



April 20, 2017

Re: Sustainability Scholar Program

To the University of Alberta Office of Sustainability,

This letter will provide a brief background, introduction and description of the UAlberta Sustainability Scholars program. Dr Naomi Krogman spearheaded the initial proposal and design of the Sustainability Scholars program in 2014. The Scholars program was modelled after a similar program at UBC and began at the University of Alberta in 2015 with an initial cohort of 6 graduate students. The Sustainability Scholars program offers applied research and professional development experience to graduate students through an innovative paid summer internship program that sponsors graduate students to work on sustainability-related applied research projects. The program partners the Office of the Provost, Office of Sustainability, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Facilities and Operations, and the City of Edmonton. The expansion of this program from 6 scholars in its first year to 18 scholars in the second, also serves the University of Alberta's goals to expand opportunities for graduate students in sustainability-applied research and professional development training.

The Sustainability Scholars program sponsors University of Alberta graduate students to work on applied sustainability research projects with the City of Edmonton and the University of Alberta. Edmonton is Canada's second fastest growing city and has committed to ambitious sustainability goals with The Way We Green and the environmental strategic plan. The majority of Sustainability Scholars projects to date have been developed by City of Edmonton staff in need of research in order to move forward with their sustainability goals and projects. This applied research is key to helping the city understand its options for meeting its sustainability goals. In 2016 students worked on City of Edmonton projects as well as University of Alberta projects designed to work towards achieving the sustainability goals outlined in the Universities 2016-2020 sustainability plan. This program started in 2015 with 6 graduate students and grew to 18 graduate student projects in 2016 and 19 projects for 2017.

The professional development opportunities provided by the Sustainability Scholars program have been identified by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, employers and graduate students themselves as essential to providing practical work experience to typically research focused students. Many of the former scholars have been successful in attaining professional employment since completing the program.

Best Regards,

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