

UBC SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

2019 Project Proposal

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 will be accepted on a **rolling basis** until the position is filled or until **midnight Tuesday December 11**.

Research project title

Understanding the City-University Research Partnerships between UBC and the City of Vancouver

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

This project is a component of a larger initiative to improve the effectiveness of collaborations between universities and cities in responding to sustainability and livability issues in their local contexts. The goal is to establish a baseline understanding of the types of projects and relationships and their effectiveness in contributing to solutions through changes to policies and practices.

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the Scholar's work will be actionable.

The University of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver are participating in a year-long project to better understand the potential of collaborations between universities and municipal governments to respond to the major urban issues of the 21st century, such as rapid growth, climate change, poverty and sustainability. This partnership is focused on the unique context of the Pacific Northwest—a trans-national area that extends along the west coast of Canada and the USA and includes UBC, the University of Washington, Western Washington University, and Portland State University, as well as the cities of Vancouver, Seattle, Bellingham, and Portland. The anticipated result of UBC's partnership with the City of Vancouver on this project is to better understand how city staff and university researchers can improve their relationships, projects and programs to develop effective responses and solutions for urban issues.

The Sustainability Scholars project is a key component of this larger project and will be used to inform subsequent phases. The Scholar will undertake an assessment exercise to determine the current state of research collaborations between UBC and the city of Vancouver and characterise the types of projects and programs, and their strengths and opportunities. Work will include:

- literature review of successful city-university partnerships;
- inventory of existing relationships and points of contact between UBC and the City of Vancouver;
- identification of areas of strong collaboration and gaps or opportunities for enhancement;
- interviews with UBC faculty and City of Vancouver staff to identify the rationale for past collaborations, what worked well, what didn't, and where they see opportunities for stronger collaboration.

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The Scholar will work with the mentors to organize and display the information in a visually diagrammatic format and conduct a preliminary analysis of trends or patterns. The work will be summarized in a report and presentation.

UBC and City of Vancouver staff will use the information to help inform the work of the Emerald Corridor Collaborative.

The results of this project will contribute to the development of good practice guidelines for utilizing academic research to help direct policy and practices. It will also inform the development and implementation of future projects between UBC and the City of Vancouver, leading to more robust research, better educational opportunities for students, and more useful solutions for city staff.

Deliverables

There will be three final deliverables for this project:

- A network diagram/infographic outlining the relationships and points of contact between UBC researchers and City of Vancouver departments from previous research projects and collaborations.
- A short summary report summarizing the best practices, current state of collaboration, and barriers and opportunities to expand that collaboration, as well as a description of the methodology and activities undertaken in the project. The report should include the final map.
- A presentation to UBC and City of Vancouver personnel explaining activities, results and any patterns or lessons learned.

Time Commitment

The project will run from January through April 2019, starting January 7. The Scholar will be expected to work 12 hours per week during the academic term.

The project timeline has been established as a total of 198 hours: 16.5 weeks from January 7 through April 31, with the possibility of extension to the end of May depending on the Scholars availability (up to a total of 250 hours).

Generally, hours will be flexible although the Scholar is expected to work during standard business hours during the week and will spend their time between UBC and the City of Vancouver offices. Regular, weekly or bi-weekly check-in dates will be scheduled throughout the term and the final presentation will be scheduled in April or May.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Interest or demonstrated experience in interviews, preferred

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- Demonstrated experience conducting qualitative interviews
- Graphic design and layout skills, preferred
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills

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Apply here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/get-involved/students/applied-research-and-internships/ubc-sustainability-scholars-program/student>

To learn more about the program and confirm your eligibility please read the application guidelines here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/get-involved/students/applied-research-and-internships/ubc-sustainability-scholars-program/student>

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