

New program...

# TRU Student Sustainability Ambassadors Program

Terms of Reference (2016/2017)

## Background

The TRU Sustainability Office is launching the **Student Sustainability Ambassadors Program** to help spread the 'spirit of sustainability' at TRU. Students can be a force for change and improve the culture of sustainability on campus. This group will be Ideas-Driven, Goal-Driven, while trying to have fun and be effective. The program is for degree-seeking students enrolled in a for-credit program.

Student Ambassadors must interact in some way with 500 of their fellow students during one school year by educating them on a variety of sustainability issues using three sustainability toolkits (provided by the program coordinator). Once these 500 'touch points' are complete and a report and program evaluation form are submitted, each ambassador will receive a certificate of completion and a credit of \$200 which they can put towards tuition at TRU. It is anticipated that it will take 12 to 15 hours to reach these 500 touch points.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- **An Ambassador becomes a 'sustainability champion' on campus, and helps to educate their fellow students about the initiatives being promoted**
  - The program is about increasing participation in, and support for, certain sustainability practices and behaviours on campus, whether new or existing, big or small
  - Ambassadors work with like-minded students all around campus on sustainability initiatives
- **Using sustainability 'toolkits' & other Initiatives**
  - Ambassadors will be trained on using one, two or three toolkits:
    - Lights Out & Un-Plug
    - Zero Waste
    - Paper Saving/Going Digital
- **Participation**
  - 500 student 'touch points' are needed and these can be logged during a variety of situations that suit each ambassador (for example: handing out sustainability information handbills in a campus common area; helping at an event; running a program; presenting a short talk/Power Point in a classroom; etc.).
  - Students' participation requirements are anticipated to take 12 to 15 hours
  - Minimum of one semester commitment
- **Qualifications of Ambassadors**
  - Passion for sustainability; want to make a difference on campus
  - Excellent communication, listening and interpersonal skills
  - Confidence to model sustainable behaviours, and to take leadership in engaging peers in more sustainable practices on campus
  - Creative thinker; ability to problem-solve; patient and flexible
  - Willingness to learn, help and have fun!

## Benefits

- deepen your understanding of sustainability, and work toward a more sustainable future
- Network with peers with similar interests while developing outreach and education skills.
- Access TRU-specific tools, tips and resources on a variety of sustainability topics
- Ability to apply for funding through the TRU Sustainability Grant Fund for sustainability initiatives that involve TRU staff, faculty or students
- Opportunities to engage with communication tools (social media, etc.)
- Feel good about making a difference; help save resources and money

## Meetings & Schedule

- **Program runs from January 19 to April 13, 2017**
  - Orientation and ongoing training in conducting sustainability outreach is provided. Training session dates/times will be determined based on availability of ambassadors. All ambassadors will receive training.
  - Ambassadors have support of the program coordinator all year for any questions, feedback and/or suggestions
  - The program offers resources, training and educational opportunities to give ambassadors the skills/knowledge needed to promote sustainability
  - Regular 'coffee meetings' for ambassadors (15/30 mins) to make sure all issues are addressed by the program coordinator
- **Celebrate victories**
  - The program recognizes ambassadors contributions at an annual lunch in April as a thank you for their valuable contributions

## Application Process

Students interested in joining this program must submit their application **by January 19, 2017** to the Contact below. Once these three things below are submitted, a short interview will be set-up with the program coordinator.

1. Contact Information (on next page)
2. A 100 to 200 word description of why you want to join the program, and why sustainability is important to you
3. Two references (along with contact information) from either TRU staff or faculty

## Contact / Questions / Submit Applications

Questions about the program can be directed to the program coordinator:  
James Gordon, Environmental Programs and Research Coordinator  
Sustainability Office, Thompson Rivers University  
[jgordon@tru.ca](mailto:jgordon@tru.ca) / 250-852-7153

## Contact Information

First and Last Name		Date
Study Major	Study Minor (if applicable)	
Address		
City	Province	Postal Code
Cell Phone	Email	