

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 on policies and incentives to encourage electric vehicle adoption

Project description:

As part of the recently approved climate emergency plan, the City of Vancouver would like to encourage more people to adopt or at least consider purchasing electric vehicles. This project involves developing new policies around incentivizing electric vehicles, or dis-incentivizing new gasoline vehicles in the form of a vehicle surcharge. Having financial incentives will help to assist in the transition to a sustainable city, while also recognizing that our big picture objective at the City isn't to promote vehicle ownership, but to complement our other sustainable modes (walking, cycling, transit) of transportation.

This project will be in alignment with the City's Greenest City Goals as well as our Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP). The project will also help to inform decisions around the City's most recent council-approved motion for a City-Wide residential parking permit program. This project will primarily involve research in finding and comparing policies in cities across North America and internationally focusing on how cities deal with vehicle surcharges around EV adoption. Policies can range from on-street interventions, permit based systems, or even flat charges. Based on the research, the Scholar will select key policies to recommend for potential consideration by the City of Vancouver, taking into account the regional context, size of city, and practicality of implementation. The scholar will also be expected to bring a high-level equity lens to any of the proposed policies and how they can impact the residents of Vancouver.

Deliverables:

- Final research report summarizing the following:
 - Summaries of EV policies, and intervention type sorted by city in a summary table
 - Information on effectiveness of policies, by evaluating how pricing strategies impact consumer behaviour
 - Summary of any consultation/interview with contacts from other cities if necessary
- Recommendations to the City of Vancouver with regards to:
 - Quantifying costs of implementation of any sort of vehicle levy / surcharge
 - Policies around cut-off price ranges, vehicle make, and Vehicle production year when implementing a vehicle surcharge.
 - Looking at any additional complimentary policies related to EV adoption that can be applied to the City of Vancouver

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- A public facing 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 – August 13)**.
- The scholar is to complete hours between **(8:30 -17:00 Monday to Friday, with some flexibility)**, approximately **20** hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- GIS training or experience.
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- interest in sustainability is an asset
- Interest in transportation & EV adoption would be 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>

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