

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.

Research project title:

Research to understand best practices to address workers' needs for a zero-carbon economic transition strategy

Project description:

The City of Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), passed in November of 2020, sets out that the Vancouver Economic Commission should research and scope a 'Zero Carbon Economic Transition Strategy' (ZCETS) so that businesses and workers can adapt and thrive amidst new climate targets and policies. A core part of an effective and equitable climate action strategy, especially one with intended positive economic development outcomes, is a focus on a 'Just Transition,' meaning that workers who are negatively impacted by climate change-related transitions (e.g., decommissioning of fossil fuel infrastructure), have a clear pathway to new and, ideally, better jobs with a variety of supports as part of their transition process. Much of the work on the just transition to date has been in resource communities, and little work has yet fully explored cities.

This project is envisioned to address three core questions:

- From a list of jurisdictions (e.g., progressive US states and cities, Northern Europe, etc.) provided by VEC that are working on labour market transition planning as part of climate action, which programs / initiatives are showing the most success or promise in realizing the principles of the Just Transition?
- Of the relevant case studies, which have undertaken programming or investments that might help address potential labour market disruptions in Vancouver related to the climate transition?
- Which of these programs or initiatives would be most suitable for the Vancouver Economic Commission and other partners and allies to take on to protect workers, and grow inclusive prosperity in Vancouver as part of the Zero Carbon Economic Transition Strategy?

Deliverables:

- Matrix of relevant jurisdictions similar to the Vancouver context that have active just transition strategies, policies, or programs
- List of example governance structures to manage the just transition (e.g., sector councils) that are most applicable to Vancouver (based on criteria provided by VEC)
- List of programs, and policies on the just transition that are most applicable to Vancouver (based on criteria provided by VEC)

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- Recommendations of just transition quick starts that VEC can consider as part of its Zero Carbon Economic Transition Strategy planning
- Final report or executive summary for the online Scholars Project Library

Time Commitment:

- This project will take 250* hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 3 and August 13, 2021).
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 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
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Governance experience and familiarity with multi-stakeholder relationships an asset
- Familiarity performing economic analyses, labour research or public policy analysis, 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>