

# 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 March 8, 2020.**

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## Research project title: Strategic benchmarking and mapping to inform long-range sustainability goal-setting for the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

### Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Sustainability Integration

Long Term Goal: To be the world's most sustainable port, which we define as economic prosperity through trade, a healthy environment, and thriving communities.

**Background:** The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) is actively developing a suite of long-range sustainability objectives and key results (targets) in alignment with key performance indicators, previously selected to track the Port of Vancouver's progress toward our vision – to be the world's most sustainable port. These goals and their respective indicators are port-wide in scope and reflect the port authority's long-term aspirations and desired outcomes for the Port of Vancouver.

### Project description

The outcome of this project will support executive decision-making on the development of long-range sustainability objectives and key results (targets). The VFPA would like to learn from others through focused comparative research and analysis applied against the established targets and leading practices of our stakeholders, other ports and beyond. This project is anticipated to support strategic decision-making and stakeholder engagement across the following sustainability themes:

- Supply chain efficiency and reliability
- Safety and security
- Trade and tourism enabling capacity
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Aquatic biodiversity
- Sustainable infrastructure
- Workplace safety and diversity
- Indigenous relationships

### Scope of Work:

**The Project Mentor will work with the Scholar to determine which themes to work on first. Ideally, the Scholar will complete the research on at least 4 of the above sustainability themes and additional ones as time permits. For each theme, the scholar will:**

- Conduct desktop research and interviews with staff to understand the previously selected key performance indicators and respective sustainability theme within the context of a Canadian Port Authority.
- Conduct a scan to identify comparator organizations and recommend those appropriate for benchmarking.
- Conduct desktop research to complete strategic benchmarking against approved comparator organizations
- Conduct desktop industry or competitor mapping to understand the strategic landscape as it relates to targets and leading practices of sustainability themes
- Internal review: For each respective sustainability area, work with port authority staff to understand key findings in relation to their ongoing efforts to establish sustainability objectives and key results.
- For each respective sustainability area, create executive summaries and PowerPoint presentation materials of key findings for executive consumption.

### Deliverables

- Final executive summaries and presentation materials for at least 4 of the 8 sustainability areas, containing a summary of strategic benchmarking against comparator organizations, complemented by delivering a presentation to each respective port authority lead
- A final whitepaper or research report for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library

### 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 8:00am and 5:00pm, and Monday to Friday, approximately 16 hours per week.

### Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Demonstrated interest in business, marine transportation or planning and development
- Comfortable with ambiguity, as global ports are competitive and vary greatly in their operating models, jurisdictions
- Understanding of the unique nature of Canadian Port Authorities and types of goods movement an asset



Applications close **midnight Sunday March 8, 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>

