

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: An idea validation study to pinpoint opportunities for a platform that enables equitable access to residential and collective properties

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Sustainable Cities and Communities: Specific goal area/sustainability objective: Affordable and equitable housing typologies

Project Overview:

221A (non-profit society) operates an active Fellowship program for Artists & Designers to research and develop social, cultural and ecological infrastructure. Throughout the Autumn and Winter of 2020/21, 221A works with DOMA (doma.city), a platform cooperative registered as a non-profit in Kiev, Ukraine, to advance its development with a focus on Vancouver / Unceded Territories. The Sustainability Scholar will be tasked with assembling regional research on organizations and companies exploring fractional ownership scenarios for residential and commercial property, as well as identifying and engaging with planning, housing and property actors and organizations, who should be consulted.

Purpose of the Project:

Since doma.city has previously been planned for typical European cities with robust pre-existing housing and commercial property typologies, doma.city's research with 221A in Vancouver focuses on the challenge of finding ways to make the platform function in a city with a predominantly high-density private housing development scenario.

Scope of Work:

- Conduct a Lower Mainland sector scan to identify regional actors/organizations/companies operating within the space of digital urbanism, and non-profit housing and commercial property management/development.

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- Survey +15 actors/organizations to map the concerns and challenges they are facing and how doma.city operating in Vancouver may help advance their goals.
- Summarize and make recommendations from the survey findings to 221A and doma.city
- Map potential co-development partnership scenarios for doma.city within Vancouver/Unceded Territories
- Scan the multi-governmental regulatory environments for potential conflicts and challenge of advancing doma.city in Vancouver
- Present findings to 221A's Blockchains & Cultural Padlocks Advisory Group, and receive feedback
- Prepare an Idea Validation Study on the ways that 221A and doma.city can advance a platform cooperative for equitable housing and property access in Vancouver.

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 summary of fractional ownership property projects in other global cities, which have progressed into beta and functional modes.
- 15+ consultation surveys with regional actors and orgs developing equitable housing solutions in a Vancouver/Unceded Territories, pinpointing the ways doma.city could help them meet their goals.
- Attendance at monthly Fellowship project meetings
- Weekly exchanges with 221A staff for project progress updates and mentorship components
- An Idea Validation study on the ways that doma.city can advance in Vancouver
- A final report (or executive summary) for the UBC online Scholars 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. Please also use this space to indicate any critical dates for the project, and the optimal schedule for your Scholar's work if known.

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between October 18 2020 and March 12, 2021
- The Scholar is to complete approximately 12 hours a week, between 11 am and 6 pm Monday to Friday
- Precise schedule of major meetings and milestones to follow.

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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
- Statistical analysis
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Ability to work with Software Programmers & Developers
- Demonstrated experience in blockchain technology and platform cooperative theory, is an asset
- 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 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>