

**UBC SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM**  
**WELLBEING SCHOLARS PROJECT**  
**Summer 2018**

**Research project title**

Understanding the applicability of the WELL building standard to a UBC green building

**Goal or Operations Plan objective**

This study is a foundational element of UBC's goal to better support the health and wellbeing of UBC faculty, staff and students, through improved design and operation of campus buildings. This project will contribute to UBC's growing body of information on building design principles that support health and wellbeing, as well as greater understanding of the feasibility of utilizing a health focused building standard tool, like the WELL Building Standard, in the UBC context. The results will be used to inform the development of UBC's Green Building Plan and further academic research, and support strategies such as the Okanagan Charter and the 20-year Sustainability Strategy.

**Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable.**

The WELL Building Standard is a new building certification tool that seeks to optimize building design and occupational practices to advance human health and wellbeing outcomes, by assessing performance in seven categories: air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort, mind and innovation.

The scholar will undertake a study of the WELL Building Standard, its requirements and certification process, using an academic building on UBC's Vancouver campus as a theoretical case study to test the feasibility and applicability of the standard to a university context in general, and UBC in particular.

UBC stakeholders will review the results of the case study to understand the alignment and conflicts with other UBC policies and standards (such as the Climate Action Plan and LEED Gold certification), the procedure and resource requirements of implementing the standard on campus, and the relevance of the requirements and principles to UBC academic buildings. In particular, the results will help inform the development of health and wellbeing metrics and policy for UBC buildings. The results will also help inform decisions on ways to engage with the WELL Building Standard and its' supporting organization, the International WELL Building Institute, and will provide the groundwork for further academic research and partnerships around the topic of human health and the built environment. UBC planning and operational staff in relevant departments will be available to provide technical information to the scholar, as well as guidance, input and feedback as the project develops.

**Deliverables**

- A final research report, containing a summary of completed work with assessment of benefits and challenges for application of the WELL Building Standard and principles at UBC (for internal use only)
- A final presentation to key UBC stakeholders.
- An Executive Summary to be made public in the online Scholars Project Library.
- The scholar is encourage to use a mixtures of both text and visual graphics to communicate ideas throughout the deliverables.

**Staff Mentor and Department**

This project is a collaboration between UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI) and UBC Sustainability and Engineering (S+E), with consultation from UBC Wellbeing Initiative.

**Time Commitment**

Submit applications here: <http://bit.ly/2DC2jpP>

## UBC SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS – PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

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We would like for the scholar to complete the 250 hours between April 30 and August 10, 2018. The expectation is that the scholar will work on average 20 hours per week, and that part of the time will be spent on campus in the USI or Sustainability and Engineering offices during regular business hours (8:30-4:30 pm, Monday to Friday), and some time spent working remotely. The specific schedule will be coordinated in consultation with the scholar at the start of the project.

### **Skill set/background required/preferred**

- Excellent research and technical writing skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Basic knowledge of building design (e.g. architecture, engineering)
- Basic knowledge of sustainability and green rating systems (e.g. LEED) is desirable but not required
- Interest in the human health impacts of our environments

Submit applications here: <http://bit.ly/2DC2jpP>