

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.

Project title: Determining the Economic Impacts of the Community Benefits Agreement Policy

Project Background & Overview:

In 2018, the City of Vancouver adopted the [Community Benefits Agreement Policy](#) (CBA). The CBA aims to keep jobs and procurement opportunities that arise from large-scale development opportunities in Vancouver. The CBA policy is applied to projects over 45,000m². Approximately ten percent of entry-level employment should come from distinct postal codes, where low-income families tend to live in the City. In addition, ten percent of all procurement spends on projects should come from within the City of Vancouver. The overall aim of the policy is to keep employment and opportunities local and ensure that the City of Vancouver residents and businesses benefit from large development projects. Since the adoption of the City of Vancouver's equity framework, the CBA has also included equity denied businesses and equity denied populations as part of the ten percent procurement and entry-level employment opportunities. The purpose of this project is to determine the economic impacts that are generated in Vancouver and Metro Vancouver from CBA projects underway.

Project description

The Policy has been under scrutiny by developers, who complain about the cost of the policy on their projects. In 2024, the CBA policy will be updated and in that update we would like to include economic information that indicates the value of CBA policy in keeping jobs and dollars local.

Typically in large-scale developments, general contractors move employees from one project to another. These employees come in from out of province, need accommodations and often their incomes are sent home to support families. The aim of this project is to determine the impacts both direct and indirect on the local economy because of the CBA. With more jobs staying local and more procurement being local, what are the impacts of this on the local economy of the City and Metro Vancouver as a whole?

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The CBA policy allows the City, through contractors (third party monitors), to get information on numbers of employees hired, postal codes of where employees live and for individuals to self-identify from equity-denied groups. Procurement amounts are also obtained and where these dollars are spent are also known. However, these quantitative numbers do not provide the whole story on the benefits. The aim is to determine, using the numbers the City has on the projects underway, the impact on poverty reduction, growth in business and cascading effects economic impacts of keeping dollars locals.

Using numbers provided to the City on local procurement and employment, the scholar will use existing economic modeling tools to determine the economic impacts of these dollars staying local. There will be direct impacts and multiplier impacts from dollars circulating through the local economy. We are seeking rough estimates on the value of this and its impact on the local economy. Ideally, this the real dollar values are captured along with anticipated multiplier impacts. The scholar can determine other ways to represent this impact based on their own research via literature reviews and scholarly articles. The work done by the scholar will be part of updating the policy and providing information back to developers on the value of the CBA policy.

Project scope

First, the scholar will conduct a literature review of existing ways to determine economic impacts with employment and procurement numbers. The scholar will conduct a desktop search for additional examples of economic models in other jurisdictions that have similar policies that help determine impacts on local economy.

Second, the scholar will apply the data provided to economic models to determine the economic impacts of current CBA projects on local economy and on Metro Vancouver economy. The scholar will assess how accurate each model used it and any significant risks in using these models with an analysis of which model is most beneficial and accurate.

Finally, the scholar will document and summarize their work and make recommendations on whether or not any of the models examined would be effective in determining impacts of the CBA on local economy. The analysis will include benefits and drawbacks of each model and an assessment of the overall impact of the CBA under each model used. The recommendation should include which model the City should use going forward.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A final presentation to relevant stakeholders (i.e., Community Benefits Network, Third Party Monitors, etc.).

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete

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- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2024
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.
- Scholar should attend monthly Project Specific Working Groups for each active project.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience in using economic models to determine impact either real or causal
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Experience with financial modelling and analysis
- Design and layout skills

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

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, 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>