

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: Advancing Sustainable Commuting: Demonstrating City leadership in response to the Climate Emergency

Research supports the following City of Vancouver policies-

- Climate Emergency Response:
 - Accelerated Action 14g.Sustainable Commuting
 - Big Moves #2 & #3
- Greenest City Action Plan: Green Transportation & Lighter Footprint
- Healthy City Strategy: Getting Around
- Renewable City Action Plan: Renewable Transportation
- Green Operations Plan

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

Recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change suggest that capping global warming at 1.5 degrees above preindustrial levels is necessary to reduce many devastating impacts of climate change, including species extinction, sea level rise, and life-threatening weather extremes. To achieve the 1.5 degree target will require ambitious reductions in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all sectors.

In response, the City of Vancouver declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019 to increase efforts to tackle climate change. The City's Climate Emergency Response contains big moves to reduce Vancouver's carbon pollution as well as accelerated actions that will help us ramp-up local action right away. Big Moves #2 and #3 outline rapid transitions to safe and convenient active transportation and transit, and pollution-free cars, trucks and buses respectively.

The City has committed to taking a leadership role in responding to the Climate Emergency and Accelerated Action 14g commits the City to update its existing Sustainable Commuting Program to accelerate long-term shifts towards staff commuting by walking, cycling, transit, or zero-emissions vehicles, and to provide a leading standard as an example to other employers and commercial landlords in Vancouver.

This Sustainability Scholars project will form the initial phase of this work and the revised Green Operations Plan that is going to Council in Fall 2020 along with the new Greenest City Climate Emergency plan, which will include a leadership action based on this project.

The scope of work will include:

- A review of existing sustainable commuting facilities at City worksites
- A review of current staff commuting behaviour and barriers to zero-carbon commuting (based on existing survey data)
- A literature review of best practices used by cities and organizations around the world to facilitate and incentivize sustainable commuting by employees
- Development of a leading standard for City sustainable commuting facilities and/or programming as an example to other employers and commercial landlords in Vancouver

Deliverables

The Scholar will deliver a final report containing a summary of their completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders. The report should include:

- Summary of findings from review of sustainable commuting facilities at City worksites
- Summary of findings from review of staff commuting behaviour and barriers
- Summary of best practice literature review
- Recommendations on a leading standard for City sustainable commuting facilities and/or programming
- 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 July 31, 2020
- The scholar is to complete hours between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 20 hours per week

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability behaviour change and corporate leadership programs
- Strong technical writing skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong presentation and public speaking skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
- Familiarity with quantitative research methodologies and implementation
- Familiarity with behaviour change theories and implementation
- Strong interpersonal skills, comfortable interacting with strangers to gather information
- Ability to travel to different City worksites (Depending on the circumstances reimbursement for transit or mileage will be provided. Details to be discussed with the project mentor.)



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.

