

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Summer 2020

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 sustainability across the region.

- Visit the [Sustainability Scholars Program website](#) to learn [how the program works](#) and to [apply](#).
- Be sure to review the [application guide](#) to confirm your eligibility before applying.
- **Applications close at midnight on Sunday February 2, 2020.**

Research project title: Culturally-Appropriate and Energy-Efficient Housing on Reserve: Considering the role of housing standards in promoting energy saving opportunities among First Nations in British Columbia

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

- Reduce GHG emissions
- Reduce energy poverty
- Reduce reliance on diesel fuel

Project description

The Province of British Columbia and BC Hydro are interested in developing a better understanding of innovative Indigenous housing initiatives as well as the state of on-reserve housing in BC. This project will help identify opportunities for strengthening policies and programs to support culturally appropriate and energy efficient housing. Some of the key questions that will guide this project are as follows:

- How are First Nations in Canada envisioning and developing culturally-appropriate and energy-efficient housing?
- What role do housing standards play in the development of culturally-appropriate and energy-efficient housing on reserve in BC?
- How can provincial policies and programs support the development, modification, or implementation of building standards that promote culturally-appropriate and energy-efficient housing on reserve?

Scope of Work:

Review and showcase innovative initiatives:

- Conduct literature review regarding culturally appropriate and energy-efficient housing among First Nations reserves in Canada, including both academic and grey literature
- Conduct scan of grey literature to identify instances of building standards being developed, modified, and/or implemented by Indigenous organizations and/or Nations in British Columbia
- Identify initiatives in different climatic zones that could be presented as case studies

- Contact representatives from key initiatives and seek permission from associated First Nation's governing councils to develop case studies that highlight barriers, successes, and lessons learned
- In collaboration with project partners and communication professionals, generate approximately 3-4 written case studies based on interview material, documents, and photos

Review and analyze enabling programs and policies for Indigenous-led housing standards:

- Legal scan: Describe the legal landscape that applies to on-reserve housing and summarize key issues in relation Indigenous-led housing standards
- Program/policy scan: Identify existing programs and policies that either inhibit or encourage the development, modification, or implementation of Indigenous-led housing standards

Synthesis

- Synthesize the above research into a comprehensive report
- Circulate report among stakeholders and interviewees and integrate feedback
- Prepare a briefing note that identifies provincial actions to support culturally and climate appropriate housing on reserve

Deliverables

- A comparative table of building standards developed by Indigenous organizations and/or Nations
- A compilation of case study materials including documents, photos, and interview summaries along with contact information for each interviewee
- A report that
 1. summarizes culturally-appropriate and energy efficient Indigenous housing initiatives;
 2. showcases 3-4 case studies from different climactic regions;
 3. describes the legal landscape that applies to on-reserve housing, and;
 4. describes existing programs and policies that inhibit or encourage the development, modification, or implementation of Indigenous-led housing standards
 5. provides high-level provincial policy/program recommendations based on research findings
- A final presentation to key partners summarizing the report
- A final report [or Executive Summary] for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library

Time Commitment

- This project will take **400** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between **April 13** and August 14, 2020
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 8:30-4:30, Monday-Friday, approximately 30 hours per week.
- Mandatory meetings and special events in Victoria (dates and times to be determined in discussion with the Scholar). Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed.



Required/preferred Skills and Background

- ☒ Experience or familiarity with First Nations in British Columbia
- ☒ Demonstrated understanding of the implications of historical and ongoing impacts of colonization on Indigenous peoples
- ☒ Excellent research and writing skills
- ☒ Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- ☒ Community engagement experience
- ☒ Strong analytical skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ The successful candidate must be available to travel to Victoria for the occasional meeting or presentation. Travel costs will be reimbursed.

Applications close **midnight Sunday February 2, 2020.**

Apply here: <http://sustain.ubc.ca/scholarsapply>

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

Useful Resources

Below are some links to useful resources to help you with your resume and cover letter (there are many more online). Some of these resources also provide information on preparing for your interview.

<https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/resumes-cover-letters-curricula-vitae>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/graduate-pathways-success>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>

The Centre for Student Involvement & Careers will host a resume & cover letter webinar tailored for graduate students on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 from 12:00-1:30. Registration will open approximately two weeks before the webinar, and can be accessed at Careers Online.

