

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: Supporting the creation of walkable¹ complete communities built on a foundation of understanding diversity and unique human qualities

RESEARCH SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING COV POLICIES:

- The Climate Emergency Response Big Move #1 – Walkable Complete Communities
- Climate Emergency Response Big Move #2, Safe & Convenient Active Transportation and Transit
- The Vancouver Plan,
- The Broadway Plan,
- Resilient Vancouver
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Transportation 2040
- Housing Vancouver
- Complete Streets Policy Framework

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

In response to the well documented threat of climate breakdown, in 2019 the City of Vancouver declared a Climate Emergency. The City of Vancouver has issued six big moves which together will have the greatest impact in decreasing the city's greenhouse gas emissions and would best contribute to a future where Canada meets the GHG emissions targets set out in the Paris Agreement. The Metro Vancouver region is also facing an extreme affordability crisis, with loneliness and social isolation on the rise.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT:

The work of the successful 2020 Greenest / Healthy City Scholar candidate will inform and assist members of the City Design Studio and Community Planning in understanding walkability through a holistic lens. As we embark on the Vancouver Plan and the Climate Emergency Response we need to ensure that one of our primary efforts - creating walkable, connected communities, is equitable and built on a foundation of understanding or diversity and unique human qualities.

¹ Capable or suitable for: walking, rolling, or use of mobility aid.

The Scholar's work will be critical in providing input on the experiential aspects of walkable neighbourhoods and will provide insights on how equity is accounted for in the measurement and design of walkable communities.

WHY THIS WORK IS OF VALUE:

Walkable communities foster healthy and social communities. A recent UBC and VCH joint initiative titled *Where Matters* illustrates the links between health outcomes and living in walkable neighbourhoods; suggesting a significantly lower prevalence of obesity, diabetes and stress for inhabitants of walkable communities. A walkable community is a resilient community; fostering social interaction, healthy sustainable lifestyles, inclusivity and equity.

SCOPE OF WORK:

1. Review of Walkability Measurement: (15% of total)
 - Create a brief literary review of the academic literature on walkability.
 - Compare and contrast existing walkability measurement metrics, indicators and frameworks, such as:
 - Larry Frank's method,
 - COV's proximity to daily needs (see appendix),
 - Walkscore,
 - Pedshed Connectivity
2. Literature Review of Equity & Walkability (30% of total)
 - Review the academic literature and work to date in regard to on walkability and equity. For example: what does walkability mean for:
 - for people of all ages and physical abilities,
 - i.e., How do children, walk around our cities,
 - i.e., Accessibility
 - for people of all income groups,
 - Gender and walkability,
 - Reconciliation
3. Document and Map the Experiential Qualities of Walkability: (30% of total)
 - Prepare a document and mapping exercise illustrating how the environment affects walkability.
 - Examples of themes of investigation might include:
 - Traffic volume & speed, air quality
 - The impact of green and leafy character (tree canopy, front gardens).
 - Social vibrancy & eyes on the street,
 - Points of interest
4. Engagement: (15% of total)
 - Review the Complete Communities team's engagement questions and exercises pertaining to walkable communities and provide feedback and suggestions.
 - Assist the Complete Communities team in developing engagement questions and exercises.



5. Principles: (10% of total)
- Assist the Complete Communities team in developing a set of walkability principles.

DELIVERABLES:

- 1) Working with the City Design Studio, the Scholar will author a paper that:
 - Summarizes the walkability literature,
 - Summarizes walkability frameworks and measurement metrics and indicators
 - Reviews and summarizes literature on equity and walkability.
 - Summarizes and maps the qualitative aspects of a good walking experience. Reviewing elements such as: trees, sense of safety, low traffic noise, sense of exploration and discovery, etc.
 - Uses a mixed-media approach to graphically convey and illustrate important walkability themes and considerations including: photos, experiential mapping, drawings etc.
- 2) Create recommendations to assist the Complete Communities team in creating public engagement questions, or event activities on walkability.
- 3) Create a list of recommendations to assist the Complete Communities team in creating walkability principles.

TIME COMMITMENT:

- The scholar will complete 250 hrs. of work between May 4th and August 14th 2020.
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday at approximately 20 hours / week.

SKILL SET / BACKGROUND REQUIRED / PREFERRED

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Excellent analytical skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Ability to work independently
- GIS training or experience
- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
- Demonstrated interest in resilient city design and community resiliency theory
- Demonstrated interest in performance-based decision-making processes
- Familiarity with principles of equity, diversity, and difference as they pertain to city and neighbourhood design an asset

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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.

