

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: Biodiversity audit of Vancouver Park Board golf courses

Research supports the following policies -

- Greenest City Action Plan/ Climate Emergency Response Plan
Specific goal area/ big move(s): Access to Nature
- Healthy City Strategy
Specific goal area (s): Active Living and Getting Outside; Environments to Thrive in
- Green Operations
- Other: VanPlay, Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan

Scope of work:

- Undertake a literature review of the best practices used to evaluate biodiversity in urban recreational spaces;
- Develop a methodology to evaluate biodiversity that is appropriate to the focus sites and can be applied to other recreational parks and natural areas in the system;
- Evaluate the significance of biodiversity in Fraserview, Langara and McCleery Golf Courses based on the developed methodology;
- Develop a comparison to other international parks and golf courses

Why this work is of value:

In November 2019, the Vancouver Park Board carried a motion directing staff to evaluate the full spectrum of realized and unrealized benefits of Park Board land currently used for golf; one of these benefits includes a contribution to the city's biodiversity. The Park Board's three Golf Courses – Fraserview, Langara and McCleery – represent about 15% of Vancouver's park land and offer recreational and access to nature opportunities for Vancouverites. The Golf Courses contribute meaningfully to habitat for birds, mammals and other wildlife and have been certified under the Audobon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf, recognizing achievements in environmental planning, chemical use reduction, water quality management and other areas; however, the range and number of wildlife and vegetation species found in the golf courses have not been evaluated. This project will involve establishing and applying a method to evaluate biodiversity of the Park Board's Golf Courses in an effort to characterize the current environment. The

results will contribute to the Golf Strategy to be initiated in 2020, and improve understanding of how these spaces contribute to biodiversity, as well as climate change mitigation and access to nature for a growing population.

Deliverables

- A comprehensive methodology for evaluating the biodiversity status of recreational spaces (not including naturally managed areas)
- An evaluation of the biodiversity status of Golf Courses
- A map of findings
- A written summary of key findings
- 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 to August 14, 2020**
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9am to 5pm *weekdays* approximately **20** hours per week.

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Demonstrated interest in ecology, biodiversity, natural science.
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Deadline oriented
- GIS training or experience.
- Familiarity with quantitative research methodologies and implementation

Additional Project Needs

- Data collection in the field will be a significant component of this project and the Scholar must be willing to conduct field work at golf courses

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.

