




APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

**ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER,
PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS**
(maximum one typed page total)

- 1) *Why are you interested in this program?*
- 2) *What skills, qualities, or past experiences would you bring to this program?*
- 3) *How would you cope with the demands of working and living with a group in a cross-cultural and unfamiliar environment?*
- 4) *Are you interested in receiving university credit for your participation in this program?*
(Additional U of A course fees will apply).


Date of Application: _____

Final application deadline is January 31, 2012. However, applications will be reviewed and accepted on a first come first serve basis. Space is limited. Upon acceptance, a non-refundable deposit of \$500.00 is required by February 15, 2012. Final payment due on April 20, 2012.

Please send completed applications to:

by email: theurbanfarmer@shaw.ca
mary.beckie@ualberta.ca

by mail: **Mary Beckie**
Faculty of Extension
University of Alberta
Rm 2-381, Enterprise Square
10230 Jasper Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5J 4P6
Tel: 780-492-5153



**PERMACULTURE
Cuba!**

**SUSTAINABLE
URBAN
AGRICULTURE**

MAY 12 - JUNE 30, 2012



**Be part of the thriving
permaculture movement
in the heart of Cuba.**



*Work side by side with urban farmers
and permaculture practitioners.*

*Explore the role of urban agriculture
in creating a sustainable,
local food system.*


*Learn Spanish and immerse yourself
in the richness of Cuban culture,
history and geography in the beautiful
city of Sancti Spiritus.*

*Earn university credit (if desired)
while living an amazing experience.*





PROGRAM DESCRIPTION



Cuba's quest for a sustainable future began in earnest with the collapse of the Eastern Block in the late 1980's. Faced with food and fuel shortages, Cuba responded by moving towards an organic, low-input localized food system. Urban agriculture was a key component of this strategy and provided thousands of Cubans with the opportunity to turn vacant urban land into productive organic micro-farms. With the initial support of volunteer Australian permaculture teachers, organizations like the Antonio Nunes Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Man (FANJ) have been able to train hundreds of Cubans in permaculture methods and have created countless permaculture projects in both urban and rural areas.

The purpose of this program is to offer Canadian students the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the permaculture and urban agriculture movement in Cuba and to gain an understanding of their on-going efforts to create a more self-sufficient and sustainable food system. The emphasis in this program is on international collaboration and partnership building, as students will work and learn side by side with Cuban practitioners.

Prior to travel to Cuba, students will take part in two interactive online sessions and receive a reading list and other orientation material. Upon arrival in Cuba, there will be a 3-day orientation in Varadero, followed by a few days in Havana exploring urban agriculture, permaculture and food security projects in the Cuban capital. Then we will then travel overland to the beautiful and historic city of Sancti Spiritus, where the majority of the program will be based.

Following initial orientations within the city of Sancti Spiritus, students will participate in permaculture workshops facilitated by local permaculture and urban agriculture practitioners. Workshops will include such themes as principles of design, working with soil, composting systems, water systems, annual and perennial food production, natural building, and more. These workshops will help to prepare students for a hands-on activity where they will first collectively create a permaculture design for an undeveloped site, in collaboration with Cuban farmers and permaculture facilitators. Then during the next 4-5 weeks, participants will implement the permaculture design onsite. This will involve several hours per day of physical work outside in hot temperatures and high humidity, with possible afternoon rains.

Integrated throughout the stay in Sancti Spiritus will be: weekly Spanish classes; weekend field trips to cultural, historical and ecological sites; additional workshops and discussions on a variety of topics related to sustainable agriculture, local food systems and food security; gatherings with local producers and permaculture promoters; and participation in cultural activities such as local festivals and the vibrant music scene. Throughout the program, there will be opportunities for reflection, synthesis and critical analysis. At the end of the program, participants will be asked to evaluate the program and their experience and take part in a "re-entry" process in preparation for returning to Canada.

Accommodation includes the sharing of rooms at the FANJ facility or in local "Casa Particulares" (B & B's). Each Canadian will be asked to bring a second-hand bicycle to Cuba which will be their main source of transportation within Sancti Spiritus and will be donated to the FANJ at the end of the program. Meals will be at the FANJ facility and will be based on locally available food and the typical Cuban diet. It may not be possible to accommodate special dietary needs.

It is important to understand that this program is based on an experiential adult education model in which participants will play a significant role in determining their own learning outcomes. Participants must be prepared for learning and living within a group context and for working in a cross-cultural and Spanish speaking environment (translation support will be available). Spanish language proficiency is not a requirement; however, participants must have a commitment to work towards basic Spanish comprehension.



PROGRAM INFORMATION

May 12 - June 30, 2012

(7 WEEKS - FINAL DATES TO BE CONFIRMED)

\$3400.00



INCLUDED:

- **Program orientations and preparations in Canada and in Cuba**
- **Ground transportation in Cuba**
- **Food and accommodation in Cuba**
- **Special Cuban visa for "volunteer cooperation"**
- **Donation in support of the work of the Cuban host organization**
- **Material costs for a permaculture installation project**

NOT INCLUDED:

Flight, passport, medical insurance, spending money while in Cuba, University of Alberta course fees (if applicable).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ron Berezan: theurbanfarmer@shaw.ca
Mary Beckie: mary.beckie@ualberta.ca



A PARTNERSHIP OF

The Urban Farmer



Established by Ron Berezan in Edmonton, The Urban Farmer has been teaching and promoting permaculture, organic gardening and urban agriculture since 2004. Ron has also worked for several years with NGO's promoting community development work in Latin America and has lead and managed many delegations to Central America. Ron has been building connections with Cuban permaculture and organic agriculture organizations for the past three years and has taken groups of Canadian organic farmers and permaculture enthusiasts on educational trips to Cuba.

The University of Alberta



The Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta (www.extension.ualberta.ca) provides lifelong learning activities that encourage and promote critical thinking, community engagement and discovery. Mary Beckie is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Extension. Her teaching and research focuses on sustainable community development, particularly as relates to local and alternative agri-food systems. Mary holds a doctorate in Agriculture and Rural Development and has been involved in related work in western Canada, the mid-west USA, Europe and Cuba. Mary provides academic oversight for the development and university credit option of the Permaculture and Sustainable Agriculture Cuba course through the Faculty of Extension.

The Antonio Nunez Jimenez Foundation for Nature and Man



Founded by the renown Cuban anthropologist, naturalist, environmentalist and explorer Antonio Nunez Jimenez, the foundation has become a leading player in the search for and implementation of sustainable alternatives for Cuban society. They have accomplished tremendous success in bringing the ecological design insights of permaculture to a widespread movement in Cuba's cities and rural areas. Their programs include training and capacity building of local permaculture and organic agriculture leaders, development of recycling and composting programs and support for the national movement of home gardeners and urban farmers.