

# 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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## Research project title: Developing a community food security assessment framework for UBC campuses

### Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

**Good Health and Wellbeing:** key alignments include food-related health promotions, improving social, economic, infrastructural assets for health and wellbeing

**Sustainable Cities and Communities:** key alignments include inclusive communities, building community resiliency, equitable access to green spaces

**Responsible Consumption and Production:** key alignment in supporting sustainable and just local food system including but not limited to production, procurement, consumption, and recovery/disposal

### Project Overview

The Food Security Initiative is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative, and systems-based approach to addressing food insecurity at UBC, with the Wellbeing Strategic Framework target to reduce food insecurity prevalence at UBC by 2025. Bringing together diverse student, faculty and staff stakeholders to collectively and collaboratively promote food security, the Food Security Initiative aims to create scalable solutions to further policy and advocacy work and practices through three priority actions:

1. Deepen our understanding of food security within the University context;
2. Alleviate immediate pressures of food insecurity and enhance community food security at UBC;
3. Foster knowledge exchange and advocacy efforts within UBC and beyond.

Community Food Security can be defined as “when all community residents obtain a safe, personally acceptable, nutritious diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes healthy choices, community self-reliance, and equal access for everyone.” Community food security includes access to

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acceptable, sustainable (climate friendly), culturally-appropriate, and nutritious foods alongside capacity building (increasing nutrition knowledge and food skills).

Foundational work has been conducted in the past through the SEEDS Sustainability program to assess components of community food security, however an overarching assessment framework specific to UBC Okanagan and Vancouver has yet to be developed. The Food Security Initiative would like to further goals 1 and 2 listed above by establishing an evidence informed framework for assessing community food security over time. The establishment of a framework and measurement will also contribute to advocacy efforts on campus within goal 3.

## **Purpose of the Project:**

Enhancing community food security at UBC is a priority of the Food Security Initiative, however, we do not have a contextualized baseline understanding or ongoing method for assessment, including evaluating any promising results from actions of the Food Security Initiative. The purpose of the project is to establish an evidence informed assessment framework for community food security at UBC. The completed assessment framework will be used in subsequent years to monitor the state of food security on our campus and advocate for programs and/or policies to promote the Sustainable Development Goals, including but not limited to good health and wellbeing, sustainable communities, responsible consumption and production and climate action.

## **Scope of Work:**

- Conduct and write a literature review to further understanding of community food security, including food sovereignty and food justice
- Participate in relevant committee meetings for further project context and learning – the Food Security Initiative, Food Systems Project and the Food and Nutrition Committee
- Conduct a literature and best practices review of methods for assessing community food security, including existing tools like the [USDA Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit](#).
- In consultation with key stakeholders, draft and finalize a framework for assessing community food security at UBC
- Create a summary report of literature and best practices review
- Present the draft findings, including assessment framework to key stakeholders for feedback
- Prepare a final assessment framework for community food security at UBC, including instructions, key considerations for use and recommended process for ongoing implementation.

## **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 literature review of community food security, including food sovereignty and food justice
- A literature and best practices review of methods for assessing community food security

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- A final assessment framework for community food security at UBC, including instructions and key considerations for use.
- A final report, containing a summary of completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders.
- A final report [or Executive Summary] for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project 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.*

- 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 approximately 12 hours per week.

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Familiarity with food security, food systems, community-based scholarship, population and public health principles, including health promotion an asset
- Excellent interdisciplinary 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
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools

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

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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>