

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: Exploring the creation of a local and equitable Food Hub in South Vancouver

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Good Health and Wellbeing

Sustainable food systems: create a local and equitable Food Hub to improve community health and wellbeing. Environmental objective – increase access to local farm produce; Economic objective – improve access to affordable food for vulnerable families; Social objective – bring together families and build community through programs

Project Overview:

The current South Vancouver Food Hub, which has been run in partnership between the Greater Vancouver Food Bank (GVFB) and South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH) since 2018, closed August 18, 2020. The GVFB is centralizing operations and SVNH does not have the capacity or space to operate a Food Hub without the GVFB logistical support. SVNH is concerned about the impact the closure will have on our community members. Before GVFB centralized distribution in March 2020, there were approximately 450 individuals accessing the South Vancouver Food Hub. SVNH began our own Emergency Food Distribution Hub in March, and attendance continued with 350 individuals plus an additional 120 families receiving grocery hamper delivery weekly. Approximately 75% of the Emergency Food Distribution attendees are seniors in need of extra support, who have difficulty taking transit and carrying boxes of food. “South Vancouver” is the most racialized area of Vancouver with 80% visible minorities and 68.6% of the population have a first language other than English (vs. 46% in Vancouver overall). The neighbourhoods SVNH serves – Sunset, Victoria-Fraserview and Killarney – physically encompass 1/5 of the city of Vancouver and yet are underserved and underrepresented. Our goal is to build community engagement and partnerships over the next 8 months, to improve community health and wellbeing by creating a local, equitable and sustainable Food Hub.

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Purpose of the Project

SVNH, along with partnering organizations in the South Vancouver Food Network, want to explore the option of a South Vancouver Food Hub that meets the needs of our multicultural community, minimizes travel requirements, offers services that do not require proof of need and builds skills and capacity for our community to improve food security, health and wellbeing. SVNH would like to learn from other organizations who have created place-based Food Hubs. The outcomes of this project will help determine the next steps we take to create this local food system.

Scope of Work:

- Research organizations across Canada that operate local Food Hubs and affiliated food security / food skills programs to identify best practices and program outcomes (where available).
- Conduct desktop research and interviews with staff in key organizations to understand their food hub programs and identify factors for success.
- Internal review: work with South Vancouver Food Network staff and virtual focus groups with community partners to conduct a review to understand the present conditions of food insecurity in the neighbourhoods (i.e. barriers, trends), and needs for supporting a sustainable and accessible Food Hub across South Vancouver.
- Asset Mapping: review existing food assets such as community gardens, community kitchens and food access locations to update food asset map for the three South Vancouver neighbourhoods

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 gap analysis of food asset and programming availability across the three neighbourhoods of South Vancouver
- A summary of best practices of other place-based Food Hubs with affiliated food skill programs including a summary of status, outcomes, etc., including where possible, contact information for project leads
- Summary report of interviews with stakeholders
- A final report [or Executive Summary] for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online 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 Scholar is to complete hours Monday to Friday between 9:00AM and 5:00PM, approximately 12 hours per week.

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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
- Statistical analysis
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience with food security and food skills building is an asset
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/ virtual or in person surveys
- Familiarity preparing feasibility studies an asset

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

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>