

Summer 2022 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

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 January 30, 2022.

Project title: Developing a Pathway of Climate Action in Kidney Care: Sustainable Nephrology Action Planning

Project Background & Overview:

The healthcare sector is responsible for approximately 5% of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions. The climate emergency is a health issue, and kidney care has a disproportionately large footprint. There are problem-solving ways for kidney care delivery systems to mitigate their negative impact and CASCADES is developing a guide to support a pathway of climate action in kidney care through an innovation test case.

CASCADES partners with experts leading SNAP, (Sustainable Nephrology Action Planning) to develop service delivery innovations and system design innovations to shift how care is provided. System design innovations shift the conditions under which care is provided (and can 'lock-in' service delivery innovations), with direct or indirect effects on emissions and potential effects on resilience.

CASCADES is a multi-year capacity-building initiative to address healthcare's contribution to the climate crisis. The project is led by The University of Toronto's Centre for Sustainable Health Systems in partnership with the Healthy Populations Institute at Dalhousie University, the Planetary Healthcare Lab at the University of British Columbia, and the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care. In addition to capacity-building through continuing professional development and community engagement, CASCADES seeks to support health professionals in the development of new - or the refinement of existing - tools and strategies that can improve the sustainability of health services and systems.

Project description

CASCADES has developed an innovation "test case" in Western Canada, working with a small team of experts to mitigate the environmental impact of renal care. This innovation is in its early stages and we are currently in the research stage, which will later inform the development of a step-by-step guide to support national spread of this innovation. The goal of this project is to improve sustainability in kidney care to improve patient experience, clinical outcomes, and emissions related to attending these appointments. For patients, who need to receive a kidney transplant it can require multiple trips to the transplant centre, which can result in long trips that are not always economically feasible for some individuals. Additionally, due to the current process, these assessments take place over multiple days. The intention is to streamline this process to support a single-day transplant assessment allowing the patient to make one trip to the centre, which will be both cost-effective for the patient and lead to a reduction in emissions. The project will include developing an implementation strategy and guide that supports single-day transplant assessments to support sustainable nephrology action planning in kidney care.

Project scope

Develop an implementation strategy and guide (BC)

1. Undertake a literature review and understand best practices and opportunities for environmental savings related to kidney transplant assessment clinic days.
2. Understand current practices and barriers for kidney transplant assessment procedures to determine the **current emissions, patient experience** and **clinical outcomes**.
3. Conduct five stakeholder interviews with providers to understand the importance of implementing single-day transplant assessment clinics.
4. Based on findings, develop an implementation strategy for single-day transplant assessment that will streamline the evaluation process in a single visit to help capture more suitable donors and take the burden off of individuals living in remote areas or individuals with limited financial means.

Deliverables

- A final report summarizing research findings and recommendations
- A presentation to the CASCADES Team
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between **May 2 and August 12**.
- The scholar is to complete hours during the standard business week, approximately **17 - 20** hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with WordPress, Drupal, or other website content tools
- Demonstrated experience in policy review and analysis
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Experience or interest in health care environmental sustainability is an asset
- Interest in renal care / sustainable kidney care is an asset.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 30, 2022**

Apply here: [Click here to apply](#)

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

Useful Resources

We are holding a special **resume preparation workshop for prospective Scholars** on January 19. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

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>