

## 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: Improving Bicycle and Scooter Parking at Elementary and High Schools in Vancouver**

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

The City of Vancouver strives to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with the goal of two thirds of all trips being taken by walking, biking, rolling or transit by 2030. To help reach that goal, the City has expanded initiatives in our School Active Travel Program (SATP) in partnership with Vancouver School Board (VSB).

The SATP includes a mix of infrastructure and encouragement initiatives to improve transportation safety around schools, and encourage more walking, cycling, rolling and transit. Some notable initiatives offered through the program include School Streets, School Travel Planning and Grade 6/7 Cycling Education.

The School Active Travel team is embarking on a new action plan to guide the SATP between 2025 and 2030, including expanded strategies and actions for encouragement and infrastructure. As part of the 2022 Vancouver Panel Survey, parents were asked what would encourage their children to use active transportation more often when travelling to and from school. The highest motivator, according to parents, would be improved bicycle parking facilities at school. While some data has been collected on existing bicycle parking at schools, we do not understand the full picture.

#### **Project description**

Currently 64% of elementary school students take active transportation and transit to school and the City's Climate Emergency Action Plan has a target to increase this to 70% by 2030. Creating safe and convenient infrastructure is the key to getting more kids taking healthy and active transportation. This includes ensuring that bike and scooter parking at schools is secure, convenient and plentiful.

The purpose of this project is to understand how the City can partner with the Vancouver School Board to improve parking for bicycles and scooters at schools through an audit of

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existing end-of-trip facilities, a review of international examples and recommendations for next steps.

According to the 2022 Vancouver Travel Survey many parents feel that better bicycle parking facilities at schools could help get their children take active travel more often. While this data point is interesting, there is still a lack of local research about the actual situation at school sites across Vancouver. This project will help our team better understand the barriers and opportunities at school sites across Vancouver.

The outcome of the work will directly inform strategies and actions in the School Active Travel Program Action Plan currently in development until the end of 2024. The action plan will guide investments and activities for the SATP between 2025 and 2030. We need to take bold steps toward meeting our mode share target and bicycle parking could be part of the answer.

## **Project scope**

The project will include a variety of research tactics/methods, including a mix of desktop research, in-person observations and data analysis. Key areas of work are listed below and an estimated percentage of time is defined in parentheses (subject to change based on evolving priorities).

- Review City of Vancouver policies and programs related to bicycle parking to understand requirements for existing school sites. Research and document a minimum of four (4) global bicycle parking case studies involving municipal/school district retrofit programs and/or locations with innovative infrastructure located on school property. Extract relevant information that the City of Vancouver, VSB or other organizations could learn to improve bicycle parking at school sites (40%).
- Use existing data at elementary and high schools to understand the current state of bicycle / scooter parking at locations across Vancouver, including variables such as utilization, security, safety and quality. The sustainability scholar is be expected to assess conditions using existing photographs provided by VSB. In person site-visits will be limited to a maximum of five (5) locations to document examples of excellent and insufficient conditions (30%).
- Work with staff to recommend strategies and actions for the City of Vancouver, Vancouver School Board and other partners based on findings from research (10%)
- Write a final report (20%).

## **Deliverables**

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A database of bicycle parking conditions at VSB schools across Vancouver
- 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, 2024

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- 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
- ☒ Strong analytical skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Deadline oriented
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- ☒ Familiarity preparing feasibility studies
- ☒ Design and layout skills, an asset
- ☒ Passion for active and sustainable travel (walking, biking, rolling and transit)

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>