

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: Research to support a natural environment and biodiversity plan for Fraser Health

Project Background & Overview:

Fraser Health provides services to over 1.9 million people and recently approved its first [Planetary Health strategy](#) recognizing the degradation of the natural environment/loss of biodiversity as a direct risk to health and also a negative impact on the wider determinants of health.

The health authority is committed to being part of a solution to these problems by using nature regeneration as an opportunity to improve our services and our commitment as an anchor institution. With estates across the Fraser region, we envision following progressive health systems around the world who have committed to protecting and promoting nature on health care estate grounds and securing the benefits around wellbeing and resiliency. Indigenous leaders have also stated that reconciliation is not possible without environmental reconciliation and this project will be an opportunity to work with our Indigenous Health team.

Project description

The purpose of this project is to document a baseline understanding of natural assets and current management practices at Fraser Health facilities and identify opportunities. Time permitting, additional research will be undertaken to build on an existing [draft strategy for green space and biodiversity](#). Regeneration of the natural environment has numerous benefits for patients, visitors and staff. Further it is a critical part of reconciliation efforts and can help make Fraser Health more resilient to extreme weather events. This is an exciting opportunity for a scholar to contribute to the knowledge base for natural environments for new construction projects and existing infrastructure within one of Canada's largest health regions.

Project scope

Working closely with key informants from the Fraser Health Natural Environment Working Group and the Planetary Health Steering Committee, the scholar will:

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- Review a selection of acute care and long-term care facilities through on site visits and interviews with relevant facilities staff to identify current landscaping contract approaches and areas for improvement and opportunity
- Identify green building and other credible standards that include components that support natural environments and the scope of natural environment management plans that can support new construction and/or provide understanding of standard practice
- Building on existing work, undertake a literature review/environmental scan of best practices amongst health systems for regenerating/supporting the natural environment to inform a Fraser Health plan

Deliverables

- A report that details the review of natural assets at existing acute care and long term care facilities including areas of opportunity
- Inventory of relevant standards and professionals that undertake natural asset inventory and planning in the Fraser Health region
- A final report containing a summary of any additional research undertaken
- 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
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity or interest in biodiversity in the context of planetary health; green space accessibility; green rooftop design; climate resistant landscapes; healthy and resilient design; and similar concepts is 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

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>