

Summer 2023 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 on the Apply page to confirm your eligibility before applying.

Applications close at midnight on Sunday January 29, 2023.

Project title: Research and development of strategic communication & educational assets on food for planetary health and cultural safety

Project Background & Overview:

The Energy and Environmental Sustainability (EES) team is a regional collaboration team that provides a service to Fraser Health, Providence Health Care, Provincial Health Services Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health. The EES team collaborates with clinical and non-clinical departments and staff to implement a regional approach to low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems through planning, design, procurement, construction and operations.

Developing plant-forward, local, culturally relevant and equitable food service to advance the notion of “food as medicine” is one of 7 key focus areas of work. By improving hospital food for patients and staff and caring for the planet, we can work towards multiple environmental benefits such as reducing waste and carbon emissions, as well as, increasing food services resilience to climate events.

Project description

The purpose of the project is to research and develop food communications and education assets focusing on food for planetary health while also highlighting co-benefits for cultural safety, nutrition and food security/equity. The deliverables will support the EES Team and partners (Public Health, Clinical Services, Food Services and Indigenous Health) to engage and increase buy-in from a variety of key stakeholders. It is expected that we can use the outputs from the project in guideline documents, practical resources, online learning modules, and communications campaigns. The inter-connected nature of Food and Climate Change will be made explicit in education and communications materials.

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Project scope

The scope of the project includes a review of existing food communications and education materials related to planetary health and cultural safety within the BC Health System and beyond. Note: this project doesn't require knowledge/work on the human health aspect of food in health care as there are dietitians that can support this area of work. And the key audience for the communications and education materials will be clinical and non-clinical staff in health care.

Key questions that the intern will be asked to consider are:

- What is the current understanding of food (lifecycle) impact on the environment?
- What are the co-benefits and trade-offs between sustainably grown food and culturally relevant, nutrition and food security/equity?
- What desire is there to take action towards foods that have a smaller environmental footprint? Foods that are culturally safe?
- What education is required to help staff take action towards environmentally preferable and culturally safe food?

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- Strategy and action plan for communications and engagement
- Key messages that could be used on the GreenCare website, health authority intranet pages, guideline documents, practical resources, online learning modules, and communications campaigns

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2023
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 9 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
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience in communications and/or education
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Graphic design skills, would be an asset (but they aren't mandatory)

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 29, 2023**

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 23, 2023. [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>