

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Summer 2024 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

The UBC Sustainability Hub is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the guidance of a mentor from the partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing sustainability across the region. These opportunities are paid. The pay rate for the summer 2024 program is \$27.50/hour or \$6,875 for a 250-hour project.

- 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 28, 2024.

Project title: Guidelines for sustainable construction and operation of leased health care facilities

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 (PHSA) 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.

About 16% of health care facilities are leased sites that include Urgent Clinical Care Centres, office space, physician clinics and some long term care facilities. While EES has developed Low Carbon, Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Guidelines for New Construction of owned sites, these guidelines are not directly applicable to leased sites, including ones that have been specifically designed and built for the use of the health authority. We wish to identify which new construction guidelines are most applicable to non-owned sites, and what barriers exist and how they can be addressed.

This project, *Guidelines for sustainable construction and operation of leased health care facilities*, will support health authority overall goals to reduce carbon emissions, conserve energy, water and meet sustainable operational policies.

Project description

The purpose of the project is to develop a set of existing guidelines to support VCH Planning and Real Estate Department staff, to influence specifications such that newly constructed or newly acquired leased sites meet the highest standard for low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable design and operation. Using the existing LCRES Guidelines as a starting point, the student will interview key staff to identify opportunities and barriers to implementation. The project is important to extend VCH's 2030 goals for carbon reduction, energy efficiency and sustainable, resilient operation, to its large leased inventory of buildings.

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Project scope

Over the period of the project the student will work with the mentor to:

- a. Review current [LCRES Guidelines for New Construction of Healthcare Facilities](#) and create a spreadsheet that identifies the requirements relevant to leased properties.
- b. Through conversations with staff responsible for leased properties, review procurement documents and a property database, to develop an understanding of building types and leasing arrangements, and to identify opportunities in the process where VCH can apply these guidelines.
- c. Research best practice in sustainable design for leased properties in similar jurisdictions
- d. Review findings with property management and renovation/new construction staff to verify gaps, opportunities, barriers and possible mitigation;
- e. Draft a set relevant of guidelines for application and use of Real Estate Department staff with the purpose of creating a practical resource.

Deliverables

- A report describing the results and opportunities for forwarding LCRES goals (including content from scope a, b, c and d. Report should include topics for future development.
- A practical resource (aligned with the current LCRES Guidelines for New Construction of Healthcare Facilities) that includes guidelines for application and use of the Real Estate Department.
- 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 1 to August 15, 2024
- The Scholars is to complete their 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
- Community engagement experience
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Familiarity with building types, sustainable construction, etc, an asset

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 28, 2024**

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

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

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Useful Resources

We are holding a special **resume preparation workshop for prospective Scholars** on January 23, 2024.

[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>