

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Summer 2020

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 sustainability across the region.

- Visit the [Sustainability Scholars Program website](#) to learn [how the program works](#) and to [apply](#).
- Be sure to review the [application guide](#) to confirm your eligibility before applying.
- **Applications close at midnight on Sunday February 2, 2020.**

Research project title: Researching a circular economy of plastics in health care

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Zero Waste

Long Term Goal: Decrease the environmental impact of plastics in health care

Project description

The Energy and Environmental Sustainability (EES) team for the Lower Mainland Health Organizations has a Zero Waste focus area with targets to increase waste diversion and decrease waste intensity. With increasing public and staff interest in waste reduction and concerns around the abundant use of plastics in health care, the EES team would like to further research how the circular economy can be applied to plastics in health care.

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastics Economy initiative has great direction and targets, however health care is a unique context that requires additional considerations when it comes to implementing environmental sustainability initiatives and circular economy practices. This project will research what those considerations are, and identify challenges and opportunities for implementing circular economy practices in health care.

Scope of Work

- Conduct a scan of circular economy reports and examples related to plastics, paying special attention to examples related to health care.
- Identify key areas within health care where a circular economy might be applied, ranking from more simple to more complex.
- Conduct desktop research and interviews with staff and key stakeholders to understand the potential limitations and/or challenges with a circular economy of health care plastics.
- Create a report which includes all background research and recommendations for the application of a circular economy of health care plastics
- Prepare a project outline for one circular economy initiative that could be feasibly completed within 12 to 18 months, assuming the barriers are adequately addressed and overcome.

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 (March 14, 2020). The deliverable will be archived in the online public-facing Scholars Project Library.

- A project outline for one circular economy of health care plastics initiative
- A summary of circular economy examples including, where possible, contact information for project leads
- Summary report of interviews with stakeholders
- A final report, containing a summary of completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation.
- A final report [or Executive Summary] for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 4 and August 14, 2020
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday, approximately 16 hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Familiarity with the principles of the circular economy
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct in person surveys
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Knowledge of and/or experience with circular economy principles is an asset
- Previous experience in health care is an asset

Applications close **midnight Sunday February 2, 2020.**

Apply here: <http://sustain.ubc.ca/scholarsapply>

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



Useful Resources

Below are some links to useful resources to help you with your resume and cover letter (there are many more online). Some of these resources also provide information on preparing for your interview.

<https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/resumes-cover-letters-curricula-vitae>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/graduate-pathways-success>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>

The Centre for Student Involvement & Careers will host a resume & cover letter webinar tailored for graduate students on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 from 12:00-1:30. Registration will open approximately two weeks before the webinar, and can be accessed at Careers Online.

