

## 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.**

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## Project title: Research to understand mobility and transportation policies and practices to support seniors in a time of climate crisis

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

Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) is a Vancouver-based charity focused on promoting mobility, 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). BEST aims to contribute to mobility justice for all, especially during the UN Decade of healthy aging and time of climate crisis. In partnership with TransLink, HandyDART and ICBC, BEST also offers a variety of workshops, including transit training, focused on helping seniors and other equity seeking groups, stay connected and get around Metro Vancouver without solely relying on vehicle ownership for every trip.

Residents of British Columbia cannot rely on the current transportation system to reach their full potential and functional abilities. Seniors, people with disabilities, and those without a driver's license or access to a car (for example, recent immigrants and refugees) are disproportionately affected. This is a missed opportunity for individuals, families, and society as a whole. The lack of alternatives to driving restricts their access to both small, spontaneous pleasures and significant life opportunities, as well as their ability to engage in sustainable practices.

Systemic policy and practice transformation requires collaborative efforts informed by science and the voices of users and partners. Rapid population aging and climate change are occurring simultaneously. During a climate emergency, it is critical to ensure health, equity, and social justice for British Columbia's diverse population and Canada's most vulnerable populations. As a result, policymakers, planners, and practitioners worldwide must better understand and address their combined effects on older people's health and well-being.

### **Project description**

The purpose of this project is to identify policies and practices supporting quality of life, health and equity for seniors and other vulnerable populations when it comes to mobility and transportation especially during the time of climate change. The results of the research will be used to support BEST's advocacy work for a provincially accessible mobility and transportation system for seniors.

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This research will be used to mobilize the development of a novel systems framework and roadmap for the provincial and national transformation of mobility experience for older adults and other equity-deserving populations in British Columbia and throughout Canada.

## Project scope

Project work will include the following:

- Jurisdictional review of transportation policies, advocacy reports, referendums and other related material from around BC pertinent to seniors' transportation (the project mentor will advise on the best resources to review; and which jurisdictions to prioritise)
- Best practices research on promising transportation policies and programs across North America that bring a climate justice lens to their transportation practices that might be relevant in the BC context
- Participate in a focus group with key mobility and transportation partners to collect information regarding gaps, opportunities, and levers for change in transportation policy through a climate justice lens (BEST will take the lead organizing the focus group, however the Scholar may be asked to help prepare materials and background information for the focus group in addition to taking notes and collecting data during the event)
- Based on the jurisdictional scan, best practices research, previously collated focus group data, and system mapping work (that BEST will be gathering prior to May 2023), and the focus group noted above:
  - collate the information;
  - update the BEST system map based using the data collected from the focus group research; and,
  - produce a summary of the findings including an analysis of the opportunities that BEST can capitalise on to move forward with their advocacy work and support seniors' transportation during extreme weather events

## Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the research
- Update the BEST system map based on information collected from the focus group
- Dataset containing the quantitative and qualitative analysis related to the focus group that was collected, analyzed, and added to the current system map.
- A summary report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A final presentation containing summary of research delivered to BEST staff

## Time Commitment

- This project must be completed between May 1 and August 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

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## Required/preferred Skills and Background

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

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

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 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>