

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.

Developing an impact assessment of civic youth engagement programming in Metro Vancouver

Project description

Context: CityHive is a youth-centred non-profit organization based in Metro Vancouver. CityHive is on a mission to transform the way that young people are engaged with their cities and decision-making, which they do through three different arms of programming: civic education, sustainability innovation labs, and fee-for-service consulting & implementation. CityHive's Envirolab program brings together cohorts of thirty young people to learn about a pressing theme in the area of sustainability (ie lighter footprint, zero waste, climate emergency) and develop projects and initiatives to address these challenges in collaboration with municipal partners.

Overview: Cities are constantly facing wicked problems while youth have the vested interest and an important perspective needed to help develop solutions. CityHive tries to bring those two groups - cities and youth - together to both build capacity for young people to engage, while also shifting the norms of youth engagement in social systems. To better understand the impact that CityHive programs like Envirolab are having on broader societal structures, norms, and policies, the UBC Sustainability Scholar will conduct a full impact measurement study on public engagement programming targeting youth, using CityHive as a case study. Does building the civic literacy and capacity of youth to engage with municipal decision makers lead to their long-term engagement? Does involving youth in engagement programs and practices change the policy and social norms? When youth are engaged in sustainability and climate policy conversations, are the outcomes different than when they aren't included?

Purpose of the Project: This project will provide a thorough overview of the effects of youth engagement programs and it will allow CityHive, and similar organizations to continue deepening and improving programming to ensure the desired outcomes are being achieved.

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Scope of Work:

- Undertake a literature review and environmental scan to understand the current landscape of youth engagement, sustainability policy, and how they relate to the Metro Vancouver local policy sector.
- Identify strategies and develop a research plan to conduct an impact assessment on the CityHive programs
- Conduct said impact assessment process, which may include engaging with program participants/alumni, interviews with local policymakers and municipal leaders that partner with CityHive; reviewing recent policy decisions; convening focus groups, etc.
- Review and synthesize data captured from evaluation processes with program participants and partners over the last 3 years
- Create a report summarizing themes, trends and highlighting recommendations

Deliverables

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 the environmental scan of the current landscape of youth civic engagement and sustainability policies in Metro Vancouver
- A summary of interviews with partners (policy makers, municipal leaders) and participants/alumni
- A synthesis of themes and trends captured through reviewing data from evaluation processes captured in the last 3 years of CityHive's programming
- An executive summary for the online Scholars Project Library

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 their hours between the hours of 9am-5pm Pacific Time, Monday to Friday, approximately 12 hours per week
- We would like the Scholar to update the team on their progress every two weeks

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Experience in impact measurement and evaluation
- Excellent 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
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Experience working directly with youth and young adults, is an asset
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys

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- Comfortable working in a small team environment
- Experience working in a small not-for-profit environment, is an asset

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>