward the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). Better Ventures believes that mission-driven companies will outperform the market. They back pre-seed stage startups and founders who leverage breakthrough innovations in science and technology to build a more sustainable and equitable economy in which both people and planet thrive.

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.



Program Description

First Quarter: Experiential learning onsite with Better Ventures in Oakland, CA

- Start date flexible: following selection, join Better Ventures for the first quarter at Oakland in Summer/Fall 2020 (including \$10,000 travel, accommodation and conference allowance).
- Explore Better Ventures' strategic ecosystem and extensive network of assets in evaluating and vetting competitive investment opportunities.
- Learn what kind of companies and technologies are considered investable and engage with expert consortium members to understand opportunities in food/agriculture innovation.
- Gain invaluable knowledge about what investors look for in entrepreneurs.

Second Quarter: Transition back to UC Davis, splitting time between research and virtual engagement with Better Ventures

- At UC Davis: upon second quarter return to Davis, continue to support Better Ventures' efforts in evaluating startups and selecting investable ventures that address selected challenges in the food system.
- The fellow will work closely with Better Ventures staff through virtual means, but support is provided for regular in-person meetings as needed.

Third and Fourth Quarters: De-risking technology/product/process concept

- Resume campus research: for remaining two quarters, practice applying Better Ventures learnings to conclude research activities, exploring the greatest impact and best route to market.
- Enrich learning: through on-campus Entrepreneurship Academy and business plan development, identify potential investors and research the target landscape.
- Support from: monthly face-to-face meetings with the IIFH (virtual or in-person), as needed.
- In conclusion: provide a brief report on the results and impact of the fellowship, and present at the annual Innovator Summit.

Application Requirements

- 1) Completed application
- 2) Curriculum Vitae (PDF)
- 3) Letter of interest detailing current research focus, 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 supervising faculty PI (max. 1 page, PDF format)