

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Summer 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.

- 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 February 2, 2020.**

---

## Research project title: Research to understand climate grief/anxiety impacts on student mental health and wellbeing

### Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

The enormity of the climate crisis, along with the human limitation to really wrap our heads (and hearts and hands) around the scope of what we are facing, has immediate and long-term implications on human mental health and wellbeing. As David Wallace-Wells observes, “Even when we train our eyes on climate change, we are unable to comprehend its scope.”

Climate grief/anxiety is new terrain, but we expect that it will increasingly become a significant mental health issue, particularly with younger people who are experiencing feelings of distress, loss, anger and hopelessness in the face of climate change and ecological decline.

UBC has made a commitment to support student mental health and wellbeing through various programs and initiatives, and through student counselling services. Guided by the the Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges the institution aims to embed health and wellbeing into all aspects of campus life. To ensure that UBC student-facing services can provide the best possible support to students facing climate grief/anxiety, a better understanding of the emerging research, best practices and recommendations in this field is needed.

### Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the Scholar’s work will be actionable.

- Literature review on the mental health impacts of climate grief/anxiety
- A scan of other institutions that are addressing this challenge within their institutions
- A scan of relevant UBC resources and research
- Developing a framework for surveying student clients of UBC counselling services to develop a baseline
- Draft a set of recommendations for next steps for student counselling to consider

### Deliverables

- A final report, containing a summary of completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders.
- Summary of relevant approaches undertaken at other jurisdictions
- Summary of UBC resources and research related to climate grief/anxiety
- Recommendations on next steps
- A final report [or Executive Summary] for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

### Time Commitment

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 4 and August 14, 2020
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 15 to 17 hours per week.
- If applicable, list dates of any mandatory meetings, special events, etc. that you require your Scholar to be available

### Required/preferred Skills and Background

- 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
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Familiarity with climate change issues as they pertain to public health an asset
- Background in psychiatry/psychology/social work with a focus on youth/young adults (or similar) an asset
- Familiar with social/cultural indicators of mental health

Applications close **midnight Sunday February 2, 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.

<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>

The Centre for Student Involvement & Careers will host a resume & cover letter webinar tailored for graduate students on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 from 12:00-1:30. Registration will open approximately two weeks before the webinar, and can be accessed at Careers Online.

