

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: Envisioning a physical food hub at UBCO

Goal or Operations Plan objective

Goal: Increase food security and support social connections among students at UBCO with an evidence-based and student informed campus-specific initiative.

Objective: To address the priorities of the Food Insecurity Action Team, which reports into the UBC Food and Nutrition Committee and the goals outlined in UBC's Action Framework for a Nutritionally Sound Campus.

Please specify the strategic area(s) this project supports:

Okanagan Charter

Call to Action 1: Embed health into all aspects of campus culture, across the administration, operations and academic mandates.

1.2 Create Supportive Campus Environments

1.3 Generate thriving communities and a culture of wellbeing

1.4 Support personal development

20 Year Sustainability Strategy

Operations and Infrastructure:

Strategic goal 4. The built environment demonstrates regenerative design and operation throughout the UBC Community.

UBC Community:

Strategic goal 2. Integration of social sustainability demonstrates improvements in health, productivity and quality of life of the UBC community.

Strategic goal 3. Innovative engagement programs strengthen linkages across the campus to generate a sense of place and support the creation of a vibrant, animated, and sustainable live-work-learn community.

Strategic goal 5. UBC models a sustainable and integrated food systems that equally values environmental, social, and economic outcomes and assesses impacts of food production, transformation, and consumption on environmental, personal, and community health.

UBC Wellbeing Strategic Framework Priority Area:

Food and Nutrition, Mental Health and Resilience

UBC People and Place

Strategy 2: Inspiring spaces

Strategy 3: Thriving Communities

Strategy 4: Inclusive Excellence

Project description

In January 2019, the Undergraduate Experience Survey (UES) included a 6-item food insecurity measure validated for use with the general Canadian population. Similar to other Canadian post-secondary institutions, just over 40% of UBC Okanagan undergraduate respondents reported low to very low food security (i.e., classified as food insecure). Addressing food security requires multiple strategies, one component of a comprehensive approach to addressing student food insecurity is establishing food spaces on campus that support increases in food knowledge and skills, healthy eating, and social connections around food. A physical food hub is a space where students can cook and share meals together on campus. The Food Hub concept is based on a model of social service in which we create spaces that not only provide emergency food relief, but also connect members with resources and services that alleviate the effects of food insecurity and promote community food security. A physical food hub also provides a setting for enhancing food literacy, building social connections, and holds potential for providing a variety of other resources to support wellbeing.

The Food Insecurity Action Team (FIAT) has proposed undertaking scoping and development for a *Physical Food Hub* at UBCO that includes a community kitchen, food bank, common space for preparing and sharing meals, food education programming, etc. At UBCO, efforts need to be directed to developing a parallel initiative—a physical food hub to meet the unique needs of our students and our campus environment. UBCO’s planned expansion and the potential for available space provides an opportunity to scope out and develop plans for a common low-barrier space for a physical food hub. Importantly, this initiative should be informed by student perspectives and needs, our current and future campus environment, and environmental scan.

This project is focused on gathering this information, and will occur alongside consultations with campus stakeholders/decision makers (e.g., UBCO campus planning, food services, facilities) by our Campus Health Voice team, and coordinated with efforts to establish a physical food hub at UBCO to determine the best course of action and a robust set of recommendations for UBCO physical food hub.

Scope of Work:

- Conduct an environmental scan of physical food hubs on campuses in North America, and gather information on best practices based on interviews with campus contacts, and a review of published and unpublished literature.
- Develop and implement strategies to gather student perspectives on a physical food hub using dialogue sessions, “on the table” conversations, suggestion boxes, etc. Summarize student perspectives.
- Based on scan, develop and present 2-3 prototypes for a physical food hub suitable for consultation with students and stakeholders on campus on which to gather feedback, and identify current and future spaces on campus to locate a physical food hub.
- Make recommendations for a UBCO physical food hub and next steps.

Deliverables



- A final report containing: a summary of the environmental scan and consultations with students, a description of proposed prototypes for a physical food hub at UBCO, a summary report of the feedback on the prototypes and potential locations, and recommendations.
- Presentation on the work at UBCO
- An 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 May 4 and August 14, 2020
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 8:30 and 5:00 Monday to Friday, up to 35 hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- The successful candidate must be able to work in Kelowna for the term of the project

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.

