

# 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.**

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## Project Title: Understanding Place Based and Community Engaged Learning in Times of Global Pandemic

### Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

#### ★ Good Health and Wellbeing

1) Enhanced student mental health and wellbeing via community service connections. 2) Foster social/professional connections and resource mobilization in service to the health-related concerns that disproportionately affect equity-seeking communities.

#### ★ Sustainable Cities and Communities

Support the capacity development of community based organizations addressing a range of acute urban issues, such as: housing, transportation and food security.

### Overview:

The Centre for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) drives toward a guiding vision of informed, educated, and resilient citizens activating meaningful change. In support of this effort, CCEL facilitates, catalyzes, designs, and implements projects and programs between university and community partners to provide learning experiences where all parties take part in the teaching and learning process. These reciprocal relationships aim to build capacity and resiliency amongst communities, resiliency defined as the ability to adapt and respond to change creatively and collaboratively.

Over the past year, and resulting from the University's pivot to online teaching and learning, CCEL proactively pivoted its efforts toward online engagement to both ensure continued transformative learning and programming for students and community partners, and to be ready when the call comes from community and faculty for new ways of working together on societal issues that were previously unknown or unexpected. These efforts were undertaken from the perspective that the University, as a public citizen, plays a critical role in supporting our students, faculty, and community partners to weather

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the immediate crisis and is committed to strengthening the resilience and recovery of the community, the sectors that comprise it, and to creation of a more just and sustainable society.

## **Purpose of Project:**

The reality of a distributed student body, provides the Centre an opportunity to forge ahead with a pedagogical practice that combines elements of community engaged learning with place based learning. By providing an inclusive learning space for students who reside in different places around the world, it is anticipated that students have a greater voice and choice in determining what, how, when and where they learn, it increases promotes student agency, and is strength-based in that it builds from each student's strengths, skills, interests, and circumstances. Similarly, it is expected that community partners, throughout the world, are afforded opportunities to engage with UBC students on projects of critical importance to the communities they serve. Through this project, the Centre is seeking to understand how this pivot to online learning, and the inclusion of elements of place based learning, contributes increased opportunity for students and partners to engage, as well, whether and how it increases in the relevance and impact of the outputs achieved for participating stakeholders, contributing to the overall capacity for organizations and communities to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

## **Goals:**

- Deepen CCEL's understanding of the intersections between community engaged and place based learning
- Utilise the information collected to propose refinements/revisions to program delivery and communicate our impact to diverse stakeholders

## **Scope of Work:**

- Conduct a literature review to deepen our understanding of the pedagogical intersections of place based and community engaged learning
- Identify core principals and frameworks for measurement; design and execute a community engagement process (i.e. conduct interviews and solicit input from various stakeholders) to contribute to a deeper, and contextual understanding of the pedagogical intersections and impact
- Review the strengths and limitations of the framework and develop recommendations for continued and improved practice.

## **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 (August 11, 2018). The deliverable will be archived in the online Scholars Project Library and made publicly available.*

- A report on the review of the related literature
- A framework document pertaining to a place-based community engagement process in the era of pandemic. The document speaks to the pillars and core principals of the process and proposes implications for practices to UBC and community partners. The document will also identify elements of the framework to be evaluated for improvement.

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## 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 between (9am-5pm, Monday-Friday), approximately 12 hours per week.

## Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Familiarity preparing feasibility studies

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

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

Contact Karen Taylor at [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto: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>