



PHASE I

What’s the daily schedule like?

Fellows gain hands-on experience gardening most weekdays. In addition to this, Fellows participate in a variety of workshops, farm tours, and educational sessions (see below). Leading for Healthy Communities is an internally taught class that rotates between: professional development, nutrition, food systems, and wellness. AMI staff also teach “Digging Deeper,” a weekly class on gardening, farming or food preservation. The typical work day is 8 am to 5 pm on Monday-Friday. Cooking and additional farm chores rotate among Fellow. Chores and project work may need to occur after-hours. There are some occasional weekend activities on Saturdays. Sundays are always free.

| Time | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------|--------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------|
| 8:00 | Garden | Garden | Workshops & Field Trips | Digging Deeper | Garden |
| 9:00 | | | | | |
| 10:00 | | | | | |
| 11:00 | | | | | |
| 12:00 | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch |
| 1:00 | Garden | Leading for Healthy Communities | Workshops & Field Trips | Summer School Garden Program 2 Fellows | Garden |
| 2:00 | | | | | |
| 3:00 | | Garden | | | |
| 4:00 | | Farmers Market 2 Fellows | | | |
| 5:00 | | | | | |
| 6:00 | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner |
| 7:00 | | | | Cohort Meeting | |



Frequently Asked Questions

AMI Fellowship

What will I learn?

AMI Fellows gain full-season experience growing a variety of foods, including: fruits and vegetables, edible mushrooms, eggs/poultry and honey. Educational workshops and sessions enhance this hands-on experience, providing training on topics such as: Soil and Pest Management, Food Preservation Techniques, Herbalism, Permaculture, Nutrition Education, Community Development, Non-Profit Management and more.

Would I have any time off?

AMI observes Memorial Day, Labor Day and the Fourth of July. Phase I Fellows receive three additional personal vacation days.

What does Phase I cost?

Other than the application fee, there is not a fee to participate in Phase I. AMI provides housing and whole food staples to supplement what food is grown on the farm. Upon successful completion of their Phase I training, AMI Fellows receive a \$1,000 stipend.

PHASE II

What happens after Phase I?

After Phase I, Phase II Fellows step into roles where they use their acquired knowledge and skills to help build organizational capacity and launch new programs to increase access to fresh, locally grown food in our communities. Phase II Fellows work on projects and programs such as developing school gardens, and site-based curriculum, developing infrastructure for local food systems, growing food and increasing food access, cultivating food-based businesses, and teaching nutrition and cooking for a healthy lifestyle.

What are anticipated Phase II partner organizations?

Fellows may anticipate working at partner organizations in Highland and Augusta counties, including: The Highland Center, Project Grows, the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind Farm, and with AMI programs and projects.

What does AMI provide during Phase II?

AMI provides an annual salary of \$18,000 (less payroll taxes) during Phase II. AMI provides ongoing support and monthly continuing education opportunities. Phase II Fellows are responsible for their own room and board.



Frequently Asked Questions

AMI Fellowship

What do AMI fellows go on to do?

Many of our alumni continue to be involved in a variety of community and educational programs after completing the two-phase Fellowship Program. Some of the work our alumni has gone on to do includes: founding a Permaculture Institute, starting a farm, managing gardens for a non-profit seed company, coordinating an urban farm program, serving in non-profit executive leadership, and furthering their education in pursuit of food-related graduate degrees.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Do I need to be a farming expert to apply?

No! We select fellows based on their passion for creating a more sustainable food system and change-making potential. We appreciate that our fellows come from a variety of backgrounds and bring an array of unique skills that complement each other as a team.

Is there an age restriction?

Though our Fellows are typically near the beginning of their careers, we do not have a set age restriction and consider each applicant on a case-by-case basis. All Fellows must be over the age of 18.

Are pets allowed?

Due to our farm animals and the communal nature of the experience, Fellows are not permitted to bring pets to live with them during the six months on the farm.

May I bring my spouse or partner?

Fellows are required to live on the farm during the six months of Phase I. Though the campus is open to visitors on most weekends, spouses or partners are not permitted to stay on the mountain farm campus with their Fellow.

We're married – can we apply?

Married couples are welcome to apply but are considered on an individual basis. There is the possibility that one spouse might be invited without the other.

I'm graduating this year. May I start the program after the start date?

Unfortunately, all fellows must be on-site on our start date (April 22) due to the importance of orientation activities and spring planting. I