

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

Piloting and Assessing the Centre for Community Engaged Learning's Community Resilience Framework

Goal or Operations Plan objective

About UBC's Centre for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL):

UBC's Centre for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL)'s mission is to create a "community where citizens are informed, educated, resilient, and committed to creating meaningful change." We do this by collaborating with students, staff, and faculty across the University as well as with community partners to work through complex community-based issues by way of academic courses, voluntary co-curricular programs like Trek and Reading Week, grants, workshops, and other events where students are placed in community settings for a hands-on, immersive experience. You can learn more about the Centre here: <https://ccel.ubc.ca/>.

CCEL's Community Resiliency Framework (CRF)

Last year, in partnership with the UBC Sustainability Wellbeing Scholars program, CCEL developed a Community Resiliency Framework (CRF) aimed to help the Centre measure the impact of our community engagement initiatives through the lens of resiliency. Resiliency is defined in the framework as "the existence, development, and engagement of community resources by community members to thrive in an environment characterized by change, uncertainty, unpredictability, and surprise" (Magis, 2010). The CRF includes both a rationale and assessment tool, with specific indicators, designed to help our Centre better understand if, and how, our work might help communities develop the capacity and resiliency needed to create positive, lasting and sustainable change.

Piloting and Evaluating the CRF's Assessment Tool

This year, CCEL aims to pilot the CRF's assessment tool through a case-study of *three* academic courses that incorporate community-engaged learning as part of a significant overhaul of our evaluation and assessment strategies and practices to:

- (1) Test the effectiveness of the overall framework and indicators
- (2) Better understand how we can utilize CRF and the assessment tool to both plan and evaluate our work
- (3) Build the capacity of our Centre to better utilize and share out the concepts of sustainability and resiliency in our everyday work

The ability to test and understand how best to use this assessment tool will help CCEL drive toward its mandate of creating opportunities for stakeholders from across the university and broader community to build informed, educated, and resilient citizens activating meaningful change.

Please specify the strategic area(s) this project supports:

Okanagan Charter: *Call to Action 1 – Embed health into all aspects campus culture, across the administration, operations and academic mandates (especially areas 1.2; 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5)*

20 Year Sustainability Strategy: *Teaching, Learning and Research; Operations and Infrastructure; UBC Community*

UBC Wellbeing Priority Area: *Social Connection; Mental Health and Resilience*

UBC 2018 Strategic Plan: *People and Places – Strategy 3 Thriving Communities, Strategy 4 Inclusive Excellence; Transformative Learning*

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

Testing and utilizing the assessment tool within a case-study of CCEL curricular offerings will help CCEL better understand the following questions:

- How do our community engaged learning approaches impact community resiliency?
- What modifications need to be made to the CRF and assessment tool before it is utilized across the Centre work?
- How can the CRF build the Centre's own internal capacity and understanding of the CRF and assessment tool?
- How can we build more effective relationships and collaborations on and -off campus to develop, harness and mobilize knowledge for resiliency, equity, and wellbeing in our community engagement endeavours?

The UBC Wellbeing Scholar will, with guidance from the Centre and specific supervisor:

- (1) Pilot, utilize and assess the effectiveness of the CRF and assessment tool within the scope of *three* academic courses that incorporate community-engaged learning. The specific courses will be identified in collaboration with CCEL leadership, the mentor and the Wellbeing Scholar to take into consideration both the needs of the Centre and the interest of the scholar. This work may include evaluating existing community feedback, furthering an established literature review and/or executing a community engagement process (i.e. survey, interviews, focus groups) to solicit strategic input from various stakeholders, including community members, CCEL staff, faculty, students and the broader UBC community, in order to better understand if, and how, CCEL's work impacts community resilience.
- (2) Identify how best to incorporate the CRF and assessment tool into CCEL's key programs, considering both UBC and CCEL's strategic plans, and established evaluation indicators and metrics.
- (3) Help build the capacity of CCEL staff to understand both the overall tenets of the CRF and assessment tool and how to utilize it in the planning and evaluation of their work. This may include presentations, workshops or the development of resources.

Deliverables

- Final report and presentation to key stakeholders outlining a) the work undertaken, b) the outcomes of the pilot program, and c) insight into the effectiveness and limitations of the Community Resiliency Framework and Assessment Tool in relation to CCEL's programs and initiatives. The report should include strategic recommendations for specific modifications that may need to be made to the tool or framework.
- Final report for the UBC sustainability Scholars online project library
- Resource guide on how to incorporate the CRF and assessment tool into broader CCEL programming and initiatives. (i.e. a toolkit, FAQ, or best practices)

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250*** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between April 29th and August 10th
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9am-5pm, Monday- Friday, approximately **20** hours per week.

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset.
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Familiarity with the social determinants of health

Applications close **midnight Monday February 25.**

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.