

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: Researching a shared transportation program for low-income residents with mobility challenges

Research supports the following policies

- Greenest City Action Plan/ Climate Emergency Response Plan
Specific goal area/ big move(s): Big move# 2. Safe and convenient active transportation and transit
- Healthy City Strategy
Specific goal area (s): Getting Around
- Other: Accessibility Strategy

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to the City of Vancouver and describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable

Why this work is of value:

- The City of Vancouver is developing a **Poverty Reduction Plan** to reduce poverty and address fundamental economic inequities in the City. This work was directed by Council in 2017 as part of the **Healthy City Strategy** implementation and will be brought to Council for approval in early 2020
- Engagement for the Poverty Reduction Strategy clearly identified an **inequity in transportation services** for low income individuals with mobility challenges (such as seniors). Many people expressed that they were unable to access public transportation (for example, due to distance from a stop, inability to stand and wait for longer periods of time), but that they did not qualify for Handydart services
- The Poverty Action Advisory Committee, made up of over 40 community organizations and people with lived experience of poverty, unanimously chose this as a critical action for poverty reduction to be started immediately

- Through this project, the City will gain a better understanding of the scope of this issue and the feasibility of various potential solutions to address this inequity

Actionability

- If the project proves feasible, the scholar's work will lead to an actionable proposal which can be put forward to Council and other funders immediately after completion
- Through the process of undertaking the project, the scholar will have built interest and momentum from community, staff, and funders, thereby increasing the chance of implementation success

Scope of work:

- Develop a workplan and high level outline, including a list of interviews to be conducted
- Conduct a *brief* scan of similar projects in other cities
- Through interviews and research, assess
 - Existing transportation options and service gaps for low income individuals with mobility challenges
 - Potential excess capacity in transport vehicles from non-profits and other service providers
 - Level of demand (need) for a new, alternative shared transportation option
 - Barriers and opportunities to starting a new shared transportation model
- Develop potential models for delivering such a service (including consideration of expansion of existing services, new business models, operational considerations, lead agency, partners).
- With the City and other partners, evaluate these options.
- Write up all findings in a professional report

Deliverables

- Workplan and high level outline
- Brief report of best practices from elsewhere
- Summary report of findings from interviews and research
- Report and informal presentation on potential business models for delivering the service
- Final report that details all findings
- A public facing final report (or executive summary) for the UBC USI website (could be one and the same as the previous deliverable)

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 4 - August 14, 2020
- The scholar is to their complete hours between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 10-15 hours per week.



Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Interest in one or more of poverty reduction, social justice, non-profit management, etc.
- Ability to work independently
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct interviews (by phone or in person)
- Familiarity preparing feasibility studies and/or business plans
- Background in business and an interest in social justice an asset

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.

