



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## Vancouver Summer Program Instructor in Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences

Applications are invited for up to four graduate students or postdocs to teach or co-teach in the Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences offerings for the Vancouver Summer Program, 2026 (<https://www.eoas.ubc.ca/outreach/vancouver-summer-program>).

The Vancouver Summer program (VSP) is a 4-week outreach program for international post-secondary students that takes place on the UBC Vancouver campus in July-August 2026. Class dates are July 20-August 14, 2026.

We are offering one “package” for the Vancouver Summer Program in 2026: **EOAS Package A: Earth Systems, Environment and Sustainability**. The package consists of two courses taken by the same cohort of students. They are:

- **Earth Systems and Change**

Our dynamic planet is constantly reshaped by powerful forces. Interactions among the atmosphere, oceans, and land create the weather, drive global climate, and produce natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, tsunamis, storms, and wildfires. From deep within Earth’s crust to impacts from space, these processes remind us that our planet is always changing. As populations grow and cities expand, understanding how Earth works is crucial to protect people, communities, and economies. In this course, you’ll learn the science behind both short-term disasters and long-term climate change. You’ll explore how energy from the Sun and Earth is concentrated and released, driving everything from sudden earthquakes, to ocean productivity. You’ll learn about the global energy balance, meteorite impacts, and which regions are most at risk from natural disasters. Study in Vancouver – a city with stunning landscapes, shaped by its coastal climate and dynamic geology. You’ll experience the local environment through field trips and interactive labs, plus engage in discussions about the future of our planet and the role of science in decision-making.

- **Environment and Sustainability**

We live in a time when human activity is one of the most powerful forces shaping our planet. Environmental science helps us understand these impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, air and water quality, and human health. It also guides the choices we make to build a more sustainable future, from changing the global energy system away from fossil fuels to address the root causes of climate change, to building sustainable systems and resilient communities. In this course, you’ll learn the science behind today’s major environmental challenges and critically evaluate proposed solutions. You’ll engage with the United Nations’ Sustainability Development Goals and explore how local and regional initiatives connect to global sustainability efforts. Study in Vancouver – a city striving to become the “greenest city” in the world – surrounded by mountains, forests, and ocean. You’ll experience the local environment through field trips and collaborative projects, engaging in creative problem solving to explore how innovative thinking and science can help make our shared future sustainable.



Both courses will have existing materials for instructors to use. The “Earth Systems and Change” course will be a combination of two courses offered in 2025 during the VSP. The “Environment and Sustainability” course is new and is based around materials from ENVR\_V 100, a regular course in the Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences department. Each course is taught for 3 hours per day (with some days off in the week due to students’ social activities).

### **Instructor Responsibilities**

Each instructor will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Teaching or co-teaching one of the two courses.
- Planning and participating in social and team building trips and events during the program
- Completing all grading-related work for assignments and exams
- Recording and documenting Instructional approaches and materials for future use

The instructors will collaborate with one another, and will be supported and supervised by Dr. Sara Harris.

### **Qualifications:**

- Graduate student who either has completed a Masters degree or has passed qualifying exams for their PhD, or a postdoctoral fellow holding a PhD
- Interest in education, particularly in earth, ocean, atmospheric, or environmental sciences
- Strong organizational, time management, and communication skills
- Any of the following qualifications are beneficial, but not required:
  - Experience implementing learning activities and evaluation;
  - Experience as a TA/instructor in 100-level ATSC, EOSC or ENVR courses;
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### **Learning and Professional Growth:**

VSP instructors will have the opportunity to:

- Build, expand and deepen their knowledge and experience in teaching.
- Advance their communication skills, orally and in writing, including what, when and how to best communicate
- Advance their organizational skills, both self-management for more independent work, and for working in a team

For a graduate student or postdoc who is considering teaching/facilitating as part of their career, this job experience will provide an opportunity to teach significant parts of a course, which may be highly relevant to their future work.

### **Wage:**

Compensation will be \$4000 for each of four teaching appointments. Each teaching appointment is half of one course. An individual may apply to teach a full course.

### **To Apply:**

Please email the following to Dr. Sara Harris at [sharris@eoas.ubc.ca](mailto:sharris@eoas.ubc.ca):

(1) a cover letter which includes a statement of which course you would like to co-teach (or fully teach),



- (2) an unofficial transcript,
- (3) a resume/CV

Please use subject line: “Application for Instructor for Vancouver Summer Program”.

Review of applications will begin **April 15<sup>th</sup>**.

*Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person*

*All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.*