

Summer 2022 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 30, 2022.

Project Title: Case study research to tell the story of the Sustainability Scholars Program

Background

The Sustainability Scholars Program is an innovative paid internship program that provides graduate students and project mentors a unique opportunity to co-investigate solutions to real-world sustainability problems. The program has been in place since 2010 and every year an increasingly larger cohort of students produce reports that respond to sustainability-related questions or issues of relevance to the partner organizations funding the work. Over the years we have worked with multiple organizations and local governments (and with many organizations/local governments multiple times) across the region. To date over 500 students have participated in the program and produced a corresponding number of reports.

We believe that the contribution of the Sustainability Scholars program has been significant in supporting our regional partners to achieve their sustainability goals. However, little work has been done to temporally or thematically draw connections between the projects and explore their impact on regional sustainability.

We feel that it is long past due to examine the work that has been produced and generate a narrative that talks about the successful (and occasionally unsuccessful) work that has been done so far.

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to review the projects posted in the online Scholars Project library and generate a set of case studies and narrative pieces to support knowledge dissemination about the project work Sustainability Scholars have produced over the past 12 years. The work will also include a review of similar programs across the globe (and other examples) for best practices in qualitative narrative style reporting on sustainability work.

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Project Scope

The work will include:

- A scan of programs similar to the Scholars Program and other exemplars to gather ideas and best practices for qualitative sustainability reporting and storytelling methodologies, including Indigenous ways of sharing knowledge in a time of reconciliation. Programs of interest to include in the scan would be the University of Alberta's Sustainability Scholars Program, the UBC SEEDS program, City-Studio, and the Epic-N program in the US (to name a few).
- A literature review of a rich selection of project reports produced by Scholars over the past 10 years. The extent of the selection of reports to be reviewed will be determined in consultation with the mentor and with time limitations in mind.
- Development and testing of a framework or template to guide the creation of the case studies and other knowledge pieces. The framework will indicate the information, images, and other types of content to be collected (or created) and conveyed in the case studies and other material produced for this project. The framework will be an important legacy piece for future development of case studies (for consistency and comparability).
- Case studies on 10 or more themes or project groupings as identified through the literature review. Development of the case studies may involve interviews with former Scholars, Mentors, and partner organizations to understand the impact and value of the project and its outcomes. Possible case study topics: climate, biodiversity, circular economy, resilient communities, climate and housing, green buildings, transportation, nature-based solutions, justice and equity, etc.
- Based on need and time permitting, produce additional summary content on Scholars projects for use in high level reporting on the Scholars Program (e.g., for the annual sustainability report or for reports to Santa Ono and the Board of Governors, etc.)

Deliverables

- Minimum of 10 case studies
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed including:
 - A literature review of Sustainability Scholars reports
 - Recommendations on how to tell sustainability stories in meaningful and relevant ways
 - Lessons learned
 - Recommendations on opportunities to improve on how we can narrate the work produced by Sustainability Scholars going forward
 - A template and instruction/methodology for future development of cases studies and related material

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 2, 2022 and August 12, 2022
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.
- Desk space will be provided in the UBC Sustainability Initiative office

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Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Design and layout skills, an asset

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 30, 2022**

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>