

Summer 2021 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

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 January 31, 2021.

Project Title: Development of program toolkits to engage school and campus communities in the planting of native plants for the restoration of wildlife habitat and sequestration of carbon.

Project description

Overview:

Urban biodiversity provides important ecosystem services, increasing a city's resilience to climate impacts. But as Canadian cities grow, they can destroy forests, bury rivers, and fragment habitats. How can people continue to support nature and wildlife?

With 7.5 million Canadian students and educators, schools and campuses have a significant role to play in creating viable habitat. When gardens where we live, learn and work are filled with native plants that benefit wildlife, they can create corridors for urban wildlife to find refuge and move between. And help reduce carbon emissions achieved through the natural carbon storage of native plant gardens.

Purpose of the Project:

Native plant gardening helps to create viable habitat for wildlife while sequestering carbon. To date, WWF has successfully mobilized private homeowners and neighbourhoods in urban areas to take up our call to action to create gardens that help wildlife thrive. Building on our success with the homeowner audience, WWF would like to expand this valuable action for wildlife to schools and campuses through our Living Planet @ School and Living Planet @ Campus programs. The outcome of this project will result in supporting the development of a national toolkit for each program, and determine best practices for engaging these audiences into action with market research.

Scope of Work:

- Conduct a scan to identify planting programs around the world that engage the following audiences: schools and campuses
- Identify key stakeholders with the greatest potential to engage these audiences
- Conduct desktop research and interviews with educators, post-secondary students, campuses to understand their needs and interests, informing tactics to mobilize these audiences into action
- Conduct interviews with campus, school and workplace facilities/grounds managers to identify barriers to planting and habitat stewardship
- Technology scan: identify technologies that could be applied to capture and report metrics related to the planting activities

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- Work closely with WWF's Living Planet @ School and Living Planet @ Campus staff to inform and develop native plant gardening tool-kits for each program audience

Deliverables

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

- A detailed draft of a how-to resource that can be adapted and personalized to create a future resource for
 - Primary and secondary schools
 - University and college students
- A summary of other planting projects and programs including a summary of status, outcomes, etc., including where possible, contact information for project leads
- Summary report of interviews with primary and secondary and post-secondary stakeholders
- A final report, containing a summary of completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders.
- A final report [or Executive Summary] 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 3 and August 13.
- The Scholar needs to be available to attend the occasional meeting or conduct interviews during standard business hours (9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday), however project work can take place on a flexible schedule that works with the Scholar's other commitments
- The Scholar can expect to work an average of 17 to 20 hours per week

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Familiarity with/interest in community engagement, especially for youth an asset

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 31, 2021**

Apply here: [Click here to apply](#)

Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions

Useful Resources

We are holding a special **resume preparation workshop for prospective Scholars** on January 19. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

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>