

Summer 2025 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. The pay rate for the summer 2025 program is \$31.25/hour or \$7,812.50 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 11:59 pm on Sunday January 26, 2025.

Project title: Research on the environmental impacts of and innovations in design and construction of long-term care facilities

Project Background & Overview:

The Energy and Environmental Sustainability (EES) team is a regional collaboration team that serves Fraser Health, Providence Health Care, Provincial Health Services Authority 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-care provision through planning, design, procurement, construction and operations.

Addressing climate change has risen as a key priority for health-care institutions in British Columbia, many of whom have developed or are in the process of developing planetary health strategies. These strategies are founded on the understanding of the interdependent relationship between human health and the health of our planet. Integrating a planetary health lens into all aspects of health care provision is essential to advancing the goals laid out by these strategies.

Long-term care (LTC) offers significant opportunities to advance environmental sustainability. With BC's aging population, more resources will be directed to senior care facilities and services. We aim to spark strategic discussions by studying the environmental impacts of LTC in BC and the successful projects that integrate sustainable practices in LTC — specifically within the design and construction phases.

The first objective of this research project is to identify the environmental impacts of different types of LTC facilities in BC, specifically as they relate to the design and construction phases of these facilities. The range of impacts could include energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, water use, materials, circularity, waste, transportation, food infrastructure, and natural environments. The second objective is to identify projects, case studies and resources related to mitigation and adaptation features in the design and construction of BC LTC facilities. These projects would be

summarized to include key players, enablers and barriers among others. Time permitting, it would be helpful to complement the impacts research with examples of innovative environmental design and construction practices of LTC facilities from across Canada and Europe. All the findings would then be shared with interest holders.

The project holds significant value for several reasons:

- **Strategic Planning:** The findings from this project will contribute to strategic planning, ensuring that they align with current needs and challenges within our health-care system.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** By analyzing existing work and engaging with professionals in the field, the project will provide valuable insights to support informed decision-making regarding sustainable health-care practices in LTC facilities.

Project scope

- Review of existing literature and materials about climate resilience and adaptation, energy conservation, water stewardship, circularity of materials, reduction of waste, and transportation (case studies, guidebooks, articles, videos etc.) in the BC LTC context (to extend to Canadian LTC context if limited information is available in BC).
- Subject expert interviews with BC health-care planners, architecture consultants, energy teams, LTC facility management professionals, and experts in the health-care sustainability sector. A minimum of 10 interviews to gather firsthand insights and perspectives on the projects, challenges and opportunities of sustainable health-care planning, design and construction of LTC facilities.
- Based on the insights from expert interviews, prepare a summary of environmental sustainability projects in LTC design and construction, highlighting enablers and barriers. Organize and store all analyzed content for easy accessibility and reference in an excel spreadsheet or another platform database.
- Collect and summarise examples of innovative environmental sustainability integration into LTC facility design and construction.
- Time permitting: Take one or two of the innovative examples and prepare a case study summarising the best practices, strengths, opportunities and lessons learned
- Create customized presentation slides for 2-3 interest holder groups (i.e., facility designers, facility planners, site leads).

Deliverables

- Provide regular updates on project progress.
- A list of project examples comprising all analyzed content.
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed.
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A final presentation on findings to the EES team.
- Customized presentation slides for 2-3 interest holder groups.

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.
- Preference for a student who can accommodate a hybrid work model, coming into the office one day per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Design and layout skills for communication materials is an asset
- Familiarity with construction and building design principles, an asset
- Familiarity with low carbon, building energy, and related sustainability practices in institutional buildings, an asset

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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 21, 2025. [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>