

Calabasas Elementary Internship

General Information

- Agency: College 9 & 10
- Agency Sponsor: Flora Lu
 - ENVIS Professor and College 9 & 10 Provost
 - floralu@ucsc.edu, 459-2034
- Address: Natural Sciences 2, 1156 High St
- # of Interns/Hours Needed: 10 Interns/5-6 hours per week
- Quarters Needed: Fall, Winter, and Spring
- Keep on File for 1 year



Description of Internship

Calabasas Elementary is an under-resourced school located in Watsonville. Many families at Calabasas Elementary are migrant farmworkers (highest proportion in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District), speak primarily Spanish at home, and qualify for the Second Harvest Food Bank's Food for Children program (designed to address childhood malnourishment, hunger and obesity). In 2012, Professor Lu and a group of UCSC students began collaborating with Calabasas to revitalize a teaching space called the Children's Discovery Garden. During the academic year, groups of schoolchildren learn about nutrition, science, and teamwork during an after-school, garden-based education program there. The presence of UCSC undergraduates is vital, as the after-school program is significantly understaffed and the children very eager for adult interaction and mentorship.



In this internship, we seek UCSC students who want the opportunity to work with youth, facilitate agroecological knowledge acquisition, promote locally grown, healthy food, and raise awareness of social and environmental justice issues. Interns will travel to Calabasas Elementary once or twice a week (transportation provided or gas money reimbursed) to undertake the after-school program, helping to design and implement environmental, garden-based curricula with children ranging from first graders to sixth graders. Interns will also assist with the upkeep of the Discovery Garden: weeding, planting, watering, pruning, etc.