

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS ADVANCED DIPLOMA

(One Year (9 months) Post-Graduate Program)

Please read and think about the following information below carefully to decide whether this program is a good fit for you. This information may change and is simply intended to offer you a helpful perspective on what you will experience in this program.

Orientation and

Program Dates: College will email dates; will vary by intake (September or January).

Scheduled Breaks: Last week of December and first week of January (two weeks); first week of March (one week). Check your registration for exact dates.

Post-Graduation

Work Permit length: Up to 9 months.

Schedule: Monday to Friday as early as 8:00 a.m. and as late as 6:00 p.m.

Location: 1035 1st Street North, Brandon, Manitoba. See campus information [here](#)

What You'll Study:

The business, science and innovation of sustainable food production and harvest management. Work closely with instructors to research different greenhouse models and ways to improve food security in communities. Explore how fruits and vegetables are grown, understand the science of agronomy, and learn the techniques behind operating a greenhouse, breeding and propagating plants, and managing nutrients and pests.

See course descriptions [here](#). Click on the Courses & Costs link.

See PDF document on [this page](#).

How You'll "Learn By Doing":

You'll apply your learning and skills in our 3,300 square foot sustainable greenhouse, where instructors and students work on projects to help the environment while growing food.

This program's activities also use a garden, orchard, field labs and growth chamber.

Work with instructors, industry partners and people from the community on applied research to solve food issues. Develop and complete food projects that combine your learning with real-world experience, including some projects with Horticultural Production and Agribusiness students.

Minimum 120 hour work practicum at end of program; complete a presentation about your experience.

See video about the program here: <https://youtu.be/wtxjpkc1RDA>

What You'll Need To Do to Graduate:

- Attend all classes, activities and field trips; arrive on time every day.
- Purchase all required textbooks and supplies, including safety clothing (steel toed shoes, gardening gloves), equipment (gardening secateurs, pest scouting tool) and [computer-related supplies](#).
- Work co-operatively in teams and behave respectfully to all students, staff and partners.
English only.
- **No cell phone use** during class and greenhouse activity.

- Manage physical demands: walking on rough/uneven land, lifting equipment or heavy objects, standing for a long time, bending down, working on your knees, digging in dry or wet soil, working with seeds and plants, handling watering equipment, tools and machinery. Practical work will be sometimes be in a hot or a cold environment. Good vision important for activities like recording observations for experiments. Must maintain sanitation practices in greenhouse and laboratory.
- You will need a **co-op work permit** for Practicum; apply **early!** See [here](#).
- To graduate, you must pass all courses **and** have a grade point average (GPA) of C (60%). Passing many courses with only a D (50%) can make your GPA too low to graduate. Re-testing is generally not an option. If you fail a course, it may not be available again until the following year.
- All English skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) are important. Evaluation will include tests, group projects, laboratory experiments, presentations, public events and research papers.
- **Do your own work.** Cheating, not referencing sources of your ideas, or using other people's work could result in failing grades/suspension. See Policy A25 from this Academic Policies [link](#).

How College Can Help You

- Trained instructors will share their knowledge and experience from the industry, and will give you frequent and specific feedback on your progress.
- Learning Commons staff available to assist with study skills, like test-taking and writing papers.
- Student advising staff can offer support for personal issues.

Job Options for Graduates

Graduates can access exciting work opportunities in food security or innovation in food production in private business, government departments, First Nations or non-governmental organizations. Below are the examples of the types of jobs for SFS graduates:

- Field Agronomist/Production Worker
- Landscape worker
- Research Assistant
- Greenhouse worker
- Assistant Grower in Nursery

Most jobs will require working outside, sometimes in unpleasant weather.

Some jobs will require evening and weekend work and/or long hours of work, especially in the spring/summer/fall months.

Almost all jobs will require a **valid Manitoba driver's license**; many will require you to drive daily outside of the city's bus system. See information [here](#) and [here](#).

Most job opportunities will *not* be in a city, so you may need to live in a smaller town or rural area.

Possible jobs on Manitoba In-Demand Occupations list: [2221-Biological technologists and technicians](#); [2222-Agricultural and fish products inspectors](#); [0821-Managers in agriculture](#).

Other important information:

Field trips will generally be outside; the weather could be cool or windy or rainy. You could be walking a long distance on uneven ground and in fields of dirt or crops. You could be bitten by mosquitoes and possibly by ticks. Sunscreen protection is also needed outside on sunny days.

Clothing: You will need comfortable clothing and shoes/boots which can get dirty or wet. Footwear should have a non-slip sole and a closed toe, for working in lab. Steel toed shoes are a must for working in the grow plot or greenhouse. You will need adequate rainwear for your body and feet. You will need clothing for hot conditions, and for cold conditions.

Co-op work permit will be **required** by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. You must apply for this permit and receive it *before* you start Practicum. Processing time can be long, so do this as early as possible. See the IRCC website [here](#).