

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: Integrated Analysis of Economic Methods for Evaluating Environmental Damages from Stormwater Contaminants: Two person project

How will this project make a contribution to regional sustainability?

This two-person project will contribute to the 2019-2022 Board Strategic Plan's Themes of Environmental Sustainability and Financial Sustainability, by providing additional understanding and tools for making decisions that reduce pollutants while prioritizing the organization's financial health through responsible spending decisions.

Project description

The purpose of this two-person project is to inform and improve regional stormwater pollutant control decision making. This will take place by providing estimates of the economic value of avoided damages associated with reducing stormwater pollution, which can be used in triple bottom line decision making and financial analyses to assess and prioritize potential stormwater pollution reduction projects.

The project's scope will include:

1. Start with a provided list of contaminants for potential inclusion in the study. Contaminants to potentially be assessed will include contaminants for which approved guidelines exist, and a list of priority constituents of environmental concern for killer whales and chinook salmon for which no guidelines yet exist:
2. Conducting a literature review of estimated damage to aquatic ecosystems from stormwater contaminants.
3. Conducting a literature review and collecting case studies evaluating the economic damages associated with damage to aquatic ecosystems from stormwater contaminants,
4. Creating a proposed plan for the collection of data and analysis of economic damages related to stormwater contaminant impacts on aquatic ecosystems in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia.

Metro Vancouver may implement the plan, results from which could then be included in triple bottom line decision making and financial analyses to assess and prioritize potential stormwater pollution reduction projects.

Project Deliverables: (Please use bullet points where possible.)

- Interim report
- Draft final report
- Final report
- Final presentation
- A final report [or Executive Summary] for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours per person for each of the two-person team to complete, for a total of 500 hours.
- This project must be completed between May 4 and August 14, 2020

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
 - Demonstrated interest in sustainability
 - Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
 - Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
 - Strong analytical skills
 - Ability to work independently
 - Deadline oriented
 - Project management and organizational skills
 - Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
 - Familiarity preparing feasibility studies
 - Experience with financial modelling and analysis
 - Background in or familiarity with principles of triple bottom line accounting or decision-making an asset
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- Access to own laptop required.

Applications close **midnight Sunday February 2, 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.

<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.

