

Summer 2026 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 February 1, 2026.

Project title: Health Care Construction: Evaluating resources to support low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable facilities

Project Background

The Energy and Environmental Sustainability (EES) team launched a revised, newly formatted set of guidelines for health care new construction projects in November 2025, called Low Carbon Resilience and Environmental Sustainability Guidelines (LCRES). EES is a regional team that supports initiatives across four BC health authorities: Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health, Provincial Health Services Authority and Providence Health Care. There are currently about 20 new health care facilities in the planning, design or construction phase, in the Lower Mainland. The intent of the LCRES Guidelines new format is to be a more actionable, clear set of steps and considerations, for project teams to consider, implement and track multiple aspects of building design, from a sustainability lens. Please see the LCRES Guidelines at bcgreencare.ca/resources/guidelines. Before May 2026, the LCRES Guidelines will have been launched widely, and introduced to all project teams with demonstrations/instructions. Key messaging will have communicated the importance of sustainable facility design not only to the environment, but to support patient and staff health, project efficiency and to ensure the resilience of health care and communities into the future.

Project description

The project goal is to establish to what extent the LCRES Guidelines are being used and followed, if they are effective, and what barriers remain in integrating LCRES strategies into new construction projects. The LCRES Guidelines encompass many aspects of health care building design, from energy and water consumption to choice of materials, recycling, transportation, climate resilience and connection to the local natural environment.

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Project scope

- The UBC Scholar will first develop an understanding of the goals of the Energy and Environmental Sustainability team in health care facility design, and how the LCRES Guidelines are intended to aid the process.
- Through interviews with EES team members, the student will gain background information on the roles, responsibilities and challenges of project managers and consultants, on the project team.
- The student will design and undertake an evaluation process which may include analyzing documented feedback received to date, one-on-one or small group interviews with target audiences on one or more of the six LCRES Guidelines focus areas. Ideally this will involve interviewing 4 – 6 project managers, and 4 – 6 consultants who work in at least two focus area, to be chosen by the student
- The student will analyze feedback, identify themes and make recommendations as to what is working or could be improved to increase successful uptake.
- Time permitting the student may wish to do a deep dive through additional research and interviews on one Focus Area of interest, in order to make recommendations to update that section of the Guidelines. Focus areas include: carbon & energy, climate resilience, water, transportation, materials and waste and natural environment. Interviews can be conducted online.

The project mentors will provide student with any feedback received on the guidelines as well as introduce the student to project managers and consultants from acute care hospital and long term care facility projects, currently in the planning or design phase, as candidates willing to be interviewed.

Deliverables

- Evaluation framework/including interview questions
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed/interview responses (exact content of the report to be determined)
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- Presentation to the EES team

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 14.
- 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
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research

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- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Deadline oriented
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Demonstrated experience in Project Management
- ☒ Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys

Applications close at **11:59 pm Sunday February 1, 2026**

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 19, 2026. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

Below are some links to useful resources to help you with your resume, cover letter and preparing for an interview (there are many more online).

<https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>