

# 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: Research to inform the development of an operational and governance plan for a cooperative community farm

### Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

**Good Health and Wellbeing;** A community farm hosts organizations that provide programs and services to the community that support health and wellbeing. Through farming projects, program participants and volunteers experience numerous health and wellbeing benefits related to social connection, physical activity, increased access to fruit and vegetables, and improved mental health.

**Sustainable Cities and Communities:** A community farm is an opportunity to intentionally support and protect food producing lands in a way that also supports a vibrant community and the local economy. This community farm is located in a peri-urban area and can contribute to progressive local land use.

**Responsible Consumption and Production:** Foods produced on a community farm may use regenerative farming methods and protect sensitive ecosystems including riparian areas and areas frequented by protected species. The foods produced on the community farm are distributed through the local community, increasing local food access.

**Climate Action:** As mentioned above, the community farm will use regenerative farming methods and protect sensitive ecosystems on the land. In addition, techniques to preserve water and protect the broader water system is a priority.

### Project Overview:

The Okanagan Fruit Tree Project Society (OFTP) is a food security organization operating in the Central and South Okanagan. Since 2012, we have been cultivating community through local food. We are primarily known for our gleaning program, where our incredible volunteers go to orchards, farms, and backyards to harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. This produce is then donated to over 50 schools and social service organizations in the Okanagan (and sometimes beyond).

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Through this program we are reducing food waste, providing food to those that experience hunger, supporting social service agencies by reducing their food programming costs, supporting farmers and orchardists through a tax receipt for their produce donations, all while building social capital within our community. In 2019, the OFTP took over the operations of another organization in the area whose programming was community farming. Food grown on the community farm plots is also donated to social service agencies in the community. Our farm plots are located on private land and with short-term land lease agreements.

The OFTP is now in a position where we will have long-term land tenure of a 36 acres farm property. Over the last 3 years we have been building relationships with other key food security partners in the area with the vision of establishing a cooperative community farm, where several complementary and collaborative organizations work together to steward the land with the intention of supporting social and environmental wellbeing and sustainability, while making meaningful contributions to the local food economy.

## **Purpose of the Project:**

The OFTP and their community partners have built a basic vision for a cooperative community farm and need information about other community farms in order to develop an operational and governance plan for a community farm in Kelowna, BC.

## **Scope of Work:**

- Conduct a literature review on community farming models with a specific focus on governance models, funding, and community partnerships.
- Conduct an environmental scan of community farms operating in Canada, and if appropriate, beyond.
- Interview key community farm representatives in BC and Canada to identify opportunities and risks associated with community farming models.
- Interview key local stakeholders to inform the development of a community farm plan.
- Prepare a final report
- Prepare a presentation for delivery to the OFTP board and to other interested stakeholders.

## **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 the OFTP and key stakeholders. The report should include:

- A literature review of community farming models
- A summary of findings from the environmental scan
- A summary of interviews with community farm representatives
- A summary of the interviews conducted with key stakeholders in the Okanagan community
- A final report, containing a summary of completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders.
- A final report for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

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## 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 hours between 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday, approximately 12 hours per week.
- Depending on community stakeholders and time differences across Canada, some occasional evening meetings may be required.
- The Scholar will meet weekly (online) with the project mentor(s)—dates and times to be selected with consideration for the Scholars academic schedule

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

X Excellent research and writing skills

X Demonstrated interest in sustainability

X Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset

X Excellent public speaking and presentation skills

X Community engagement experience

X Ability to work independently

X Project management and organizational skills

X Knowledge of or interest in community farming or cooperatives an asset.

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>