

## Summer 2024 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

The UBC Sustainability Hub is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the guidance of a mentor from the partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing sustainability across the region. These opportunities are paid. The pay rate for the summer 2024 program is \$27.50/hour or \$6,875 for a 250-hour project.

- 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 28, 2024.**

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Project title: Universal Basic Mobility: Case study research and options analysis

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

Universal Basic Mobility (UBM) is the concept of providing a foundational level of mobility to all members of society, regardless of factors such as geographic location or income level, through partnerships and policies. There are varying definitions and explorations of UBM by transportation and transit agencies around the world, including one just recently initiated by LA DOT. Definitions of UBM can range from free public transit for everyone to more targeted approaches of public transit and mobility passes for low-income individuals.

### **Project description**

We seek a Sustainability Scholar to conduct case study research on UBM pilots and programs around the world, including design, eligibility criteria, technology, funding, transportation modes, impacts and outcomes, etc., and using the learnings from that research, develop a set of design options for a potential UBM initiative in Metro Vancouver. These options will be evaluated against regional transportation objectives outlined in Transport 2050, as well as more specific equity objectives and subobjectives, to be developed as part of the project.

The focus on this initiative is on equity and inclusiveness, with a secondary emphasis on access to various sustainable transportation modes and choices.

This work will feed into future considerations that TransLink will make on UBM-type programs.

### **Project scope**

The Scholar will undertake the following activities:

- 1) Develop a template to collect information about case studies. Key research parameters include program or pilot design, eligibility criteria, technology or mechanism of implementation, driving force/motivation to undertake (e.g., political conditions), funding levels and sources, transportation modes applicable (including any limitations of use), impacts and outcomes in terms of objectives achievement, and other parameters to be determined by the Scholar with mentor.

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- 2) Jurisdictional scan of UBM as piloted or implemented in other jurisdictions around the world. This case study research will be mostly internet based, although it is expected that some phone interviews will be conducted with staff to collect reports and learn information that is not publicly posted online. It is anticipated that a minimum of five case studies be conducted and a maximum of 10.
- 3) Identification of best practices among the more successful programs and commonalities among the least successful programs. Summarize best practices across all the case studies in a report. Identify potential risks and challenges associated with UBM from these past experiences, through reviewing case studies that were unsuccessful, in addition to those that were successful.
- 4) Based on a Structured Decision Support or Multiple Account Evaluation process, develop evaluation criteria to determine the effectiveness of UBM pilots and programs. This set of evaluation criteria would start with TransLink objectives, but be informed by the case study research to flesh out more detailed sub-objectives, particularly with respect to equity goals and implementation. This step would involve consultation with TransLink staff.
- 5) Review past TransLink policies, programs and initiatives for definitions of social equity which may be applicable to a UBM pilot. Determine how those definitions match eligible criteria in the case study research.
- 6) Create a set of options for a UBM pilot initiative in the Metro Vancouver region, based on jurisdictional case studies and researcher judgement.
- 7) Evaluate the options against the criteria established in step 4.

## **Deliverables**

- A final report containing a summary of the research, including the jurisdictional scan, project objectives, proposed options, evaluation of options
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- Develop and deliver a presentation to TransLink staff on the project outcomes.

## **Time Commitment**

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2024
- The Scholars is to complete their 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
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Experience with Structured Decision Support or Multiple Account Evaluation, an asset

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- ☒ Familiarity with principles of equity and inclusion, particularly in the context of transportation, an asset
- ☒ Familiarity with the transportation policy and mobility, particularly in Metro Vancouver, an asset

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 28, 2024**

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, 2024. [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>