

Fall 2022 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

The UBC Sustainability Hub 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 September 18, 2022.

Project title: Research to understand transportation policies and services that support seniors during extreme weather events

Project Background & Overview:

Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) is a Vancouver-based charity focused on promoting walking, cycling, public transit, and other forms of sustainable transportation in Metro Vancouver. The organization was founded in 1991 and has several active projects, including Seniors on the Move (SOTM). In partnership with TransLink, HandyDART and ICBC, BEST also offers a variety of workshops, including transit training, focused on helping seniors get around Metro Vancouver without relying on vehicle ownership for every trip.

The current transportation system in British Columbia does not meet the mobility needs of a large number of the province's residents. Many people are unable to access services on their own in order to meet their daily needs and obligations, or to achieve an acceptable quality of life. Seniors, people with disabilities, and others who do not have a driver's license or access to a car (such as recent immigrants and refugees) are classified as "transportation disadvantaged" or "transportation poor." The lack of alternatives to driving limits their access to both small, spontaneous pleasures and significant life opportunities.

These populations are also disadvantaged when it comes to accessing transportation services during extreme weather events, which have had and will continue to have an impact on the province, particularly on the most vulnerable. Additional research, policy change, and investment in the region's multimodal systems are required to improve human well-being and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which will exacerbate the climate crisis.

Project description

Climate change and rapid population ageing are occurring simultaneously. As a result, policymakers and planners everywhere must better understand and address their combined effects on the health and well-being of older people. The goal of this project is to conduct transportation research to determine whether the province's transportation system is prepared for extreme weather events, with a focus on senior transportation. The results of this research will be used to advocate for a provincially accessible transportation system for seniors.

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Project scope

- Jurisdictional scan of the transportation policies of 5 to 10 municipalities across BC to understand the ways they address (or do not address) the needs of seniors during extreme weather events, and identify gaps and opportunities. A few interviews with transportation planners may be required to supplement the desk research.
- Review and summarize the mandates of 5 to 10 public transportation organizations across the province to understand the measures or services they have in place to support transportation of seniors during extreme weather events (e.g., infrastructure, service frequency, de-icing during cold weather to ensure service, etc.). A few interviews with transportation planners may be required to supplement the desk research.
- Based on the research, they produce an analysis of the state of transportation services for seniors during extreme weather events that includes a summary of gaps and opportunities, and recommendations on next steps.
- Time permitting and depending on the skills and interests of the Scholar: Produce a map of the province's sustainable transportation options for seniors (such as community shuttles and public transportation) to show interconnectedness, weaknesses and gaps. Data for this exists and will be provided to the Scholar.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- Time permitting: A GIS map showing the available transportation options for seniors across the province.
- A presentation on the results of the research to key stakeholders

Time Commitment

- This project must be completed between October 17, 2022 and March 15, 2023
- The scholars are to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 10 to 12 hours per week.
- The Scholar will be required to meet with the mentor on a regular basis to check on progress. Schedule of meeting will be determined in collaboration with the Scholar and the Mentor

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Statistical analysis
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Interest in or academic experience researching sustainable transportation and mobility, an asset

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Applications close **midnight Sunday September 18, 2022**

Apply here: [Click here to apply](#)

Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions

Useful Resources

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>