

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.

Project Title: Identify and create innovative approaches to intercultural climate engagement using Indigenous and diverse lenses

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Climate Action

Specific goal area/sustainability objective: Create a resource for environmental organizations that supports an intercultural approach to both engaging with, and communicating about, climate action.

Project Overview

Public awareness of the climate crisis is growing rapidly and environmental not-for-profit organizations have a critical role to play in supporting individuals and communities to take action to address this crisis. To be able to play this role effectively, environmental organizations must have strong intercultural fluency and be able to understand the variable ways the climate crisis is affecting diverse communities and the different stories and languages that diverse communities are using to describe the crisis and its impact on their lives.

Western environmental organizations have in the past and today continue to rely heavily on technical scientific descriptions to describe the crisis, and this framing has both shaped the nature of the actions undertaken as well as determined who feels drawn to participate. As environmental non-profits seek to expand the numbers and diversity of those they work with, they must increase their organizational capacity to learn from and work with diverse knowledge systems, as well as tell different kinds of stories about the climate crisis and the impacts it is having.

A starting place for this work is found in *Seeing Through Watchers' Eyes* (<https://sierraclub.bc.ca/watcherseyes/>), a unique interactive tool designed by t-Sou-ke artist and educator Charlene George, which uses art and storytelling to invite learners into a new way of seeing and relating

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to the natural world. In developing the tool, Coast Salish protocol was followed and English, SenĆoten, Hul'q'umi'num, Klallam, tSouke, Lekwungen and Nuu-chah-nulth languages are all used to tell the story. Working with Charlene George and Sierra Club BC Executive Director Hannah Askew, this project will use *Seeing Through Watchers' Eyes* as a starting point to create a resource for environmental organizations that will help them to engage with climate action and climate storytelling from a place of understanding and respect for intercultural knowledge and law on the climate crisis.

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the project is to generate reflection, analysis, tools and specific recommendations for environmental organizations to engage with and learn from diverse communities on the climate crisis using respectful intercultural approaches. Specifically, the project will begin with Coast Salish ways of knowing as shared in the interactive tool *Seeing Through Watchers' Eyes* and will create an oral companion tool to help environmental organizations engage with the knowledge it contains as well as intercultural engagement more broadly.

Scope of Work

- Conduct a short literature review on best practices intercultural approaches to environmental advocacy and education.
- Work with t'Sou'ke artist and intercultural educator Charlene George to review the online tool *Seeing Through Watcher's Eyes* and create a short companion resource for environmental organizations to show how it can be drawn on as a tool for climate action
- Do an online survey to identify innovative approaches to intercultural climate engagement used by other non-profit organizations.
- Generate a draft resource for use by Sierra Club BC and other environmental organizations that highlights analysis of best practices for intercultural climate engagement and communication and highlights any existing models that are working well. Cross-reference with companion resource to *Seeing Through Watchers' Eyes*.
- Ask for feedback on the draft resource from diverse individual and community groups that SCBC has existing relationships with and identify any others that might be willing to give feedback. Incorporate this feedback into final draft.
- Meet with SCBC leadership, campaigns and communications teams to jointly review both of the resources. Support SCBC to develop an implementation plan for acting on incorporating best practices and recommendations where useful and appropriate.
- Work with SCBC's communications team to make the resources available to other environmental organizations and other interested parties.

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:

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- An executive summary of the Scholar's completed work for the online Scholars Project Library
- A companion resource for the online tool *Seeing Through Watchers' Eyes* designed to support environmental organizations to draw on it as a tool for climate action based in Coast Salish knowledge
- A draft resource for use by Sierra Club BC and other environmental organizations that highlights analysis of best practices for intercultural climate engagement and communication and highlights any existing models that are working well.

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 approximately 12 hours per week, and can work on their own schedule.
- The scholar will need to be available for weekly one-hour staff meetings (12:00 – 1:00 pm each Tuesday)

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Strong and respectful interpersonal skills
- Demonstrated experience with intercultural communication
- Familiarity with Prezi, or other website content creation tools
- Demonstrated experience with Indigenous communities
- Design and layout skills (preferred but not essential)

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

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

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

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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>