

## 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: Quantifying the Benefits of Transit Oriented Communities (TOCs) in Metro Vancouver**

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

For over half a century, the Metro Vancouver region has planned for growth through closely coordinated land use and transportation planning among regional partners. With over one million new residents expected by 2050, planning for population growth requires careful efforts to protect agricultural and rural lands, support sustainable transportation, and seek ways to improve the cost of living. In its role as regional transportation authority, TransLink is planning significant expansion of bus and rail transit. Key to the success of the region will be transit-oriented communities (TOCs), which allow compact, car-free lifestyles. Quantifying the benefits of TOCs compared to greenfield development is an important step to building political support in the region, leading to more sustainable, climate-friendly outcomes.

#### **Project description**

Today, the Metro Vancouver region is one of the fastest-growing regions of Canada and over a million new residents are expected to arrive in the by 2050. Transport 2050, the regional transportation strategy, and Access for Everyone: 10-Year Priorities are key guides for rapid transit expansion in the region, including doubling of bus service, new RapidBus and BRT routes, and SkyTrain expansion. Rapid growth of the region presents both a challenge and an opportunity to plan for a better, more sustainable and more affordable future.

Transit-Oriented Communities (TOCs), where development is centered around transit and active travel, are an important tool connecting land use and transportation. When considered holistically, it can result in reduced urban sprawl while supporting shared goals around affordability, climate action, and sustainable transportation. Plans for transit expansion and a rapidly growing regional population make TOCs particularly important in Metro Vancouver.

A clear understanding of how TOCs benefit the region and its residents is a crucial to supporting best practices as local governments and regional partners plan for a greener, more sustainable

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future. The successful Scholar will provide a report that can outline quantitative rationale underscoring differences in outcomes between TOC and greenfield development.

## Project scope

- Background research and literature review exploring regional land use and transportation policies, and TOC characteristics
- Identify a selection of regional TOC and greenfield development areas (consider recently developed or emerging TOCs) as case studies.
- Evaluate selected TOCs against the 6 D's in TransLink's [Transit-Oriented Communities Design Guidelines](#).
- Develop profiles for selected TOCs using both quantitative and qualitative methods.
- Develop comparable evaluative metrics to analyse and compare typical TOC and greenfield developments. Possible examples include: average household size, vehicle ownership, number of trips/trip length, per capita VKT, typical travel modes, geographic footprint per person/home, average cost of housing on a per square foot bases
- Summarise future directions for further research (infrastructure costs, tax revenues, carbon footprint, etc.)

## Deliverables

- Develop and actively manage delivery of research project background and methodology.
- Complete analysis of regional TOC and greenfield developments.
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed and key quantified summary of environmental benefits of regional TOCs.
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- Possible presentation(s) to internal staff teams.

## 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
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools

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- ☒ Demonstrated ability to produce reports or white papers that are structurally and visually well organised and appealing to read, an asset
- ☒ Demonstrated familiarity with the transportation landscape of Metro Vancouver, an asset
- ☒ Interest or academic background in transportation, transportation and land-use planning, transportation modes, an asset.

The Scholar may be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement

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>