

## 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.**

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### **Project title: Framework to assess the effectiveness and impact of a residential community building model.**

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

Minivillage is a Vancouver-based social purpose technology company committed to transforming Canadian housing with the power of community. It provides trained resident Community Coordinators and a community platform in multi-unit buildings focused on affordable housing and market housing.

Grounded in the asset-based community development approach, our strategy involves providing instant building-wide communications and leveraging resident strengths.

The platform increases a sense of belonging, improves engagement, deepens relationships between residents and property managers, and provides valuable data insights for property operators. Trained Community Coordinators facilitate gatherings, one-on-one interactions, and residence services, while the platform features instant communication, perks, and events.

This transformative approach positively influences the vitality of the community and directly contributes to the health and well-being of residents.

Our approach is inspired by evidence-based research showing that quality social connections between neighbours are good for overall well-being. Studies confirm that building these connections improves health, makes us more resilient, and helps us live longer. Even though we recognize these positive outcomes, we currently don't have specific measures, frameworks and processes to understand, measure and evaluate our model's impact on community resilience and well-being in residential buildings.

## **Project Description**

Our goal is to identify clear measures, both quantitative and qualitative, to assess the effectiveness and impact of our hybrid community building model. We aim to create a well-structured framework for regular evaluations, considering both short-term and long-term perspectives, to understand how the model influences the resilience and well-being of community residents. Additionally, we seek to explore the benefits for various stakeholders, including property managers, local businesses, and healthcare services, focusing on aspects like financial viability, return on investment, and the potential for scalability. Ultimately, our plan is to use this framework to confirm and broaden the effectiveness of our community building model, applying it across different geographical scales, from the provincial and national levels to a global context.

## **Project scope**

- Research national and global best practices for measuring and evaluating community building models.
- Develop a customized evaluation methodology and framework for Minivillage's hybrid community building model.
- Collaborate with the Minivillage team to share the evaluation framework and provide a detailed implementation plan.
- Time permitting, implement and test the framework in multiple buildings within the Minivillage network, collecting relevant data.
- Summarize and communicate the research findings through a comprehensive impact report.

## **Deliverables**

- Final report detailing the key research findings and recommendations for ongoing implementation and evaluation.
- Presentation of the proposed evaluation framework to key stakeholders.
- Concise version of the report summarizing the key findings of the proposed evaluation framework and incorporates visual elements to enhance understanding.
- Final report for the Scholars online 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.

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity with evaluation methodologies
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented

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

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

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>