



## Summer 2024 Internship Opportunity

### UVic Sustainable Procurement Initiatives: Developing an Implementation Strategy for Supplier Code of Conduct and EcoVadis Supplier Sustainability Assessments

#### Organization

UVic Purchasing

#### Project Background & Overview

Public procurement accounts for a significant share of the global economy and possesses the potential to shape markets towards more sustainable production and consumption practices. UVic, committed to sustainability, has set ambitious goals to reduce its environmental impact. Purchasing Services at UVic plays a pivotal role by providing procurement, strategic sourcing, and supply management services across the university, supporting sustainability and climate mitigation practices. Our approach incorporates a triple bottom line framework, considering the financial, social, and environmental impacts of major purchasing decisions.

In 2019, Purchasing Services established a Supplier Code of Conduct, outlining conduct standards for UVic suppliers. In 2020, UVic became the first Canadian university to collaborate with [EcoVadis](#), a global leader in business sustainability ratings, to assess key supplier performance. This research internship project aims to further UVic's sustainability objectives by advancing the implementation of the Supplier Code of Conduct and encouraging suppliers to participate in EcoVadis sustainability assessments. The significance of these initiatives is underscored by Bill S-211, which mandates certain Canadian companies to report on forced labour in their supply chains.

UVic recognizes its role as an environmental steward and prioritizes the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sustainable procurement, characterized by ethical sourcing, environmental responsibility, and social equity, emerges as a crucial lever for the university to drive



sustainability assessments among key suppliers. This project aims to yield valuable insights that contribute to the advancement of UVic's procurement processes, aligning closely with the university's overarching sustainability goals.

## Project Scope

The Scholar will be responsible for researching best practices in sustainable public procurement, particularly within post-secondary institutions. Responsibilities include conducting a literature review, supporting the development of an outreach strategy to raise awareness of the Supplier Code

