

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: Examination of how to measure and manage environmental, physical and experiential capacity of regional parks

How will this project make a contribution to regional sustainability?

This project will contribute to the Metro Vancouver Board Strategic Plan - Regional Parks Services Goal 1.2: "Develop individual park plans that provide public access to parks and protect important ecosystems and habitats." It is expected that this research will help new park management plans better manage carrying capacity, to protect important ecosystems and habitats.

This project will also support both Regional Parks Plan goals:

Goal 1: Protect important natural areas to contribute to regional livability and enhance connections

Goal 2: Within the context of natural area protection, provide opportunities for people to connect with, enjoy, be active and learn about the environment

Understanding carrying capacity and strategies for managing visitor numbers will specifically help with the following strategies from the Regional Parks Plan:

Strategy 2 – Manage regional parks to protect and enhance natural assets

Strategy 6 – Provide safe, clean and well maintained facilities to park visitors, and promote positive visitor experiences

Project description

The purpose of the project is to support management of regional parks by examining how to measure and manage environmental, physical and experiential capacity for regional parks. This research will inform and help the Regional Parks Service create forward-looking strategies to manage park visitors, visitor experiences, and natural resources as park demand increases.

Outline the scope of project, including how Metro Vancouver will use the Scholar's work:

The project will include:

1. a literature review focused on measuring and rating each type of capacity (environmental, physical and experiential) for a park or protected area, including:
 - Desktop research complemented by 1 to 2 interviews with jurisdictions facing similar challenges.

- Identification of academic literature where Park physical, environmental, and/or experiential Capacity is examined, measured, and/or defined (1 to 2 days of effort)
- 2. developing a set of case studies showing best practice with respect to managing environmental, physical and experiential capacity of parks and protected areas, including:
 - Identification of the top 5 for each: i) Park Physical Capacity, ii) Park Environmental Capacity, iii) Park Experiential Capacity (although some case studies may address more than one of the three types of capacity). Case study selection will be reviewed with project lead prior to beginning case study research.
- 3. Time permitting and depending on the Scholars skill-set, summary of tools used to address each type of capacity issue, to create a policy or practice toolbox for Regional Parks

Project Deliverables

The project has three deliverables:

1. Interim report providing a preliminary outline of literature and case studies discovered / reviewed to date.
2. Final report detailing research findings.
3. A presentation summarizing research findings. The scholar will be asked to deliver the presentation at least once, with the possibility of one or two additional presentations to regional or municipal stakeholders.
4. 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 the research project remotely and to have regular check-ins with the Metro Vancouver Project lead at the Metro Vancouver Head Office near Metrotown in Burnaby. A detailed schedule for check-ins and interim deliverables to be decided upon jointly once the Scholar is confirmed.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Experience and / or interest in park and protected area planning

Scholar will need to use their own laptop and word processing/spread sheet software



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.

