

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 March 13, 2022.

Research Project Title: Research to fill the training gap on high-performance building and energy management for Indigenous audiences

Project Background & Overview:

The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) wants to better support its members (Indigenous housing and service providers) in building capacity to manage energy use and advance equity in the high-performance building and residential energy management sectors.

This project is based on preliminary data collected by AHMA that evaluates the barriers and gaps in energy conservation, high-performance building and residential energy management training programs and courses. AHMA staff spent some time earlier this year reviewing training programs related to high-performance building, energy management and conservation and has compiled a spreadsheet of training opportunities.

BC's Indigenous communities and housing providers lack the capacity to develop climate change resilient, high-performance housing and other community buildings to serve their needs. This project aims to address capacity limitations and systemic racial barriers to accessing education for Indigenous housing staff through a review of current educational opportunities. We would like to fill gaps in high-performance building training programs to empower Indigenous housing staff to pursue in-demand careers in the high-performance building sector, and improve housing in Indigenous communities.

Project description

AHMA is an umbrella organization composed of 51 Members that are each Indigenous Housing and Service providers. Our members represent over 8,700 Indigenous families and individuals living in urban, rural and northern regions of British Columbia. Created for Indigenous Peoples by Indigenous, AHMA is the first Indigenous Housing Authority in Canada and only second in the world.

AHMA would like to understand:

- if there is an opportunity for AHMA to fill a gap in high-performance building and energy management training for Indigenous audiences, and specifically for our members.
- what clear education pathways AHMA can recommend or advocate for our members.

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Project scope

The work will include:

- Research and summarize the available training and education opportunities in BC (delivered online and in person), perform a best practice scan of professional education delivery models, and interview/survey select training providers to assess what training frameworks (e.g., online/in person, Indigenous led, includes Indigenous case studies, prioritizes oral learning over written, etc.) are successful in recruiting and training Indigenous peoples and what barriers prevent access and completion (e.g. FNNBOA, FNHES, BCIT). We would like to understand better the effectiveness of capacity building courses by comparing external courses to our in-house developed training programs: Train the Trainer and Building a Greener Future.
- Research to understand the need for training (capacity building) within AHMA's membership by interviewing AHMA staff and select members;
- Analyze data gathered to identify gaps and opportunities in the current availability of high-performance building and residential energy management training programs and the needs our members communicate through the interview process;
- Create a resource booklet or encyclopedia to make training information valuable and accessible for an Indigenous audience and easily share with AHMA members.
- Create a strategic plan for AHMA to fill gaps in training and meet our members educational and training needs.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report (or executive summary) for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A high-performance building & energy management course guide for our members that connect individual courses to learning outcomes.
- A recommendations report for AHMA staff that outlines barriers and opportunities to accessing high-performance building & energy management training programs.

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 2, 2022 and August 12, 2022
- The scholar is to complete hours between 8:30 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 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
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Design and layout skills, an asset
- ☒ Experience working with Indigenous communities or individuals is an asset.
- ☒ Experience assessing curriculum and learning models, an asset

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Applications close **midnight Sunday March 13, 2022**

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

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>