

## 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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### **Research project title:**

Researching lighting and other factors of perceived safety and comfort to improve Vancouver's bike routes

### **Project description:**

The Climate Emergency Action Plan targets two thirds of all trips in Vancouver to be by active transportation and transit by 2030. One of the many ways to help achieve this target is through a connected network of cycling routes where everyone feels comfortable and safe.

We use our Design Guidelines for All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Cycling Routes when designing and upgrading our bike routes. These guidelines were intended to evolve and we now seek to better understand how lighting and other factors can influence perceptions of safety and comfort while cycling. The City of Vancouver's Outdoor Lighting Strategy will also help contextualize this work.

The Scholar's work will help evaluate our existing cycling network and inform updates to our AAA Design Guidelines to make our cycling network more inviting to everyone who wants to bike.

### **Deliverables:**

- A final report summarizing completed work, including:
  - A review of the City's Outdoor Lighting Strategy in connection to the cycling network
  - A jurisdictional scan to understand how leading cycling cities identify and evaluate factors of perceived safety and comfort, other than exposure to motor vehicles.
  - A methodology for evaluating lighting and other factors of perceived safety and comfort on our AAA cycling routes
  - Examples of improvements that could be implemented at a few specific locations to fill gaps in perceived safety and comfort in our cycling network
  - A recommendation for what it means to "provide adequate lighting" in our Design Guidelines for AAA cycling routes, and any other suggestions for how these guidelines can be updated to improve perceptions of safety and comfort
- A virtual presentation to the Transportation Division and other key stakeholders
- If applicable, working files for GIS analysis, notes on observations from site visits, and/or other working files used to develop methodology.

Additional Deliverables (*time permitting*):

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- Conduct surveys or interviews and compile qualitative data to better understand the specific factors that influence perceived safety and comfort for those who currently bike and those would like to bike more
- Using the developed methodology, conduct analysis on how different levels of lighting and other measurable factors affect usage patterns (such as ridership and cyclist demographics) on different routes in the city.

## **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 8:30am – 5:00pm, Monday to Friday approximately 15-20 hours per week. (Hours are flexible as the scholar may choose to evaluate conditions during non-daylight hours)

## **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

While experience with cycling in Vancouver may be helpful, we are also interested in perspectives from those that do not cycle due to the safety and comfort concerns that we seek to better understand.

Given the emphasis on lighting, we recognize that the scholar may decide to complete some site visits, observations, and data collection during non-daylight hours. This is not a requirement and entirely up to the scholar, provided that they can conduct their work safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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>

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<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/graduate-pathways-success>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>