



Join our team!

Meal Exchange – Real Food Student Standards Committee: [Callout for Volunteers](#)

Are you a post-secondary (masters or undergraduate) student who cares about the environment, social justice and food systems? Are you interested in setting standards to change the way campuses purchase food? Join Meal Exchange this Fall as a member of the 4th round of the Canadian Student Standards Committee.

[Volunteer research position, 3-5 hours a week, late September to November](#)

Background

The Real Food Challenge is a project of Meal Exchange that aims to leverage the power of post-secondary institutions and their students to shift \$1 billion of food purchases toward food systems that are ecologically-sound, socially-just, humane, community-based and transparent. This is accomplished through the Real Food Calculator, an online platform that allows students to audit their campus' purchasing data to determine the % of 'Real Food' on campus, and to challenge their campus to reach a higher standard.

However, before Meal Exchange can formally launch the Real Food Challenge, we must first work with students across Canada to finalize our standards. We are seeking a diverse team of knowledgeable, passionate students to help write the final draft of the Canadian Real Food Guide, which will reflect the values of students across the country and transform institutional purchasing practices for years to come.

Goals & Objectives

The Student Standards Committee will contribute to the design of the Real Food Challenge standards in order to make this project:

- Academically-rigorous
- Robustly-informed
- Comprehensive
- Accessible

- Relevant and responding to current social and ecological contexts
- Transparent
- Consensus-Based

Structure

- Two committee co-chairs:
 - Meal Exchange Staff (1)
 - Hired Student Representative (1)
- 6 – 10 student committee members/researchers

Commitment and Responsibilities

Use qualifiers created by previous rounds of the committee to research food certifications based on ecologically sound, socially just and humane practices. Certifications approved by this round of the committee will make up Meal Exchange's Student Standards.

We propose a time commitment of around 3-5 hours per week, **including attendance at weekly meetings**, although we recognize that your availability has the potential to be varied, particularly depending on the time of the semester. The position will run from **late September to November**.

Benefits of Participation

Meal Exchange engages post-secondary students and food organizers across Canada. As a member of the Student Standards Committee, you will work with students from various Canadian university campuses who share your interest in food systems, social justice and the environment.

You will also improve your knowledge about food security and food systems while simultaneously honing independent research skills.

The Real Food Challenge will assess and evaluate current institutional food procurement and help advise on opportunities for change: As a member of the Student Standards Committee, you will have the opportunity to inform and shape the Real Food Challenge standards that will transform institutional purchasing, and benefit students across Canada, for years to come.

Meal Exchange is connected to the national and international food movement: Receive hands-on training and experience with a professional, highly-esteemed youth-based organization, with public acknowledgement for your contribution and the opportunity for positive references and résumé building.

Meal Exchange is the only national organization that works with food systems at the post-secondary level: Be part of the first team in Canada to set cohesive, robust and transparent standards for campus food purchasing and **leave your mark!**

How to Apply

Please send a Cover Letter to celia@mealexchange.com by **Tuesday September 19th, midnight PST (3:00 am EST)**.

We may also accept late applications depending on your level of interest and seriousness in committing to our project.

Please include the following information in your Cover Letter:

- Name, age, school, current year of study and expected year of graduation
- Why are you applying to be a member of the Student Standards Committee?
- How would you personally contribute to the diversity of the Student Standards Committee?
- How would your experience, passion and/or knowledge help to meet the goals and objectives of the Student Standards Committee?
- What are skills that you would like to gain from this experience?

* Please note that Meal Exchange will be facilitating a National Indigenous Food Sovereignty Committee later in the Fall. If you or anyone you know would be interested in forming relationships between campuses and Indigenous Communities, please email Carly@mealexchange.com.