

IIFH-FTW Fellowship

A unique opportunity to join our 2021 innovation partners onsite to gain first-hand experience on what it takes to have a successful startup

- **\$50K fellowship:** 6 month salary, travel, tuition, research and conference expenses (up to \$50K by [IIFH](#))
- **Timeline:** Fall 2021 to Spring 2022 ([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 anticipated onsite residency in San Francisco (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 three months of the program, fellows will have an additional three months on campus working part-time and remotely with their VC host to conduct critical studies for de-risking a potential technology, product or process they want to develop.
- **DEADLINE August 13, 2021** – OR UNTIL FILLED: [Click here to apply.](#)

About FTW Ventures

[FTW Ventures](#) is an early-stage venture fund investing in breakthrough hardware, software, biotech and novel products for the worldwide food system.

The fund seeks out exceptional startups leveraging responsible science and technology to improve the quality, access and enjoyment of food. They advise founders along their entire startup journey – through fundraising, developing the initial product strategy, building their go-to-market plan, business development connections and providing guidance on effective marketing.

FTW Ventures was founded by Brian Frank, a serial entrepreneur turned venture investor with prior operating and investing experience in the technology and food tech sectors. In addition to serving as the General Partner of FTW, Brian is also the Food & Ag Tech Network Leader for Village Global, and a mentor to various accelerators and VC firms such as Techstars Farm-to-Fork Accelerator, the Sustainable Ocean Alliance and the World Food Programme.



About the Innovation Institute for Food and Health (IIFH)

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, the 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

Phase 1 (3 months): Experiential learning onsite with FTW

- Start date flexible: following selection, anticipate joining FTW for the first phase at their San Francisco offices in Winter 2022 (including up to \$10K travel, accommodation and conference allowance).
- Explore FTW's 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.

Phase 2 (3 months): Transition back to UC Davis, splitting time between research and virtual engagement with FTW

- At UC Davis: upon return to Davis, continue to support FTW's efforts in evaluating startups and selecting investable ventures that address selected challenges in the food system.
- The fellow will work closely with FTW's staff through virtual means. Support is provided for regular in-person meetings as needed.
- 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, with the potential to present at the annual Innovator Summit or equivalent IIFH event.

Application Requirements

- 1) Completed application form on IIFH website
 - 2) Resume or CV (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 PI approving the applicant's graduation. (max. 1 page, PDF format)
- Please combine items 2-4 above (in the order they are listed) into one single PDF for submission.