

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.

Building Community Well Being, Inclusivity & Sustainability through Social Purpose Real Estate¹

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Good Health and Wellbeing: Improve the health and well-being of individuals, neighbourhoods and communities by ensuring access to vital not-for-profit and social enterprise programs and services, and by protecting and creating secure, affordable, suitable space/facilities for these organizations. Use the lens of equity, inclusion and reconciliation to ensure access for all peoples, all communities.

Sustainable Cities and Communities: Build the capacity of not-for-profits and social enterprises to be effective contributing players in social purpose real estate and the development of community inclusion, equity, reconciliation, as well as character, sense of place and identity, and long term economic and social sustainability.

Climate Action: As part of the overall goal to secure affordable, suitable space for not-for-profits and social enterprises, environmental and climate change mission-based organizations benefit through access to spaces/facilities for their program service delivery and impact.

¹ Social purpose real estate refers to spaces owned and/or operated by the vast array of not-for-profits and social enterprises that serve our society such as: arts & culture groups and artists; health, community & social service organizations; environmental groups; childcare; advocacy organizations; co-working/co-location and shared spaces; space developers and providers; faith-based places of worship and other community service organizations that provide space for community; non-market/affordable housing that include space for wrap around services supporting residents as well as additional spaces for residents and neighbours to gather, engage, learn and socialize.

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Background: Over the last four decades, changes in BC's real estate market—from Vancouver through adjacent Metro areas, Victoria, parts of the Island, and Okanagan—have created extreme challenges not only for affordable housing, but for spaces and facilities used by not-for-profits, social enterprises and community organizations. Every individual and family in BC is touched by the work of not-for-profits and social enterprises. However, the vitality of these sectors is compromised when real estate forces make it impossible to secure suitable, affordable space to deliver programs and services, and when those market forces displace organizations or encroach on community owned assets. Real estate markets in BC are placing communities under extreme pressure, displacing programs and services and creating social disruption with consequent negative outcomes for community and social sustainability. Pandemic and racist events of the last months have highlighted systemic bias's against peoples of colour, diversity and Indigenous backgrounds. Knowing that this is also prevalent within the real estate system, this project is both timely and incredibly important for long term social sustainability.

The ***Social Purpose Real Estate Collaborative*** (SPRE) works to inspire and enable BC not-for-profits and social enterprises to secure affordable and suitable spaces for community. Our vision is a world of resilient, inclusive and connected communities. Founded in 2009, SPRE is comprised of nineteen funders and investors including government that strategically engage with and support social purpose real estate by building awareness, researching the issues and making resources available, developing organizational capacity and partnerships, and advising on key policies. In the recovery phase of the Covid19 Pandemic, with the daylighting of systemic inequities within our society, SPRE's work towards resilient and inclusive communities is ever more critical and is the focus of this project proposal.

Purpose of the Project:

This project explores issues fundamental to social sustainability, urban planning and community development that will create a comprehensive foundation for actionable solutions. This research will build on SPRE Collaborative projects by more deeply investigating the conditions for the challenges noted above, with an inclusion, equity and reconciliation lens. The Scholar will have the opportunity to undertake ground breaking research in social purpose real estate and to prepare resources, tools and documentation to aid the sector in preserving and creating social infrastructure that supports healthy, inclusive, sustainable communities.

Key Research Questions:

The Scholars research project will be guided by the following research questions:

1. What barriers to participation in social purpose real estate exist for people of diverse communities including but not limited to Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) and different genders and abilities?
2. How does the social purpose sector contribute to equity, inclusion and reconciliation in relation to land use and real estate?
3. What tools, resources, knowledge exist that could aid in building equity, inclusion and reconciliation in relation to land use and real estate?
4. What leadership or learnings do the SPRE members have to offer to further the discourse and movement to create a stronger system of equity, inclusion and reconciliation in land use and real estate? What is missing?

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Scope of Work:

1. Assist with the creation of an Advisory Committee to guide the research project (in collaboration with the SPRE Project Director and Project Facilitator)
2. Meet with members of the Social Purpose Real Estate Collaborative to learn about their social purpose real estate programs and research/map their initiatives, policies and practices related to access, inclusion, equity and reconciliation
3. Research and prepare a literature review/annotated bibliography on land use and real estate through the lens of access, inclusion, equity and reconciliation; expand/update the existing [SPRE Literature Review/Annotated Bibliography](#)
4. Participate in SPRE Collaborative Table meetings, site visits and events (as possible/available post pandemic) including various Working Group meetings (all meetings to be held remotely via ZOOM and conference calls)
5. Participate in Steering Committee meetings for the SPRE ***RENT LEASE OWN: Understanding the Real Estate Challenges Affecting the Not-for-profit & Social Purpose Sectors*** study currently underway--both as a means to inform the Internship work, as well as contribute to the study.
6. Source resources, toolkits and other materials that might be of value to the sector for the [SPRE Resource webpage](#) including an update/expansion of the SPRE Social Purpose Real Estate Glossary of Terms to include equity, inclusion, and reconciliation specific materials
7. Research statements of principles into equity, inclusion and reconciliation and make a recommendation for a draft statement for the SPRE Collaborative
8. Present research findings to the SPRE Collaborative; prepare social media posts and other related communications materials
9. Prepare a Final Report for SPRE and the Scholar Project Library

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](#).

1. An updated/expanded Social Purpose Real Estate Literature Review/Annotated Bibliography that looks at land use and real estate through in Canada through the lens of equity, inclusion and reconciliation
2. A 'map' of SPRE Collaborative initiatives, policies and practices related to equity, inclusion and reconciliation
3. A list of links, toolkits, resources to be added to the SPRE Resource Webpage; in particular looking at materials of value to the sector (including an update/expansion of the SPRE Social Purpose Real Estate Glossary of Terms) through the lens of equity, inclusion and reconciliation; posting materials to the SPRE Website pending time available
4. A draft statement of principles for the SPRE Collaborative on equity, inclusion and reconciliation
5. A presentation of research findings, and delivery of social media posts and

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other potential communications materials

6. A final Report for SPRE and the UBC Sustainability Scholars Project Library

Time Commitment:

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between October 19, 2020 and March 12, 2021
- The Intern is to complete meetings within standard work hours of 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday, independent research may be undertaken at the Intern's discretion. Total hours = approximately 12 hours per week
- The Intern is to participate in the following meetings:
 - SPRE Table Meetings (monthly 1.5hrs hours on Thursday afternoons)
 - Rent Lease Own Steering Committee meetings (monthly 1.5hrs on Thursday afternoons)
 - ad hoc Working Group Meetings—varies per Working Group but not more than 1-3 per working group (Policy, Capacity Building)
 - Weekly project meetings with the SPRE Project Director and/or Project Facilitator (1hr Tuesdays Wednesdays or Thursdays tbc)

Required/preferred Skills and Background:

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with WordPress, Drupal, or other website content tools
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Design and layout skills

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>