

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 best practices in irrigation and water conservation for food gardens at healthcare sites

Project Background & Overview:

The Energy and Environmental Sustainability (EES) team is a regional collaboration team that provides a service to Fraser Health, Providence Health Care, Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) 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 systems through planning, design, procurement, construction and operations.

Food gardens increase the sustainability of Health Organization (HO) sites by providing fresh food without emissions from transportation. However, food gardens also require water and the HOs have targets of decreasing water use between 30 and 40% by 2030.

Developing an understanding of the trade-offs between food gardens and water use will guide the Health Organizations (HOs) in implementing these two sustainability objectives effectively.

Project description

The purpose of the project is to research the trade-offs between food gardens and water use in the BC HO context. Developing an understanding of trade-offs will support application of food gardens that considers water use at HO sites. The EES team will be better able to tailor site specific recommendations and improve food and water sustainability with this understanding.

Project scope

Over the period of the project the student will work with the mentor to:

- Review global best practices for water management related to food gardens

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- Review the literature to understand how other Health Care or other institutions in British Columbia and beyond have considered the trade-offs between local food gardens and water usage
- Based on the literature compile a list of challenges and strategies that can support food garden implementation and water conservation
- Conduct staff interviews at sites with food gardens to understand their perspectives on strategies and challenges, as well as external interviews with subject matter experts.
- Create a report on project context, methods, results, and recommendations.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- 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.
- 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
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Familiarity with or interest in food gardens, particularly in institutional settings, an asset
- Familiarity with irrigation infrastructure and practices, particularly as they pertain to food gardens, an asset

Applications close at **11:59 pm Sunday January 26, 2025**

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>