

# 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: Develop a roadmap for equitable engagement strategies and tools to support the City's transportation planning processes**

#### **Research supports the following policies -**

- Greenest City Action Plan/ Climate Emergency Response Plan  
Specific goal area/ big move(s): Big Moves #2-3: Embed an equity and mobility justice perspective in transportation planning and projects to create meaningful relationships with communities, while continuing to accelerate actions to meet our mode split targets and reduce our vehicle emissions

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

##### **Scope of work:**

- Compile and synthesize best practices from 5 to 8 cities around the world, in comparable size and scale as Vancouver, on equity in transportation and major infrastructure projects. (40 hours)
- Undertake a review of equitable engagement, promotion and outreach strategies, specific to transportation, and conduct 4 to 6 "deep-dive" phone or in-person interviews with city staff or local community organizations to learn about their effectiveness, strengths and lessons learned. (50 hours)
- Conduct a case-study review of a City of Vancouver transportation planning projects, such as the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue RapidBus, and evaluate the engagement process using a set of criteria based on learnings from above, and provide recommendations for improvement on better equitable engagement processes. (60 hours)
- Provide a summary report based on the above outlined scope including an implementation and recommendations section. (100 hours)

### Why this work is of value:

- As part of the Climate Emergency Plan, the City of Vancouver has identified an ambitious mode split target for two-thirds of daily trips to be by walk, bike or transit and 50% of the kilometres driven on Vancouver's roads to be zero emission vehicles by 2030. Reaching such a target in an equitable manner requires a more nuanced understanding of community needs which this research will support.
- To help Transportation staff accelerate Climate Emergency Response work, the lessons learned and best practices from other cities and community organizations, will inform equitable and inclusive planning processes that move us towards meaningful conversations supporting how we walk, bike, roll and take transit in Vancouver.

### Deliverables

- Summary of equity, public engagement and outreach strategies used in transportation and major infrastructure projects by other cities, identifying the scope, methodology and outcomes.
- Summary of interviews with city staff from selected cities and community organizations in Vancouver.
- Summary evaluation of one City of Vancouver transportation planning project and recommendations on how equity-focused engagement practices can be applied to future transportation planning projects.
- A final report summarizing the work, lessons learned and recommendations for Transportation Planning.
- 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 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 20 hours per week.

### Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in equity and mobility justice, decolonial histories, race equity and gender equity.
- Strong technical writing skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools



- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
- Familiarity with quantitative research methodologies and implementation
- Other: Particularly suitable for a students in the SCARP or the Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice program, but recruitment should be open to other departments
- Good understanding of City of Vancouver transportation policies and targets.  
Strong technical writing skills

Applications close **midnight Sunday February 2, 2020.**

Apply here: <http://sustain.ubc.ca/scholarsapply>

Contact Karen Taylor at [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto: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.

