

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 to reduce indoor heat-health impacts in vulnerable populations using a health delivery lenses

Project Background & Overview:

The impacts of climate change are being seen widely in BC, including health impacts caused by heat events. These impacts are disproportionately felt by vulnerable populations, including the elderly, individuals living with comorbidities, as well as those who experience marginalization. This project will collect data within various types of health care facilities as well as from health care workers and patients to determine infrastructure and community heat-related needs for implementation and innovation. Qualitative and quantitative data will be collected and analyzed from various health care settings, including acute care, long term care, and hospitals, to gain a wide breadth of data across the sector.

Project description

This project aims to better understand the reality of excessive indoor heat in several health care settings, then apply innovative solutions that are applicable across the health care and adjacent sectors. In this project, we will work closely with community engagement experts from across Canada and will seek collaboration opportunities to align efforts within communities where our work will be undertaken. The data that is collected and analyzed will be used to develop practical and actionable indoor heat adaptation interventions across Canadian health care and will assist communities in planning their climate change solutions/strategies, including the translation of findings into disaster planning and transformative scenario planning. The initiative aims to bring together diverse perspectives and expertise to envision future scenarios and establish a collaborative coalition for influencing outcomes. This approach will help health care facilities, health care workers (HCW), and organizations representing at-risk/vulnerable populations prepare for extreme indoor heat and the potential cascading and compounding effects of concurrent events, such as infectious disease outbreaks, droughts, floods, wildfires, smoke, and power outages.

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In British Columbia, the project will focus on one long-term care site. The work of the Sustainability Scholar will include the following:

1. Undertake indoor heat assessments on healthcare buildings at one long-term care site and one mental health site using a project designed assessment, over the course of several months.
2. Conduct same site surveys, focus groups, and interviews with clinical and non-clinical staff, as well as with patients/residents to determine indoor heat concerns and level of heat-health knowledge.
3. Identify, implement & test effectiveness of low-cost easy to implement interventions at sites.
4. Re-survey patients in both settings.
5. Support various knowledge translation activities across selected clinical sites.

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 Scholar 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.
- Demonstrated knowledge and/or interest in climate change science, health impacts, equity, and adaptation strategies as these relate to extreme heat events.
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is a desired asset.
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques.
- Statistical analysis knowledge (desired, but not required).
- Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate orally and in written communication to reach target audiences.
- Community engagement experience.
- Familiarity conducting focus group research.
- Strong analytical skills.
- Demonstrated ability to organize and prioritize work, and work under time constraints to meet deadlines.
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys.
- Demonstrated ability to work with interdisciplinary health care teams.

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- ☒ Demonstrated knowledge and comfort to work with various office software and familiarity with analytical tools and databases.
- ☒ Demonstrated ability to work effectively as a member of a team as well as independently.
- ☒ Criminal Record Check required

Additional project requirements

Travel to/from the clinical site is a component of this project. Therefore, access to a car or transit will be important. We can reimburse mileage or transit costs accordingly. Access to a phone and phone plan will equally be important.

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>