

Summer 2023 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 on the Apply page to confirm your eligibility before applying.

Applications close at midnight on Sunday January 29, 2023.

Project title: Best practices research to advance food growing initiatives in MURBS

Project Background & Overview

Food security is a growing challenge in many communities across Canada, and the Township of Langley is no exception. The Township is also the fastest growing community in Metro Vancouver, and approximately 75% of new housing development is multi-unit development (e.g., apartments and townhouses). Recognizing these trends, the Township's award-winning Social Sustainability Strategy includes an action to "research and explore opportunities to expand community food gardening, which could include integration with outdoor amenity areas and landscaping in multi-family developments, [and] built-in planter boxes on balconies." The Township's Climate Action Strategy also recommends the development of "a requirement for food growing space in new multi-family buildings to encourage urban agriculture."

Project description

The purpose of this project is to undertake research and summarize key opportunities for local governments to promote food growing in multi-unit developments. This project will be used to inform the development and delivery of future initiatives related to food growing in multi-unit developments, which may include developing requirements for food growing space, consistent with the Township's Climate Action Strategy.

Project scope

The primary activities for the project involve researching and summarizing promising practices, using sources such as academic literature and best practices in other communities. The research and summary should include commentary on lessons learned (e.g., successes and challenges) for different practices, and the specific role of the local government in enabling food growing (e.g., policy, grants, capacity-building, regulation, education, climate action). As part of the research the following food growing opportunities should be specifically researched:

- Edible plants in landscape areas,
- Planter boxes on balconies, and

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- Community gardens in amenity areas

The research will also include a scan of regulations related to gardening space in multi-unit developments (e.g., community gardening space per unit), and how these requirements relate to the overall amenity area requirements in multi-unit developments. The scan should also include any climate action regulation or policy that relates to the creation or implementation of the community garden spaces.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report 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 1 to August 15, 2023
- 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
- Familiarity with research methodologies
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Interest in, familiarity with, or research background in urban gardening
- Familiarity with policy research, an asset

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 29, 2023**

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 23, 2023. [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>