

2020 Fibreshed Field School - Call for Students

Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship, Aboriginal Gathering Place and TARP Lab

FIBRESHED FIELD SCHOOL

Led by [Emily Smith](#), Fibreshed Field School is an experiential mentorship program that will investigate ecologically sensitive and economically viable methods of local textile production. The program runs from September 2020 – December 2020.

This program is inspired by and works collaboratively with [Fibershed](#), an international network founded by [Rebecca Burgess](#). Fibershed develops regional and regenerative fibre systems on behalf of independent working producers, by expanding opportunities to implement carbon farming, forming catalytic foundations to rebuild regional manufacturing, and through connecting end-users to farms and ranches through education.

The Fibreshed Field School program will offer three distinct Mentorship Cohorts: 1) **Reciprocity and Stewardship**, 2) **Warping and Weaving**, 3) **Regeneration**. Students are invited to apply to one of the three cohorts, but will converge with each of the other cohorts throughout the program to produce a publication about ecologically sensitive and economically viable methods of local textile production in BC.

The program will offer:

- Industry exposure and knowledge transfer between fibre producers, designers, and entrepreneurs.
- Immersion in the hands-on, real world context where fibres are grown, harvested, and processed.
- Practice and support as well as greater understanding of how to instantiate ideas and make projects happen outside of the classroom.
- Opportunity to contribute to a Fibreshed Field School publication.

All cohorts will complete field trips (please see details below). This project can be completed as a Directed Studies for eligible students. Participants will devote approx. 12 hours/week throughout the Fall term, with activities ranging from 4-8 hours on Fridays and some weekends.

This program is best suited for students who are interested in working in the textile industry and want to create new relationships with Indigenous knowledge holders, farmers, ranchers and material producers in Vancouver, Sunshine Coast and rural Bowen Island.

Mentorship Cohorts

Please note Fibreshed Field School activities are subject to change in line with social distancing guidelines for the Province of British Columbia. See the [Emily Carr website](#) for more information on campus closures.

- **Cohort 1: Reciprocity and Stewardship**
In partnership with [EarthHand Gleaners Society](#), and the [Aboriginal Gathering Place](#), this cohort focuses on responsible land stewardship and practices informed by Indigenous ways of knowing.

Activities include processing of nettle, salmon leather, dogbane and milkweed, guest speakers, material research.

All activities will take place on Fridays between 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM in various Lower Mainland locations, compliant with social distancing guidelines for the Province of British Columbia.

Mentors: Aboriginal Gathering Place and EarthHand Gleaners Society. Guest Speakers and workshop facilitators TBA.

Locations: Trillium Park, Means of Production Garden, Emily Carr Aboriginal Gathering Place located on the unceded, ancestral and traditional x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), sə́lílwətaʔt (Tseil-Watuth) territories

- **Cohort 2: Warping and Weaving**

In partnership with [Macgee Cloth Company](#), this cohort focuses on transparent practices around textile production. The main activity of this cohort will be to learn how to use Fibreworks software to create two blankets woven in ring spun cotton and lambswool for which students can affix their own label. Students will visit a small industrial mill in Robert's Creek, meet with industry experts, learn about warping and weaving techniques, and the process for ethical sourcing of yarn.

This cohort includes a possible overnight stay in Robert's Creek Friday - Sunday, compliant with social distancing guidelines for the Province of British Columbia.

Mentors: [Nicola Hodges](#) (knitting pattern tech editor), [Macgee Cloth Company](#)

Location: Macgee Cloth Company located on the unceded, ancestral and traditional x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), sə́lílwətaʔt (Tseil-Watuth), k̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and shíshálh (Sechelt) territories

- **Cohort 3: Regeneration**

In partnership with [Rebecca Burgess](#), [Young Agrarians](#), and [Morning Star Wollen Farm](#), this cohort will be focusing on regenerative agriculture. Students will visit farms, meet with industry experts, learn about natural dyeing techniques as well as biodegradability. The focus of this cohort will be to respond to a design brief and raise public awareness to regenerative farming practices in BC.

This cohort includes a possible overnight stay on Bowen Island, compliant with social distancing guidelines for the Province of British Columbia.

Mentors and Facilitators: [Rebecca Burgess](#), Star Hoerauf, [Valerie D Walker](#).

Location: Farms located on the unceded, ancestral and traditional x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), sə́lílwətaʔt (Tseil-Watuth), Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) territories

Eligibility

Please note that access to this program is competitive and requires availability on Fridays. Applications will be evaluated for depth of proposal and suitable match with the program intent.

If interested in getting credits as Directed Studies for this course, students will need to:

- Be in their 3rd or 4th year of undergraduate studies at Emily Carr University of Art + Design.
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The credits will be administered as a 3 credit elective (studio) and overseen by Helene Day Fraser, Associate Dean, Master of Design, Jake Kerr Faculty of Graduate Studies.

How to Apply: [Please fill out this form](#)

Questions? Please see the FAQ below. If you have more questions, please e-mail Emily Smith at shumka@ecuad.ca

Deadline: June 30, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

When and where will meetings take place?

Meetings and program work will take place remotely for as long as necessary. All Field School activities will be in line with social distancing guidelines for the Province of British Columbia. A field school activity calendar will be shared with successful applicants in the first week of September.

Do I need to take time off of school to go on Field School activities?

Participation in the program requires availability on Fridays (all day for Reciprocity and Stewardship cohort participants, half-day for all other participants). All trips will take place Friday – Sunday, outside of class hours.

What funding and other resources are there to support projects?

All travel and material costs will be funded by the Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship, generously supported by the Accountability Council for Co-op Education and Work-Integrated Learning (ACCE-WIL) and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.

At different points throughout the program, cohorts will receive peer feedback and meet with industry experts. All three cohorts will converge on select Fridays to share their findings, discuss how their projects align and work together to assimilate these discussions into the final publication.

Once the school reopens, groups will have access to the TARP lab and possibly other research areas.

What will happen to the projects at the end of the program?

We will share all the information gathered in this program in a publication to be published in April 2021.

Will I receive credits for taking part in this program?

If you are eligible, you can receive 3 credits as Directed Studies. These credits will count for Studio-Elective Course.

Does this program show up in the Student Planning tool?

No, this program is not a curricular course at Emily Carr. Therefore, it does not show up when you schedule your courses.

About Aboriginal Gathering Place

Aboriginal Gathering Place is a centre that reflects the cultural characteristics of our Aboriginal students, community and traditions. This space is dedicated to student projects, workshops, ceremonies and celebrations of the University's Aboriginal community. The Gathering Place allows our Aboriginal students to develop and strengthen their identities in a supportive, safe environment.

About Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship

The Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship fosters the movement of artists and designers into systems and situations where their work can have the most impact. The Shumka Centre addresses the lack of support artists and designers face in actualizing projects by creating dynamic programming and tactical platforms.

About Textile Adaptations Research Program (TARP) Lab

Emily Carr's Textile Adaptations Research Program (TARP) explores adaptive strategies and processes applicable to cloth, with the specific aim to identify new modes for engaging with cloth-based products while maintaining responsible relations to the environment and society.

TARP investigates how we can reconsider our contemporary relationship with textiles through the exploration of three research areas: textile-based production, textile product construction and manufacture, and day-to-day use of textile-based products.

Grounded in material practice, participatory, contextual and critical design research methods, TARP runs in collaboration with Estonian Academy of the Arts, Estonia; VIA University College, Denmark; London College of Fashion, UK; Polytechnique di Milano, Italy.