

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.**

Research project title: Assessing engagement and best practices in food system change

Research supports the following City of Vancouver policies -

- Greenest City Action Plan; specific goal area: Local Food
- Healthy City Strategy; specific goal area: Feeding Ourselves Well
- Vancouver Food Strategy
- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Local Food Action Plan

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to the City of Vancouver and describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable

The *Vancouver Food Strategy (2013)* and *Food Strategy Action Plan for 2017-2020* commit the City to pursuing a just and sustainable food system by undertaking actions related to food access, diversity and inclusion, resilience, and the growth of food system sectors. The *Food Strategy* uses the metric of "food assets" to track progress toward its goals and primarily focuses on food assets that support sustainability and health. The *Action Plan* commits the City to broadening the definition of food assets and examining opportunities for preserving and incorporating diverse food assets into future planning processes and new developments.

While the *Food Strategy* and *Action Plan* provide the City's overarching food policy framework, other plans and strategies also have strong links to food policy. Many of these (e.g. *Healthy City Strategy*, *Greenest City Action Plan*, and *Resilient Vancouver Strategy*) are currently undergoing updates including research and community engagement. Significant food-related feedback has emerged from these processes, including feedback from typically under-represented populations and feedback related to pressing issues such as poverty, climate change, and cultural relevance.

The project will involve reviewing recent consultations, identifying gaps in feedback areas and gaps in populations consulted, and reviewing literature to highlight areas that will be important to explore and address in an updated *Food Strategy, Action Plan* and/or updated definition of food assets.

The scope of work will include:

- Synthesizing food-related themes arising from the City's recent research, engagement and consultation processes, in particular the Greenest City Action Plan evaluation process, Park Board Master Plan, Creative City Culture Strategy, and the Poverty Reduction Strategy;
- Identifying gaps in food-related feedback solicited, and in populations consulted;
- Conducting a literature review (including peer reviewed studies, grey literature, and policy documents) for best practices to inform the City's food policy targets and indicators;
- Assessing linkages between themes arising from the literature review results and City engagement processes.
- Review of past community engagement processes completed for the Vancouver Food Strategy and the Park Board's Local Food Action Plan to identify changes over time

The Scholar's work may inform the City's food policy and project priorities beyond 2020, and support redefining the definition of food assets. A revised definition of food assets may be incorporated into future iterations of the *Greenest City Action Plan, Healthy City Strategy, Local Food Action Plan* and the *Vancouver Food Strategy*.

Deliverables

- A research document summarizing findings from the research
- Presentation of findings to City and Park Board Staff
- A public facing final report (or executive summary) for the UBC Sustainability Initiative website

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between April 29 – August 12
- The scholar is to complete hours between 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, approximately 16-18 hours per week.

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in food policy including justice, sustainability, and health implications
- Strong analytical skills, including with qualitative data
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with community engagement processes and feedback evaluation

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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.