

## 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: Neighbourhood scale nature-based urban design solutions to address urban heat islands, enhance outdoor resiliency and reduce cooling energy demand in buildings**

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

There is a growing urgency to respond to increasing intensity and frequency of climate change induced heat waves in British Columbia, underscored by the heat dome event that led to over 600 deaths in BC in 2021. In addition, urban areas are prone to heat island effects due to the heat absorbing nature of typical urban design, and heat produced by increasing amount of air conditioning in urban areas. On our Vancouver campus, a recent study showed that surface temperatures varied by as much as 10°C during the heat dome event, with the coolest temperatures associated with high tree canopy cover, demonstrating resiliency provided by a natural asset.

UBC is currently establishing a vision for future residential development at our Vancouver campus ([Campus Vision 2050](#)) that includes an objective of establishing restorative and resilient landscapes in an urban setting. In addition, we are preparing a [Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan](#) (NCAP) that includes a Key Action to explore nature-based solutions to address urban heat-island effects in both future and current residential neighbourhoods on campus.

To support meeting these resiliency objectives in Campus Vision 2050 and NCAP, we would like to investigate nature-based and other design options for mitigating neighbourhood scale urban heat island impacts, providing outdoor shade in the public realm and explore the feasibility for tree shading on buildings to reduce cooling demand in buildings. In addition, the study will consider how nature-based resiliency design approaches can address environmental inequity and improve outcomes for vulnerable populations.

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Project description

This project will investigate nature-based and other neighbourhood scale design options for mitigating urban heat island impacts, providing outdoor shade in the public realm and explore the feasibility for tree shading on buildings to reduce cooling demand in buildings. The results of the project will support UBC in meeting Campus Vision 2050 restorative and resilient landscape objectives and NCAP adaptation goals.

## Project scope

To meet the objectives of this project, the scholar will

- undertake a literature review and a local government jurisdictional policy scan focussing primarily on the Metro Vancouver and Capital Regional District (CRD), but considering other jurisdictions as feasible.
- identify and interview subject matter experts, local government policy makers and key stakeholders to identify and review policy and planning approaches currently being developed or implemented with Metro Vancouver or CRD.
- Based on outcomes of the literature review, policy scan and interviews, prepare recommendations for nature-based resiliency design approaches at the neighbourhood scale relevant to the residential community described in Campus Vision 2030, and identify areas where additional study is needed.

## Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A power point presentation that summarizes the project findings
- 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
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Experience reviewing and analysing policy and regulatory documents
- Familiarity or experience with nature-based urban design solutions, an asset
- An eye for appealing report formatting and layout, an asset

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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>