

## 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.**

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### **Research Project Title: Research to support safe, accessible, and comfortable experiences at voting places**

#### **Project Background & Overview:**

With the upcoming 2022 election, the City of Vancouver wants to review and update its practices in providing support for election workers who will serve voters on the front lines. Creating a safer and more welcoming voter experience will draw on the expertise already provided in City-released reports such as the City of Reconciliation Framework, Healthy City Strategy, Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress, Equity Framework, and external reports including the Red Women Rising Report, Truth and Reconciliation Report, and the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

We are looking for a Scholar to assist us with research that will inform voting place policies and includes the design of a training module that we could deliver to approximately 1,500 workers who will be assisting voters. This module will outline barriers that voters face that we would want our election workers to be aware of and sensitive about to ensure that the voting place is more welcoming for all.

#### **Project description**

The City of Vancouver's Election Team would like to learn about ways to make our voting place more welcoming and safer for folks who will access them. This will achieve commitments in the Healthy City Strategy such as "Cultivating Connections," and Being and Feeling Safe and Included."

We want to ensure that all people in City of Vancouver voting places have a safe, accessible, comfortable experience. We want to know:

- What does "safety" look like for voters who have been marginalized?
- How can the City of Vancouver ensure that voting places are safe, accessible, inclusive, and welcoming?
- What type of training do election workers need to have to improve voters' experiences?
- How do we ensure that election workers also feel supported, and cared for while working?

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Project scope

1. Conduct a literature review identifying historic, existing and known barriers to voters who are marginalized, including Indigenous, Black and racialized voters in general, new Canadians, disabled voters (invisible disabilities included), people who don't speak English as their first language, drug users, houseless folks, survivors and victims of gender-based violence, people experiencing mental health barriers, sex workers, etc.
2. Conduct a jurisdictional scan and interviews with pertinent contacts to identify best practice in reducing barriers/safety concerns faced by voters at the voting place
3. Identify opportunities to improve the voting place experience in Vancouver, including policies, programs or other recommendations
4. Develop a training module for election workers at the voting place to educate workers on current systemic barriers for voters and to ensure a welcoming and inclusive voting place

## Deliverables

- A final report (to be shared with other municipalities as well) containing:
  - an executive summary (to be added to the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#))
  - a summary of the literature review, jurisdictional scan and interviews
  - short-term, mid-term and long-term recommendations to address identified issues
- Create a presentation that could be presented to other municipalities
- Create a training module (presentation and hand out) that would be delivered to election workers by the City's election training staff
- Draft survey questions for election workers regarding their experiences serving voters (10 hours)
- Draft survey questions for voters on how welcoming the voting place was and their sense of safety and inclusion at the voting place

## Time Commitment

- This project will take 250hours 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
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience in commitment to equity
- Being connected to an equity-denied community group is an asset
- Must have the humility to learn and take accountability
- Must be committed to anti-oppression.

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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

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>

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

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