# 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.**

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## Research project title: Understanding the Impacts of ride-hailing vehicles on congestion and the City of Vancouver's climate emergency response

**Research supports the following policies -**

☒ Greenest City Action Plan/ Climate Emergency Response Plan

Specific goal area/ big move(s): Big Move 2 and Big Move 3

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

Ride-hailing (e.g., Uber, Lyft etc.) is a service that increases travel options, can provide first and last mile connections to transit, and has the potential to reduce impaired driving and contribute to car-free and car-light lifestyles. However, as ride-hailing services have rolled out in North America and the world, many municipalities are reporting increases in vehicle trips and congestion, declining transit ridership and reduced walking, cycling and transit trips. Increased curb activity in active travel areas can also impact the safety of vulnerable road users. These outcomes are in direct contradiction with the City's Climate Emergency Response and Congestion Management Strategy goals.

The project will involve the following elements:

- Explore opportunities to incentivize the number of zero emission and accessible vehicles utilized by ride hailing companies
- Undertake a literature or best practice analysis from other comparable cities around the world focusing specifically on fees or rates charged, geo-fencing/cordoning of allowable operational areas, management of pick up and drop offs during peak congestion periods.
- Contact other cities via email or by phone to identify what sorts of policies have been effective for them through an informal interview.
- Analyzing large sets of origin and destination data received from ride hailing companies to identify travel patterns and areas of concerns.

- Reviewing demand data, trip data, vehicles kilometers travelled (VKTs), review how policies from other comparable cities affect ride hailing.
- Develop a list of high-level evaluation criteria or a decision matrix for the City to measure the effectiveness of ride hailing policies.
- Recommend policies that the City should consider implementing/adopting to improve curbside management and reduce traffic congestion in the City

**Why this work is of value**

The City of Vancouver would like to monitor the early stages of how ride hailing impacts the City as a whole in terms of congestion, and also how it can impact a user's choice of travel mode (e.g., Is it cannibalizing other modes of sustainable transportation? How is it impacting our Climate Emergency Response?)

**Deliverables**

- Final research report summarizing the following:
    - Data sets provided from ride hailing companies related to demand, VKT, and origin destination
    - Comparison of ride-hailing policies used in different cities around the world
    - Summary of consultation/interview with contacts from other cities
- Recommendations to the City of Vancouver with regard to:
    - Quantify at a high level the impacts of the early stages of ride hailing in the City of Vancouver
    - Recommendations on how to incentivize electric vehicle adoption in ride hailing vehicle fleets
    - Parking policies for ride hailing vehicles that the City should consider adopting
- A public facing final report (or executive summary) for the UBC USI website

**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 8:30AM – 5:00PM, 3 days a week, approximately **20** hours per week.

**Skill set/background required/preferred**

☒ Excellent research and writing skills.
☒ Demonstrated interest in transportation and curbside management.
☒ Strong technical writing skills
☒ Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
☒ Strong presentation and public speaking skills
☒ Familiarity conducting focus group research
☒ Strong analytical skills
☒ Ability to work independently
☒ Demonstrated time management skills
☒ Deadline oriented

☒ Computer programming skills
☒ GIS training or experience.
☒ Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
☒ Familiarity with quantitative research methodologies and implementation
☒ Experience with statistical analysis
☒ Familiarity with behaviour change theories and implementation

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.