

UBC Sustainability Scholars Program 2019

The UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI) is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on funded sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the mentorship of a partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing organizational sustainability goals.

For more information about the Sustainability Scholars Program and to apply to work on this project, please visit the [Student Opportunities](#) page.

Please review the application guide (PDF) before applying.

Applications close **midnight Monday February 25, 2019**.

PROJECT TITLE:

Calibrating the Data: Refining Resilient Neighbourhood Design Indicators through Post-Occupancy Evaluation

GREENEST CITY / HEALTHY CITY GOAL:

The Resilient Neighbourhood Design Framework and associated Southeast False Creek (SEFC) Post-Occupancy Evaluation project take a holistic approach to understanding and evaluating how the design of our built environment can support more resilient communities. The work endeavours to synthesize core City policies and goals from across departments (including the Greenest City Action Plan, the Healthy City Strategy and the emerging Resilient City Strategy), align these, and apply to the built environment at the neighbourhood scale.

The outcomes of this project are anticipated to influence planning – at both area plan and city-wide scales - over the long-term, and so have the potential to support emerging longer-term (e.g. 2050) GCAP objectives, as well as emerging objectives relating to a new Equity Framework and City Plan.

SCOPE OF WORK:

- Undertake a thorough review of the academic literature on neighbourhood/district-scale post-occupancy evaluations, with a specific focus on identifying measurable elements that support the City's resilience, sustainability, livability, and social equity goals.
- Explore neighbourhood/district scale post-occupancy evaluation precedents and best practices from around the world, to assist in determining a post-occupancy performance evaluation protocol that reflects recent thinking and best practices related to resilience, sustainability, social equity, and livability.
- With support from City staff, review data sources and existing City of Vancouver post-occupancy evaluation work to determine existing key data sources, as well as key gaps and opportunities to expand existing data collection, monitoring, and evaluation of neighbourhood/district-scale plans and projects.

WHY THIS WORK IS OF VALUE:

In 2005, in conjunction with adoption of the SEFC Official Development Plan, Council approved indicators and targets for SEFC, as a preliminary framework for on-going monitoring of environmental, social, and

economic sustainability goals for the community. At the same time, Council directed staff to report back “during the sub-area rezoning stage” with updates to the indicators and targets and a detailed monitoring strategy. Further, Council directed staff to provide “an annual monitoring report that includes sustainability indicators and targets.”

The Southeast False Creek Post-Occupancy Evaluation responds to this past Council direction while at the same time carrying it forward into the current context, recognizing new City policy that has come forward in the intervening years (e.g. the Greenest City Action Plan, the Healthy City Strategy, as well as an emerging Resilient City Strategy, Equity Framework, and City Plan). The goal is to not only assess the SEFC neighbourhood’s performance in relation to the original indicators and targets identified, but to also use this process to test, refine, and calibrate the Resilient Neighbourhood Design Framework (indicators and thresholds) currently being co-developed by the City Design Studio in collaboration with other City departments.

A key desired outcome is a post-occupancy performance evaluation protocol/tool that reflects recent thinking and best practices related to resilience, sustainability, social equity, and livability, and that would ground the assumptions of the Resilient Neighbourhood Design Framework in the experience of residents. This tool has significant implications in how we could understand and evaluate trade-offs, and could serve as a platform to assist in making decisions about the built form of neighbourhoods/districts city-wide. Calibrating this tool based on post-occupancy evaluations is a critical step in order to ensure appropriate design indicators and thresholds are set early on to achieve desired outcomes, whether those relate to resilience, sustainability, livability, or social equity goals.

DELIVERABLES:

Working with Community Planning, the Greenest / Healthy City Scholar will:

1. Prepare a report that:
 - a. summarizes the post-occupancy evaluation literature that has a focus on neighbourhoods/districts with core resilience, sustainability, livability, and/or social equity objectives;
 - b. makes recommendations related to post-occupancy evaluation approaches that support the City’s s resilience, sustainability, livability, and social equity goals;
 - c. indicates methods of measurement, community engagement techniques and other data collection approaches, and thresholds for success
2. Develop a working neighbourhood/district post-occupancy performance evaluation tool that reflects recent thinking and best practices related to resilience, sustainability, social equity, and livability.

TIME COMMITMENT:

- The scholar will complete 250 hours of work between April 29th & August 12th 2019.
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday at approximately 20 hours / week.

SKILL SET / BACKGROUND REQUIRED / PREFERRED:

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Excellent analytical skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Ability to work independently

- Experience conducting neighbourhood or district-scale post-occupancy evaluations is an asset
- Experience working with census data is an asset
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools is an asset
- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
- Interest in resilient or sustainable city/neighbourhood design

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Apply here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/student-opportunities>

To learn more about the program here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/ubc-sustainability-scholars-program>

Read the application guidelines to confirm your eligibility to participate in the program here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/student-opportunities>

Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions.