

Summer 2025 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. The pay rate for the summer 2025 program is \$31.25/hour or \$7,812.50 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 11:59 pm on Sunday January 26, 2025.

Project title: Research to inform a successful shared micromobility ecosystem in Vancouver

Project Background & Overview:

In 2019, the Vancouver City Council declared a Climate Emergency, leading to the approval of the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) in November 2020. The CEAP aims for two-thirds of trips in Vancouver to be made by active transportation and transit by 2030. However, the 2021 Climate Emergency Annual Report indicated a low likelihood of meeting this goal without accelerated efforts.

To address this, City Council directed staff to launch a shared e-scooter system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance urban mobility. In September 2024, Lime introduced its innovative shared e-scooter system with 28 docking stations and 100 e-scooters in the Hastings-Sunrise and Grandview-Woodlands neighbourhoods. This initiative complements the existing public bike share system, Mobi by Rogers, which has supported millions of trips since 2016 with its fleet of over 2,500 bikes and 250 stations.

In October 2024, after just six weeks of operation, Lime's e-scooter system achieved over 10,000 rides, demonstrating strong community engagement and a commitment to sustainable mobility solutions. This milestone highlights the growing popularity of shared micromobility options and their potential to reduce reliance on personal vehicles.

As the City of Vancouver navigates a new era in shared micromobility, it is crucial to conduct thorough research and gather comprehensive data to ensure the successful coexistence of both systems. This project aims to provide essential insights and strategic recommendations to enhance the operation and integration of Lime's e-scooter system and the Mobi by Rogers bike share program.

The research focuses on understanding the dynamics of having two shared micromobility providers competing for ridership, each with its own set of priorities and operational inputs. By exploring best practices, performance monitoring methods, and other strategies, the project seeks to uncover how to effectively manage these systems to benefit the city and its residents/visitors.

Through rigorous analysis and professional engagement, this project aims to lay a solid foundation for new strategic improvements and program initiatives that will ensure the long-term viability, growth, and accessibility of Vancouver's shared micromobility landscape.

Project description

The purpose of the project is to evaluate how cities effectively manage the operation of multiple shared micromobility providers, pinpointing the efficiencies and performance indicators used to track their progress. Additionally, it aims to determine which tools, strategies, or processes the City of Vancouver should implement to ensure the ongoing viability, growth, and accessibility of these systems.

Central to the project are themes like building and maintaining robust partnerships between the City, operators, and the public. This involves summarizing and developing key performance metrics or indicators to monitor the success of both systems. Furthermore, the project focuses on implementing tools or strategies that ensure continuous support, maximizing the effectiveness and sustainability of the two systems.

By synthesizing best practices, monitoring performance, and fostering strong partnerships, this research will equip Vancouver with the insights needed to enhance its shared micromobility landscape, ensuring it remains a thriving, accessible, and sustainable urban mobility solution.

The City is interested in answering the following research questions:

- Introducing a new system:
 - What impacts has the launch of a new shared micromobility system had on the performance of an existing system?
- Supporting two systems:
 - What are cities doing to mitigate impacts between shared micromobility providers and what metrics are being used to monitor and assess success?
 - What support mechanisms and resources are necessary to sustain and enhance the success of Vancouver's shared micromobility systems, and how can these be effectively implemented?
- Integration Improvements:
 - How can cities effectively integrate a shared e-scooter and a bike share system with each other, as well as with other forms of transportation (e.g., transit, shared mobility)?
- Next Steps for Vancouver:
 - What strategies, tools or policies can the City implement in the near and longer term to improve its shared micromobility ecosystem?

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The insights gained from this project will provide the City with data-driven guidance to support the optimization of shared micromobility systems resulting in increased efficiency, user satisfaction, and environmental benefits.

The findings will be compiled into a comprehensive report with recommendations to optimize Vancouver's shared micromobility systems. This aligns seamlessly with Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan, aiming to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance urban mobility.

Project scope

This project aims to provide a comprehensive overview of best practices, tools, and performance monitoring methods used by cities to sustain and enhance their shared micromobility ecosystems. The information collected will be used to offer recommendations that will benefit the City of Vancouver.

To achieve this, the project is broken down to the following key sections:

- **Best Practice Research:** Conduct a jurisdictional scan and literature review, synthesizing how a select number of comparable cities (e.g., Portland, Seattle, Denver, etc.) manage two shared micromobility operators in an effort to enable both to co-exist and thrive simultaneously.
- **Expert Interviews:** Meet with at least 4 professionals working in the industry to understand the current limitations, trends, and trade-offs when operating two shared micromobility systems.
- **Recommendations:** Through the best practice research and expert interviews, summarize key performance indicators used by cities to monitor the success of shared micromobility systems and suggest tools or strategies to capture that information in Vancouver.

These activities aim to equip the City of Vancouver with actionable insights and recommendations to ensure the viability, growth, and accessibility of its shared micromobility systems.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- 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.
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.

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- Ideally, the Scholar will work out of the City Hall campus a minimum of 1 day per week (flexible relative to schedule)

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Interest/basic understanding of Shared Mobility, E-Scooters, or Bike Share systems
- Statistical analysis
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Design and layout skills, an asset
- Research background or interest in mobility and transportation, an asset

Applications close at **11:59 pm Sunday January 26, 2025**

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 21, 2025. [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>