**Collaborative digital cacao farmer peer-training**

**Call for student volunteers**

**Volunteer opportunity:**

We seek to build a team of student volunteers to work directly with global experts in an exciting startup environment to develop Phase 1 of a collaborative digital cacao farmer peer-training platform: a school for cacao farmers to develop skills they seek to master, with curriculum offered on common digital tools that are used daily around the world. We are looking for results-oriented, highly motivated team players that thrive on creating successful projects and partnerships. The ideal volunteer candidate has basic experience with literature reviews and/or data analysis, experience in using common digital platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and YouTube, a keen interest in education and cross-cultural communication, and excitement to create innovative solutions to wicked problems of socioeconomic inequality.

**Concept:**

Due to Covid-19, social distancing has meant that farmer training in field schools and cooperatives have functionally stopped. A [poll conducted by the Fine Cacao and Chocolate Institute](https://youtu.be/jVurSs7m95U) found that, of 159 responding cocoa production and trade operations, 80% were limiting gatherings of large groups of people, 74% were limiting non-essential visits and travel, 70% were changing in-person meetings to virtual where possible, and 67% were rescheduling or cancelling events or meetings/trainings. Respondents also reported an acute need to continue training for public health purposes: 86% were educating workers about hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and 50% were changing processes to reduce risk of exposure. These delays in access to training can cause many challenges for cacao farmers. We are working to create a collaborative digital cacao farmer peer-training platform to support these communities in continuing education during the Covid-19 interruptions and to allow for developed use of these tools in the future.

**Time expectation:**

1-2 volunteer days per week, July and August 2020, with possibility to extend through the end of the year.

**Time planning:**

Student volunteers will meet with project Principal Investigators Dr. Carla D. Martin (Fine Cacao and Chocolate Institute, Harvard University) and Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl (Cacao Academy, University of Sydney) once weekly. Weekly student volunteer deliverables will be submitted by an agreed-upon deadline.

* Weekly group meeting: Wednesdays, 10 AM ET / 4 PM CET
* Weekly task completion: Thursdays and Fridays
* Work delivered: by 4 AM ET / 10 AM CET Mondays

**Management:**

Student volunteers will be coordinated by Sofia Colmenares, FCCI Intern, reporting directly to Dr. Carla D. Martin and Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl.

**Anticipated volunteer tasks:**

* Literature review support (gathering and analyzing academic articles, NGO reports, farmer training manuals, etc.)
* Census data analysis (using data provided by Principal Investigators)
* Situation analysis report editing (report to be drafted by Principal Investigators)
* Digital tool review based on farmer indications of tool appropriateness (tools to be employed are common and well-known, e.g. Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube)
* Review of existing curriculum tools (tools to be provided by cacao training partners)
* Drafting of curriculum support materials and preparation for digital upload (content to be provided by Principal Investigators)
* Brainstorming for proposal of Phase 2 of project
* Develop a social media and communications strategy for the project that promotes the project, as well as all the stakeholders from farmers to producer organizations to academics

**Involvement in project outcomes:**

Digital learning platform Phase 1 will launch formally in September, and students will be invited to review the first phase of monitoring and evaluation reporting in late September/early October.

**Letter of completion:**

Students who successfully complete this volunteer engagement will receive a formal letter of completion from Dr. Carla D. Martin of Harvard University and the Fine Cacao and Chocolate Institute.

**To apply:**

Send an email expressing your interest with your updated CV/resume to FCCI, contact@chocolateinstitute.org, by June 30, 2020. Decisions will be made by July 3, 2020.