

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.

Research project title: **Equity, Cultural Safety and Humility in the Context of Early Learning and Childcare**

Project Background & Overview:

The context of planning for childcare delivery is rapidly shifting due to converging factors including new senior government commitments to a universal system of childcare, increased public awareness of childcare as an essential service, and growing concern over persistent inequities in childcare participation rates, particularly among urban Indigenous families. The first goal in the Healthy City Strategy, “A Good Start,” is to provide all children in Vancouver with the opportunity to enjoy a healthy childhood. To that end, the City has long prioritized improving the availability of quality and affordable early learning and childcare spaces for families through the development of new, non-profit operated, childcare centres. As a City of Reconciliation, the City is committed to ensuring that these childcare centres (existing and new) are designed and programmed in ways that are equitably accessible and considered “culturally safe” to urban Indigenous children and families. To do so effectively, the City is seeking greater clarity around how cultural safety and humility is operationalized in the context of early learning and childcare facilities and programs.

Project description

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has highlighted the need to build capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect among children, and to provide early childhood education programs that are culturally safe for Indigenous children. Within this context, and building on the City’s deep commitments to reconciliation and equity, the intent of this research is to explore what cultural safety and humility means to Indigenous and non-Indigenous children, families, elders, and childcare service providers, and to help define what role(s) the City can play in developing culturally safe childcare facilities and programs.

This project will include both primary and secondary research. In addition to conducting a literature review and scan of culturally safe childcare facilities/ programs in other jurisdictions, the successful proponent will work under the guidance of staff from the City and Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) to conduct interviews with Indigenous and non-Indigenous children, families, elders and service providers in Vancouver. The outcomes of this research may help to inform new policy directions related to the City’s forthcoming Childcare Strategy, capital planning and investment priorities, and regulatory tools such as the Childcare Design Guidelines. It may also support the work MVAEC is doing to

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define and promote cultural safety and humility in mainstream early learning and childcare programs for Indigenous children and families.

Project scope

Authentically incorporating cultural safety and humility into the design of childcare facilities and the delivery of childcare programming will take time, and must respect protocol. This work must be done from a framework of reconciliation and equity, and must avoid cultural appropriation. It will require working closely with Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Council (MVAEC) to help build on their knowledge, experience, and relationships in order to effectively engage Urban Indigenous families, elders and service providers in exploring what equity, cultural safety, and humility means to them in the context of early learning and childcare.

The Scholar will deliver a final report containing a summary of their literature review, scan of culturally safe practices in other jurisdictions, key interview findings, and recommendations for the City. This report will be complemented by a visual presentation (e.g., PowerPoint or other medium) that includes a summary of key findings and recommendations, as well as audio-recorded feedback and stories shared by interviewees in their own voices. In this way, the findings of this research will be shared in writing as well as in ways that are more in keeping with oral story-telling traditions. The report should include:

- A literature review to identify how cultural safety and humility is defined and can be operationalized in early learning and childcare (i.e., the design of facilities and/ or delivery of programs);
- Identifying wise practices in other jurisdictions and potentially visiting local programs deemed to be good examples of “culturally safe” facilities and/ or programs;
- Working under the close guidance of MVAEC, conduct and audio-record interviews with Indigenous and non-Indigenous children, families, elders and service providers in the early learning and childcare sector in order to develop a deeper understanding of what cultural safety and humility looks and feels like to them; and
- Capturing what is learned (the analysis) in both a written report and visual presentation format (i.e., PowerPoint with audio-clips or other medium) to help inform City staff on what role(s) the City can play in embedding cultural safety and humility in new and existing City-facilitated childcare facilities and programs.

Deliverables

- A research document summarizing findings from the work
- A visual presentation (e.g. PowerPoint with audio-clips) that delivers key findings and recommendations in a culturally appropriate way to City and MVAEC staff; and
- A final report (or executive summary) for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

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.

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

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- ☒ Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- ☒ Community engagement experience
- ☒ Familiarity conducting focus group research
- ☒ Strong analytical skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Deadline oriented
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- ☒ Familiarity with the United Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework
- ☒ Experience working with Indigenous populations an asset
- ☒ Experience with editing audio-recordings and/or videography 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>