

## 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.**

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### **Project title:**

Investigating culturally safe ways to gather data about violence against Indigenous women, girls, non-binary, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples

### **Project description:**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to investigate culturally safe ways to collect data related to violence<sup>1</sup> against Indigenous (including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) women, girls, non-binary and 2SLGBTQQIA+<sup>2</sup> Peoples.

### **Key question scholar will be researching**

How can the city collect and represent data related to violence in a way that is culturally safe for Indigenous Peoples?

### **Why it is valuable:**

The Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and Red Women Rising (RWR) work to date has found that government systems and programs, such as child welfare and policing, have created more negative health impacts and trauma rather than success for certain groups and individuals, including Indigenous women, girls, non-binary, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ folks specifically. How we tell these stories of violence is important. We recognize that the way we currently collect data within city strategies is informed by a western-oriented conception of health and wellbeing which often overlooks systemic forms of violence and has been identified as culturally unsafe.

The city is committed to addressing the MMIWG Calls for Justice and the recommendations from RWR, as per the Reconciliation Framework, Equity and Intersectionality Frameworks, and

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<sup>1</sup> Violence includes many categories, including interpersonal, structural/institutional and systemic.

<sup>2</sup> Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Pansexual

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the Healthy City Strategy. A part of this work is developing culturally safe data collection approaches to understand and track data related to violence.

At this time, compounding issues, such as the overdose crises and COVID-19 make this research especially urgent and relevant as we seek to develop solutions and innovate as a city.

## **How and when the scholars work will be actionable:**

This project will contribute to informing the way that we collect data related to violence that is directly related to Social Policy and city-wide project work. This includes the city's response to MMIWG, RWR, UN Safe Cities, Sex Worker Safety, and Indigenous Health and Wellness. This will also inform thinking about the way that we represent violence using data across city departments.

## **Scholar Activities**

The student may engage in the following activities related to data-collection processes:

- Read and synthesize key points related to data collection in the following reports:
  - MMIWG National Inquiry reports
  - Red Women Rising
  - COV response to MMIWG National Inquiry report
  - HCS Indigenous Equity Data; Mental Health, Substance Use and Wellness
  - Healthy City Strategy
- Environmental scan of wiser practices for data collection and reporting related to violence and/or culturally safe data collection.
- Key informant interviews with partners who have been involved with collecting and reporting on data related to violence against Indigenous Women.
- Participation in meetings, activities, or other opportunities related to Healthy City data, MMIWG, UN Safe Cities, Sex Worker Safety, Indigenous Health, and/or other Social Policy areas related to this project.

## **Deliverables:**

A public-facing final report on culturally safe ways to gather data on violence against Indigenous Women, non-binary, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ that includes recommendations for the City of Vancouver's collection of data related to Health and Wellbeing.

## **Time Commitment:**

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The scholar is to complete hours between Monday and Friday, 9 to 5, approximately 20 hours per week.

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## Required/preferred Skills and Background

- ☒ Excellent research and writing skills
- ☒ Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- ☒ Familiarity with quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and implementation
- ☒ Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- ☒ Community engagement experience
- ☒ Strong analytical skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Deadline oriented
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Demonstrated experience working with Indigenous Communities
- ☒ Knowledge of the history and root causes of systemic and interpersonal violence against Indigenous women, girls, non-binary, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ folks an asset

We welcome all candidates to apply for this position. We especially encourage applicants who have strong knowledge and/or lived experience of Indigenous ways of knowing and/or Indigenous culture.

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

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

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