

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

Developing a Wellbeing program for Teaching Assistants (TAs) Part 2

Goal or Operations Plan objective

Identify strategies to enhance TA wellbeing, and

Explore the TA role in supporting and enhancing wellbeing in learning environments

Long Term Goal: Capacity building around embedding wellbeing into all aspects of TA practice in departments across UBC Vancouver and UBC-O campuses

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

Okanagan Charter: Call to Action 1: Embed health into all aspects of campus culture, across the administration, operations and academic mandates

UBC Wellbeing Priority Area: Mental Health and Resilience

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

- Build on work from Part 1 of this project (summer 2018¹) which gathered data concerning the wellbeing experiences of graduate student TA at UBC-V. The project this year will research the particular sub-populations that were highlighted in last year's project as having particular needs (e.g. undergraduate TAs.) In addition, Research Instruments from the previous research will be shared with UBC-O.
- Assist in gathering data and analysis concerning the experiences of undergraduate TAs, especially pertaining to wellness, and what additional wellbeing support (e.g., Workshops, resources, coaching, training, etc.) could address the specific needs of these TAs. This data gathering and analysis would include:
 - Amending existing BREB
 - Surveys conducted in coordination with departments on campuses
 - Interviews/focus groups
- Analyze qualitative data from Parts 1 and 2 of this project.

- Where there is sufficient data (e.g. Science, Arts) produce faculty-specific reports with recommendations for resources and workshops to be developed or included to support new and returning TAs to integrate self-care and wellbeing into their overall teaching practice.
- Work in partnership with the Academic Tenacity TLEF project team to 1) plan an engagement strategy for TAs to participate in a campus-wide conversation about 'wellbeing in learning environments' at UBC in 2019-20 and 2) help adapt 1-2 tools or resources for TAs to integrate wellbeing into their teaching practices. 3) share these resources with CTLT at UBC-O campus.

Deliverables

Note that a final deliverable either a full report or, if the report contains confidential information, an executive summary is required by the end of the program (August 12, 2019). The deliverable will be archived in the online Scholars Project Library and made publicly available.

- 2-3 Faculty-specific reports summarizing research findings from Parts 1 and 2 of this project.
- Provide research Instruments/ approaches for UBC-O from the previous year's research to widen the research scope.
- Recommendations for next steps for departments and central units seeking to provide wellness support for TAs grounded in the needs and priorities expressed by all UBC-V and UBC-O TAs, brought into discussion with other perspectives on Wellness. This may include recommendations for workshops, resource design, communications, etc.
- A public facing final report (or executive summary) for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

Time Commitment

Please indicate the total numbers of hours your scholar will need to complete the project, the time frame (between April 29 to August 12), any critical dates for the project, and the optimal schedule for your scholar's work.

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between April 29 2018 and August 12, 2018
- The scholar is to complete hours between (work hours for your department: 8:30-4:30, and days of week: Monday-Friday), approximately average of 14 hours per week.

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in health and wellbeing.
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset.
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project Management and organizational skills
- Workshop Design skills

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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.