

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: Launching community partnerships for a physical food hub at UBCO

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Good Health and Wellbeing: This is the physical food hub's primary topic area. A physical food hub at UBCO will provide a space for the campus community to build community through food. This space supports several areas of health and wellbeing: food and nutrition, mental health and wellbeing, and social connection.

Responsible Consumption and Production: Local and ethical food procurement practices have been identified as a key priority for the physical food hub at UBCO.

Climate Action: Composting, reducing food waste, utilizing sustainable energy sources, sustainable building materials, and responsible water consumption have all been identified as priorities for the physical food hub at UBCO.

Project Overview

In January 2019, the UBC 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). In the VOICE 5 research study at UBCO "Food security at UBCO: What's your recipe?", students shared that food and financial literacy and a lack of educational opportunities to increase these forms of literacy exacerbated their experience of food insecurity. 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

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knowledge and skills, healthy eating, and social connections around food. The Food Hub concept is based on a model of social service in which we create spaces which connect members with resources and services that alleviate the effects of food insecurity and promote community food security. A physical food hub is a space where students can cook and share meals together on campus. 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. From May – August 2020, a Sustainability Scholar conducted a project entitled “Envisioning a physical food hub for UBCO.” Through this project, a literature review, environmental scan, and community consultation were conducted to develop a collective vision for a physical food hub at UBCO. Students, staff, and faculty strongly support the development of a food hub space at UBCO, and identified key partnerships with community organizations as essential to a successful and sustainable physical food hub.

Purpose of the Project:

The next phase of physical food hub at UBCO project, “Launching community partnerships for a physical food hub at UBCO”, will entail establishing partnerships with community organizations identified during the previous community consultation phase of this project and piloting co-designed projects/initiatives to support student food security in collaboration with community and campus partners. Specifically, campus community members identified establishing partnerships with the nearby grocer, Nesters Market, with local food banks, and with a local food security organization called the Okanagan Fruit Tree Project Society.

Scope of Work:

- Reach out to and establish connections with key people at community organizations identified through the community consultations hosted in phase 1 of project.
- Discuss, plan, and pilot two initiatives/project ideas identified through community consultations with interested community partners in collaboration with relevant UBCO partners.
- Project management and evaluation of the pilot projects/initiatives.
- Conduct a brief environmental scan for additional community organizations with which to explore a partnership, and time permitting, establish connections with those organizations.

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](#).

- Develop and maintain a database of community organizations interested in partnering with the UBCO Physical Food Hub
- A final report containing: a description of engagement process with community partners, pilot project/initiative plans and their implementation, evaluation findings, and recommendations for project/initiative refinement and sustainability to support the continued development of the UBCO physical food hub.
- Presentation at UBCO to share the work with campus and community partners, students, staff and faculty.
- An Executive Summary for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

Time Commitment

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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 hours between 8:30 and 5:00 Monday to Friday, up to 12 hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- 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

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>