

## Fall 2022 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

The UBC Sustainability Hub 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 September 18, 2022.**

---

### **Project title: Research to inform an engagement strategy to facilitate behaviour change to reduce GHGs from food, waste, and transportation at UBC Okanagan.**

#### **Project Background & Overview**

In December 2019 the UBC Board of Governors endorsed the declaration of a climate emergency. This endorsement led to an [engagement process](#) with the campus community and key partners to identify ways in which UBC can address its role in the global climate emergency. Subsequent to the climate emergency engagement process, the Vancouver campus updated their Climate Action Plan and the Okanagan campus developed their first Climate Action Plan. The [Climate Action Plans](#) identify key actions that UBC will take to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) connected to Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 emissions.

At UBC Okanagan, the Sustainability Office in Campus Planning has been working with unit leads (such as Facilities Management, Food Services, and Campus Planning) and key partners on campus to act on key components of the climate action plan. These actions are shifts in policies, processes, and systems to reduce GHG emissions in Scope 1, 2, and 3.

A crucial component arising out of both the climate emergency engagement and the climate action plan relates to campus community engagement to build awareness, educate, and build capacity to facilitate change in behaviour to reduce GHGs emissions. Specifically, there are several categories under Scope 3 (food, waste, and transportation) where engagement may occur in combination with policy and process changes to further reduce GHG emissions. Behaviour changes to reduce GHGs emissions related to these categories also align with key priorities areas within the [Wellbeing Strategic Framework](#) (physical activity, food and nutrition, and built and natural environments). The engagement strategy will target student, staff, and faculty on campus to support planetary and human wellbeing.

#### **Project description**

We seek a Sustainability Scholar to do research to inform future development of an engagement strategy to support behaviour change of UBC Okanagan campus community members

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

(students, staff, faculty, and key partners) on activities to do with food, waste, and transportation.

The engagement strategy must be informed by and complement the results of the climate emergency engagement process, the UBCO 2030 Climate Action Plan, and the Wellbeing Strategic Framework. Key goals of the engagement strategy include:

- increased awareness of and interest in the climate work underway at UBC
- increased campus community members' awareness of and interest in their role in reducing GHGs around food, waste, and transportation
- provide encouragement, information, and pathways that help build the capacity of campus community members to change behaviours to support the further reduction of GHGs and concurrently support human wellbeing

## Project scope

The Scholar will be establishing the foundation for a large, long-term, complex engagement project. Project work will include:

- a literature review to determine what constitutes an effective engagement strategy that brings about behaviour changes in support of reducing GHGs.
  - The literature review will focus on a select number of post-secondary institutions (between 2 and 5) and behaviour change activities to do with, for example, reducing red meat consumption, drinking tap water, supporting local food systems, using active transportation, and recycling/composting. *If this scope is determined to be too broad, the project mentor will work with the Scholar to narrow the focus of the desired behaviour change categories.*
- an environmental scan of 2 to 3 other post-secondary institutions and the engagement methods they use to bring about behaviour change that supports a reduction in GHGs. This may include desk research and interviews to collect further information.
- interview 2 to 4 key stakeholders and subject experts to understand how engagement has occurred in the past on campus, document actions taken and timeline of engagement to date, and any future plans for engagement.
- host 2-3 dialogue sessions with students from various demographics, clubs, and programs to identify approaches that are supported by the student population.
- Time permitting, the Scholar will begin to develop elements of the engagement plan.

## Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed and including:
  - The literature review
  - The environmental scan
  - Results of key stakeholder interviews
  - Results of dialogues with students
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A final presentation of the work completed

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between October 17, 2022 and March 15, 2023
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 10 to 12 hours per week.
- Attend and provide project updates at team meetings.

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability and wellbeing
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Background in student in social sciences or familiarity with behavior change theories, an asset

**NOTE: The successful candidate must be located in the Okanagan and attending UBC Okanagan. The scholar will have access to a shared workspace in the UBC Okanagan Picnic Community Food Hub.**

References:

<https://climateemergency.ubc.ca/engagement-process/>

<https://sustain.ok.ubc.ca/policies/cap/>

<https://wellbeing.ubc.ca/framework>

Applications close **midnight Sunday September 18, 2022**

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

Contact Karen Taylor at [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto: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>