

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: Understanding mobility to pave the way for an integrated parks network

Project description:

The Greenest City Action Plan's Access to Nature and Active Transportation Goals led the way for VanPlay's vision for a network of parks, green spaces, and recreation areas, interwoven into everyday life, that connects us to nature, to each other and to ourselves. Although Vancouver's much-loved parks are well distributed across neighbourhoods, connecting to, through, and from our green spaces and recreation areas can be a challenge.

This project will investigate park mobility infrastructure with a view to support both recreational walking and rolling for all ages and abilities and access to key destinations through the network such as destination parks, community centres via active transportation.

Creating a categorisation system will require reviewing available GIS data (for example, asset inventory, types and locations), and undertaking field visits to properly describe the different types of pathways which exist in the park system. This will involve analysis of factors including path types, surfaces, connections (e.g. to the street network and between types), location of rest stops and other amenities to support use by all. The focus of the study will be on pathway infrastructure within parks but will consider how this interacts with the street network.

Once a categorisation of types is created the student will describe the best practice use of the types of mobility infrastructure, and compare with situations where infrastructure is not currently providing good experiences of connection and access. Evidence of functionality should be gathered this may include including photographs, collecting data of use, interviews with staff and stakeholders, and other methods to describe qualitative aspects of access and experiences (these approaches will be discussed with the Scholar and with COVID-19 protocols in mind).

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Scope:

This project will involve:

- A jurisdictional scan of best practices in park mobility infrastructure (trails, walking and cycling paths, rest stops, surface types etc.) to provide the best user experience and accessibility.
- Creating a categorisation system for park mobility infrastructure for the different types that exist (in the current inventory), and that could exist in the park system to enhance experience.
- Describing best practice provision of mobility infrastructure types using the categorisation system and augmented qualitative data collected from the field and through consultation with stakeholders and staff.

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:

- Categorisation of types of mobility infrastructure in parks.
- A description of best practice park mobility using the categories created. Guided by jurisdictional scan, consultation with staff, stakeholder's and interest groups, and existing good examples in the system.
- A 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. The schedule can be flexible depending on the Scholar's other commitments provided they are available for check-in meetings during standard business hours.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- GIS training or experience.
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Familiarity with landscape design, and terminology related to pathway surfaces and park or active transportation design

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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>