

UBC Sustainability Scholars Program 2019

The UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI) is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on funded sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the mentorship of a partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing organizational sustainability goals.

For more information about the Sustainability Scholars Program and to apply to work on this project, please visit the [Student Opportunities](#) page.

Please review the application guide (PDF) before applying.

Applications close **midnight Monday February 25, 2019.**

Research project title: Understanding the applicability of the RELi rating system to UBC green buildings

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

This study supports UBC's goal of improving the resiliency, health and adaptability of the UBC community, through improved design and operation of campus buildings. This project will contribute to UBC's growing body of information on building design principles that support climate adaptation, as well as greater understanding of the feasibility of utilizing a resiliency-focused building standard tool, like the RELi resilience rating system, in the UBC context. The results will be used to inform the implementation of UBC's Green Building Plan and the development of further academic research, and support strategies such as the Okanagan Charter and the 20-year Sustainability Strategy.

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the Scholar's work will be actionable.

The RELi rating system is a new building certification tool that seeks to optimize building design and occupational practices to achieve sustainable and regenerative outcomes in addition to ground breaking credits for emergency preparedness, adaptation and community vitality. RELi assesses performance in 8 categories: panoramic approach; hazard preparedness; hazard adaptation; community vitality; productivity, health and diversity; energy, water and food; materials and artifacts; and applied creativity.

The scholar will undertake a study of the RELi rating system, its requirements and certification process, using an academic building on UBC's Vancouver campus as a theoretical case study to test the feasibility and applicability of the standard to a university context in general, and UBC in particular.

UBC stakeholders will review the results of the case study to understand the alignment and conflicts with other UBC policies and standards (such as the Climate Action Plan and LEED Gold certification), the procedure and resource requirements of implementing the standard on campus, and the relevance of the requirements and principles to UBC academic buildings. In particular, the results will help inform the development of resiliency metrics and policy for UBC buildings. The results will also help inform decisions on ways to engage with the RELi standard and its supporting organizations, the C3 Living Design Project and the RELi Collaborative, and will provide the groundwork for further academic research and partnerships around the topic of resilience and climate adaptation in the built environment. UBC planning and operational staff in relevant departments will be

available to provide technical information to the scholar, as well as guidance, input and feedback as the project develops.

Deliverables

- A final research report, containing a summary of completed work with assessment of benefits and challenges for application of the RELi rating system and principles at UBC (for internal use only).
- A final presentation to key UBC stakeholders.
- An Executive Summary to be made public in the online Scholars Project Library.
- The scholar is encouraged to use a mix of both text and visual graphics to communicate ideas throughout the deliverables.

Time Commitment

We would like for the scholar to complete the 250 hours between April 29 and August 12, 2019. The expectation is that the scholar will work on average 20 hours per week, and that part of the time will be spent on campus in USI or the UBC Sustainability & Engineering offices during regular business hours (9:00 - 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday), and some time spent working remotely. The specific schedule will be coordinated in consultation with the scholar at the start of the project.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and technical writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Basic knowledge of building design (e.g. architecture, engineering)
- Basic knowledge of sustainability and green rating systems (e.g. LEED) is desirable but not required
- Interest in the human health impacts of our environments

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Apply here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/student-opportunities>

To learn more about the program here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/ubc-sustainability-scholars-program>

Read the application guidelines to confirm your eligibility to participate in the program here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/student-opportunities>

Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions.