



CONTINUING & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPING



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Commercial Beekeeping



STUDENT PROFILE

Students will ideally have had some experience with beekeeping and know for certain that they are not allergic to honeybee venom. They are taking this training because they intend to become self-employed beekeepers and are willing to research and write their own business plan.

Full boxes of honey weigh up to 40 kg (88 lbs) each and thus excellent physical fitness, strong hands and a strong back are essential for a successful career. An effective beekeeper must be able to communicate with growers and suppliers and therefore requires strong interpersonal skills. Farming honeybees requires attention to detail, record keeping, and executing daily tasks in accordance with an annual calendar.

THE TRAINING

This full-time 11 month Commercial Beekeeping program aims to address the significant shortage of beekeepers in British Columbia. It is designed to prepare a student to start and manage a beekeeping operation of up to 300 colonies, which will provide sufficient income to support a family. The training starts in January and is offered in three blocks; the first and third block of 3 months each consist of classroom sessions combined with hands-on training. The second block runs from April to August and is a 5-month paid work experience opportunity with a large-scale commercial beekeeper in Western Canada. These practicum placements may be outside of BC and may include placements in Alberta or Saskatchewan.



CAREER POTENTIAL

There is an acute shortage of beekeepers in British Columbia as well as many other parts of the world. Pollination services are in high demand, especially for berry crops in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley region. The world price of honey is at an all-time high due to a shortage of bees and changing consumer preference for honey over sugar.

Beekeepers are also needed to produce bee pollen, propolis, royal jelly and bee venom for use in the ever increasing market for nutraceuticals. The pristine wilderness of British Columbia is uniquely positioned to produce high quality bee pollen and propolis. In addition to the business of beekeeping, one of the greatest benefits that beekeepers provide is the pollination of wild flowers, shrubs, and trees, resulting in a greener, healthier, and more beautiful planet.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Interested candidates are invited to complete the “Meant to Bee” self-evaluation, found at kpu.ca/cps, prior to the online application. All short-listed applicants will be invited to an interview as part of the entrance requirements. Due to the limited number of seats, qualified applicants may reserve for the following intake.

FIND OUT MORE:

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