

Master of Food and Resource Economics



12-month Professional Master's Degree.

Apply your economics to food policy, trade, business, and environment.

Position yourself for a career in the global food & resource sector.



Geared Towards Solving Real World Problems

The Master of Food and Resource Economics (MFRE) degree offered by the University of British Columbia (UBC) is responding to the demand in Canada and around the world for professionals capable of solving real problems in the food and resource sector. The program uniquely combines the business and management elements of an MBA with the economic and analytical rigour of a M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics.

Curriculum for Today's World

The MFRE degree uniquely combines applied economics with policy analysis and agribusiness management. The program is geared towards graduates and professionals looking to sharpen their skill-sets with more advanced economics, business analysis tools, and real world applications. MFRE courses are offered by faculty members and executives from industry and government, working in the food and resource sectors.

A Growing Professional Global Network

There are more than 150 UBC MFRE alumni from 30 countries across the globe that now hold a world-recognized degree from The University of British Columbia, and the number continues to grow. Many enter the program with several years of work experience, and come from a broad range of backgrounds including economics, commodity trading, agricultural production/processing, corporate finance, management consulting, marketing, and span the corporate, non-profit, and government worlds.

Professional and Group Learning

MFRE students graduate with valuable practical experience they gain locally and around the world. Through case studies, group work, field trips and a unique, individually created Graduating Project, MFRE students learn by doing and sharing. Because MFRE integrates technical skills with real life scenarios, graduates are ready to make a positive difference the moment they join any organization. All share a similar passion for working on real world food and resource challenges.

Learning Objectives

MFRE candidates enter the program with their unique portfolios of skills, which are then enhanced and developed through the program in the following areas:

Applied Economics

- Assessing agricultural commodity prices, including the economic determinants of commodity pricing relationships over space, time and form.
- Exploring global markets for food and resources with emphasis on trade and competitiveness.
- Conducting sound empirical research related to trade, consumer demand and food markets, through data and regression analysis using STATA and advanced spreadsheets.
- Developing an ability to critically review articles and studies concerning food and resource markets.

A unique combination of applied economics, policy analysis and agribusiness management.

Policy Analysis

- Performing cost-benefit analysis through rigorous modelling.
- Evaluating and quantifying greenhouse gas emissions and carbon offsets.
- Analyzing a matrix of policy options with likely economic, environmental and efficiency vs. equity outcomes, and institutional constraints to implementation.
- Evaluating project effectiveness utilizing UNDP principles of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).

Agribusiness Management

- Analyzing financials to support interpretation and strategic planning for an agribusiness firm.
- Identifying growth opportunities and developing business plans based on in-depth market research.
- Assessing business practices and making recommendations for improvements.
- Hedging commodity price risks for varying production profiles (e.g. annual and perennial crops).
- Engaging in mock trading through simulated commodity trading games and having access to the CBOT Futures trading competition and the Bloomberg and Capital IQ platforms.

Program Journey & Faculty



MFRE Director

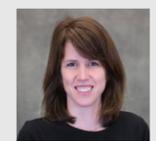


George Kennedy
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Econ & Stats Review

Three-week non-credit series of refresher courses covering key concepts in economics and statistics. Taught by the MFRE faculty.

Career Development



Gabrielle Menard
ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

Taught throughout the program to help develop career opportunities and aid students in effectively marketing their skills and qualities to a potential employer.

Applied Economics



Rick Barichello
PROFESSOR
UBC, LFS



Jim Vercammen
PROFESSOR
UBC, LFS · SAUDER

Agribusiness



Kelleen Wiseman
SESSIONAL LECTURER
UBC, LFS



Karen Taylor
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
TD BANK GROUP



Mark Liew
SESSIONAL LECTURER
UBC, LFS

Policy Analysis



Sumeet Gulati
ASSOCIATED PROFESSOR
UBC, LFS



Carol McAusland
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
UBC, LFS



Sean Holowaychuk
SESSIONAL LECTURER
UBC, LFS

Quantitative Methods



Juan Fercovic
ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

Graduating Project

The final component of the MFRE program is the graduating project, which students undertake during the summer period. The project can involve working off or on-campus with an approved organization or by developing a self-led research based project.

MFRE candidates have spent their summers at top research institutions, think-tanks, investment banks, government ministries, community organizations and businesses in food production and processing/commercialization, healthcare, and commodity trading. Graduating projects can be work-based, research-based, community-based, or even course-based with top partner institutions.

The MFRE program works with each candidate to develop an opportunity that meets his or her interests and learning objectives. Students are guided through their project by an assigned faculty member and supported by mentors. The graduating project is an excellent stepping stone that helps experienced candidates transition to a new industry, or younger candidates transition from an academic to a workplace environment.

2016 Projects

TD BANK GROUP
Agricultural Services Associate Intern



Xiaoran Bing

OPPENHEIMER GROUP
Econometric Analysis on U.S. Strawberry Prices



Olivia Ciawan

GREATER VANCOUVER FOOD BANK
Designing a Sampling Procedure for the GVFB's Items



Kevin Elsaputra

INT. FERTILIZER DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Impact of Subsidies on Fertilizer Markets in West Africa



Konami Aoyama

FARM AT HAND
Traceability in Malt Barley Industry



Joel Bokenfohr

UBC OKANAGAN
Cost-Benefit Analysis of Riparian Rehabilitation as a Climate Change Strategy for Agriculture



Vilma Calvopiña

BC MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
The Financial Contribution of Agriculture to Local Governments in British Columbia



Weijia Xie

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - DAVIS
Drought Impact on California Dairy Industry



Zeng Zhu

UBC, FOOD AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS



Co-authored paper with Dr. Sumeet Gulati "Green House Gas Emissions from Household Fuel Usage in Canada."



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH (UAE)



Visiting Research Scholar. Assessed the economic feasibility for phosphorus recovery and reuse processes through a preliminary cost-benefit analysis.



UBC, FISHERIES CENTER



Built model to estimate the economic impacts of an oil spill on the marine-based industry in Vancouver.



AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA



Junior Economist at the Research and Analysis Directorate.



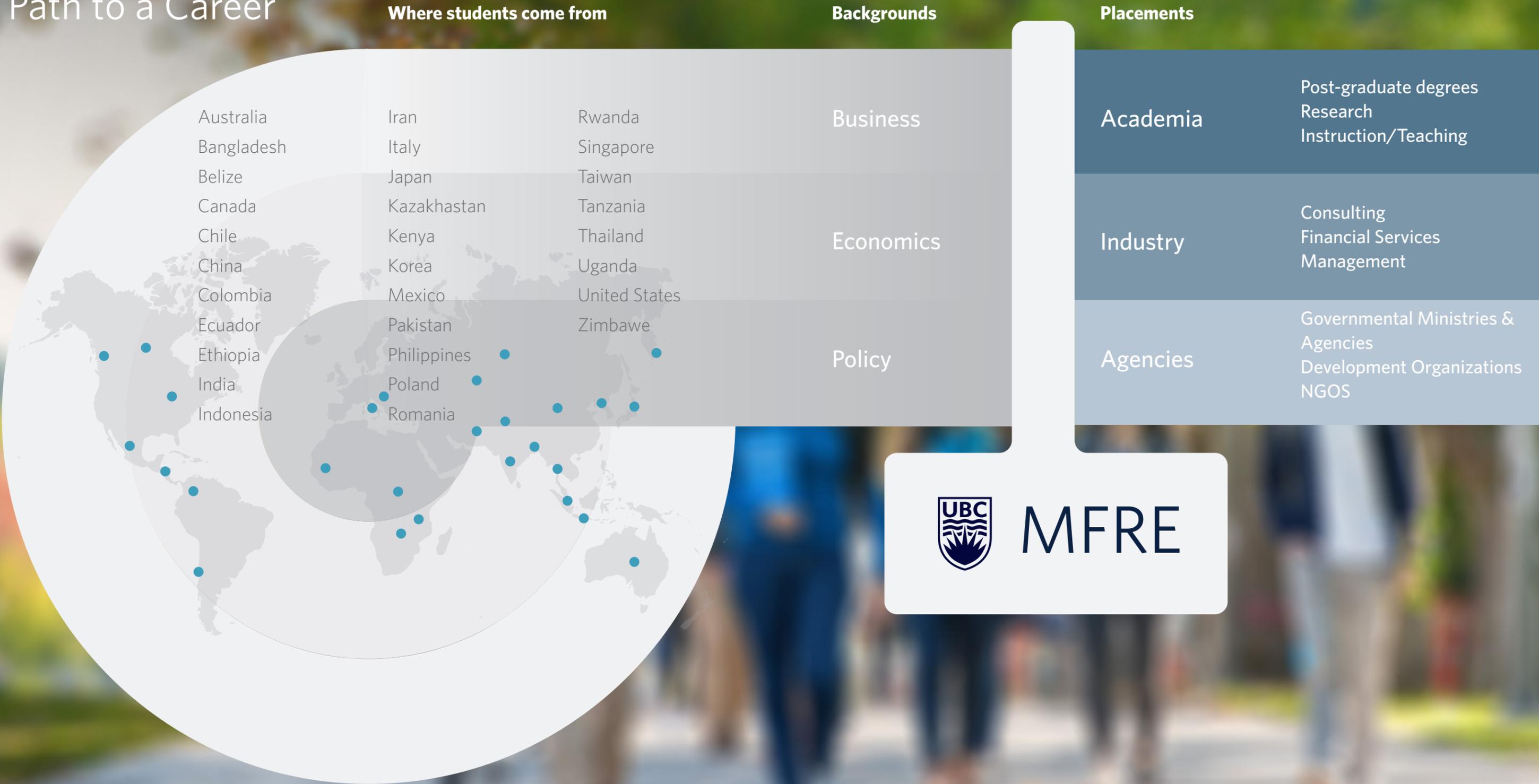
UBC FARM



Consultant - UBC Intensive Aquaponics Project. Built a model to forecast financial performance under different combinations of potential products.



MFRE: Path to a Career



MFRE: Path to a Career

The world demands professionals who can understand and analyze the economic relationships underlying food and resource sectors. The prevalence and complexity of economic issues regarding food security, safety, trade, and the effects of the food sector on the environment imply that these demands are expected to increase. Governments and the private industry in both developed and developing countries want professionals with applied economic skills and knowledge of the institutions, policies and key features of the food and resource sector. Since 2010, the MFRE program has been providing the skills that economic practitioners in these sectors require.

PH.D FOOD ECONOMICS
UBC
Canada, Vancouver



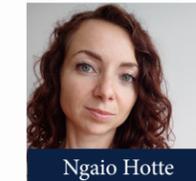
PH.D AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Minneapolis, USA



RESEARCHER
BIG DATA ANALYTICS EARTH INSTITUTE
New York, USA



RESOURCE ECONOMIST & FACILITATOR
RESOURCE ECONOMICS GROUP
Vancouver, Canada



CONSULTANT
DALBERG
Nairobi, Kenya



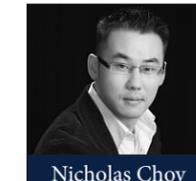
MANAGER
MNP CONSULTING
Vancouver, Canada



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
FARM AT HAND
Vancouver, Canada



CONSULTANT
DELOITTE
Vancouver, Canada



FOUNDER
THE FARM TABLE
Melbourne, Australia



ROUTE HEALTH MANAGER
CANADA BREAD
Vancouver, Canada



LOGISTICS ASSOCIATE
CARGILL
Washington St, USA



INVESTMENT BANKING ANALYST
CHINA MERCHANTS SECURITIES CO, LTD
Beijing, China



SENIOR ECONOMIST
INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CANADA
Ottawa, Canada



NUTRITION CONSULTANT
UNICEF
Lilongwe, Malawi

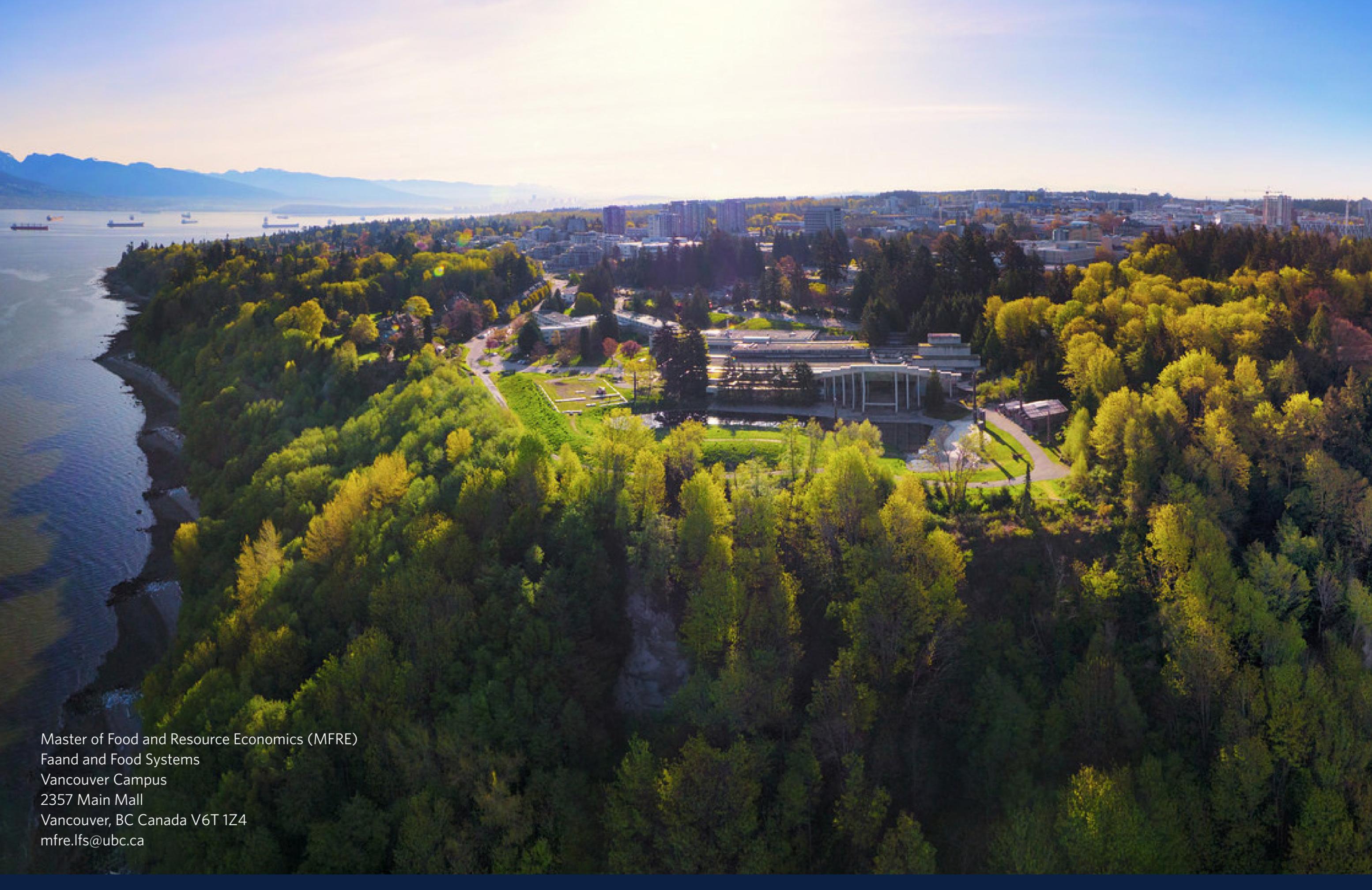


OPERATIONS CONSULTANT
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOP. BANK
Belize City, Belize



HEAD OF SPECIAL PROJECTS
TIENDAS INDUSTRIALES ASOCIADAS
Guayaquil, Ecuador





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