

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: Research to decolonise food systems policy and develop a visual guide that centres Indigenous food sovereignty for the City of Vancouver

Project Background & Overview:

Since its conception, the Vancouver Park Board has operated on the unceded and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Forced removal from their lands displaced these communities from their food, medicine, and gathering spaces, which were replaced with parks and recreational facilities. Due to this colonial disruption to local Indigenous food system, there is an ongoing demand for access to park land that would promote Indigenous food sovereignty and support culturally safer food growing and harvesting systems for many historically denied groups.

Vancouver Park Board policy including [VanPlay](#) (2019) and the [Local Food Systems Action Plan](#) (LFSAP, 2021), prioritize centring Indigenous voices in food systems and improving equity in food growing assets. One high-priority action in the LFSAP is to update the public-facing urban agriculture garden guidelines to address distributive inequities of growing assets and colonial barriers.

Indigenous food growing systems directly contribute to climate action through year-round carbon sequestration, increased native plant biodiversity, and natural storm water management, as highlighted in [Vancouver Plan's](#) Action 11.1.5 to “[a]dress climate change, biodiversity, water systems, and waste management through food system interventions.”

Project description

This project will include a review of case studies from other jurisdictions, including First Nations and other municipalities, as well as, research on the social, cultural benefits of Indigenous food sovereignty and systems. Depending on the Scholar's graphic and layout design skills, one of the final deliverables for this project may include producing a visual and accessible internal and public guides to food growing resources in Vancouver Parks that reflects the priorities of decolonization, equity and climate action.

The scholar will have the opportunity to work with staff from various park and city departments and to host workshops with community partners. We intend to share the food growing guide with the public within a year of the project completion through an updated city food system webpage.

This project will directly benefit Indigenous and other equity-denied community partners by centring Indigenous voices to create a culture-shift within Vancouver's local food systems.

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Project scope

- Conduct a literature and precedent review on centring Indigenous food sovereignty in urban food growing systems within a global context to understand what we can learn from cities and Indigenous-led food sovereignty initiatives from around the world
- Conduct 5 to 6 informal interviews with community partners and city staff to identify the strengths of Indigenous food sovereignty and what system changes are most important for Indigenous food growing
- Review Vancouver Park Board strategies (VanPlay and the LFSAP) to identify what updates need to be included in Vancouver Park Board's policy food growing systems to increase equity and sustainability and respond to the findings from literature and precedent review
- Based on the research findings, produce a final report with recommendations to food growing systems in Vancouver parks for use on Vancouver websites and public distribution. Depending on the Scholar's graphic and layout design skills, the Park Board would like the Scholar to produce a highly visual guide to food growing systems in Vancouver to accompany the final report.
- Time permitting, draft information that should accompany the food growing guide on the Vancouver Park's food system webpage

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed, including recommendations for internal planning to implement the food growing guide, a visual public guide for Vancouver Park's food growing resources, and draft content for Vancouver Park's food systems webpage
- 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 and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience in graphic design and public communication
- Design and layout skills

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>