

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Fall 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.

*Note: Projects must be completed remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- 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 September 20, 2020.**

---

## Research project title: Research to support access and inclusion of people with disabilities in the Squamish Nation community

### Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Good Health and Wellbeing: access and inclusion of people with disabilities

### Project Overview:

The Squamish Nation is comprised of descendants of the Coast Salish Aboriginal peoples who lived in the present-day Greater Vancouver area; Gibson's landing and Squamish River watershed. The Squamish Nation have occupied and governed their territory since beyond recorded history. Total area of Squamish Nation Traditional Territory is 6,921 km<sup>2</sup>. (~692,100 hectares).

The Nation consists of 23 villages encompassing 21.2 km<sup>2</sup>. (2,120 hectares). The percentage of Squamish Nation Traditional Territory allotted to the people is 0.4230%. These parcels of land are scattered from North Vancouver, Gibson's Landing to the area north of Howe Sound.

People with disabilities are often overlooked and forgotten by their communities. Yet, the disability community is an important part of the overall community. The Squamish Nation is focused on improving the quality of life for its members and the community. Its mission is to enhance cultural values and traditions through respect, equality and harmony for all. The purpose of this project is to explore how to support access and inclusion of people with disabilities in the overall community.

### Purpose of the Project:

Many disabled people are placed in and operate from a socio-economical disadvantage, where their thoughts and opinions are not considered or equally valued. As a result, there is often a power

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

imbalance. The purpose of this project will be to explore how to best include and engage disabled members as part of the overall community.

## Scope of Work:

- Conduct an environmental scan to identify issues/challenges that disabled people currently face within their local communities.
- Identify key issues/challenges of the disabled community & how these intersect with being a disabled member within the Squamish Nation.
- Conduct 5 to 8 interviews with organizations serving the disabled community to identify gaps in the available resources/supports and technologies.
- Research to identify technologies, service providers and government agencies serving the disabled community. Research should include a list of provided services, costs, available funding, application deadlines, etc.
- Produce a decision matrix or SWOT analysis to aid with future decision-making regarding best options for Squamish Nation.

## Deliverables

*Note that a final deliverable (either a full report or, if the report contains confidential information, an executive summary) is required by the end of the program (March 12, 2021). The deliverable will be archived in the online public-facing Scholars Project Library.*

The Scholar will deliver a final report containing a summary of their completed work complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders. The report should include:

- A report outlining the opportunities and long-term benefits of including & engaging the disability community within the Squamish Nation.
- Recommendations on priorities and next steps
- Summary report of interviews with stakeholders.
- Database of resources including details, costs, application deadlines, etc.
- A final report [or Executive Summary] for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

## Time Commitment

*The program runs for 22 weeks from October 19, 2020 to March 12, 2021, during which students work an average of 12 hours per week for a total of 250 hours.*

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between October 19, 2020 and March 12, 2021
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 9am and 5pm (Monday to Friday), approximately 12 hours per week.

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- ☒ Strong analytical skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Demonstrated experience in stakeholder engagement (especially with the disability community, government organizations & funding agencies)
- ☒ Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- ☒ Familiarity preparing feasibility studies
- ☒ Experience with financial modelling and analysis

Applications close **midnight Sunday September 20, 2020.**

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

Contact Karen Taylor at [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto: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.

Resume workshop for prospective Sustainability Scholars: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/resume-workshop-for-prospective-sustainability-scholars-tickets-117422877989>

<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>