

## 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: Research to inform drinking water & cooling station installment and placement in parks**

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

Access to clean and convenient drinking water is a fundamental aspect of urban living, especially in the face of increasing challenges posed by climate change. With rising temperatures and the heightened frequency of heatwaves, ensuring the well-being of residents becomes a paramount concern for the City of New Westminster.

A dual commitment drives this initiative: first, to identify areas within our community where the installation of drinking fountains and cooling stations can enhance accessibility and promote hydration; and second, to prioritize the protection of residents during heatwaves by strategically placing these essential resources.

Leveraging the information collected by the scholar, we will develop a strategic three-year plan that outlines the installation of new fountains and cooling stations, taking into account the diverse needs of residents and the promotion of a healthier, more inclusive urban environment. Through this initiative, we aim to create a roadmap for implementing a robust, responsive, and equitably distributed cooling and drinking water infrastructure that aligns with the City of New Westminster's commitment to the well-being of its residents.

#### **Project description**

The primary aim of this research is to formulate a strategic plan aimed at enhancing accessibility to drinking water and cooling stations within the public domain. The initial objective involves identifying equitable locations for the installation of 13 new hydration and cooling stations. This decision will be influenced by factors such as the complexities associated with integrating water utility systems, the proximity to existing drinking and cooling stations, and pedestrian traffic in specific areas. The emphasis will be on locations that often host community events and witness increased pedestrian activity.

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The scholar will be provided guidance and mentorship by department leads in Water Works, City Events, Parks and Recreation, and Engineering throughout the duration of the project.

## **Project scope**

The Scholar will undertake the following activities:

1. Condition assessment of existing drinking and cooling infrastructure at up to 6 parks in the City of New West.
  - a. A member of the parks team will provide assistance to the Scholar and show them how to conduct the visual assessment and rank the fountains based on function, damage, accessibility, and flow.
  - b. This assessment will serve as the foundation for establishing the baseline of the city's current services, guiding the identification of locations for new fountains and cooling stations.
2. Based on provided data and the condition assessment, develop a GIS map to identify gaps in the current provision of drinking fountains and cooling stations, and highlight areas that would benefit from new services.
  - a. Provided datasets will include the City of New Westminster's heat vulnerability map, community events, and public-use spaces.
3. Round table brainstorming and discussion with stakeholders to review the research findings and validate the information.
  - a. Stakeholder input from:
    - i. Park and Recreation
    - ii. City Event Planners
    - iii. Engineering Operations
    - iv. Engineering Administration
4. Based on the previous activities, develop and apply a framework to:
  - a. Identify the most suitable places to locate 13 new misting and drinking stations.
  - b. Develop a prioritised list of additional locations to install cooling and drinking fountains in the subsequent years.
5. Time permitting: Conduct a comparative analysis of costs and accessibility to evaluate the feasibility of installing freeze resistant fountains that operate year-round. Most of the costing data will be provided.
6. Prepare a report detailing the locations for 13 new misting and drinking fountains, an analysis of fountain requirements and locations for future development, and (time permitting) a cost benefit analysis on installing freeze-resistant fountains for year-round operation.

## **Deliverables**

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library.
- Infrastructure heat map highlighting areas with varying access to water.
- Recommendations on where and when to install drinking water/cooling stations over the next few years

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## 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 with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- GIS training or experience.
- Comfortable doing field work

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>