

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Fall 2020

The UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI) is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on funded sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the mentorship of a partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing sustainability across the region.

Note: Projects must be completed remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Visit the [Sustainability Scholars Program website](#) to learn [how the program works](#) and to [apply](#).
- Be sure to review the [application guide](#) to confirm your eligibility before applying.

Applications close at midnight on Sunday September 20, 2020.

Research project title: Addressing climate change grief in public-facing climate change work and amongst climate change practitioners

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

➤ Good Health and Wellbeing

Specific goal area(s)/sustainability objective: Social sustainability and community well-being, staff well-being

➤ Climate Action

Specific goal area/sustainability objective: Environmental and social sustainability, climate change adaptation

Project description

Overview:

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) undertakes climate work in BC as a part of its Climate Change and Air Quality theme area. Included in this work are regular regional climate change adaptation workshops, climate change preparedness workshops with small communities, webinars, and resource-sharing. Much of this work involves analysing future climate risk and ways that this risk might be addressed. Examining climate risk and climate change, and the negative impacts that climate change will have, is a difficult topic and often people feel grief as a result of this work (“climate grief”). We would like to research practices that can be put in-place during public-facing climate work as well as for staff who do climate work in order to address this climate grief, acknowledge it, and help people to process it and work alongside it.

Purpose of the Project:

Climate grief is a subject that has had increased traction and interest in recent years but is still not operationalized in many climate change processes. The Fraser Basin Council would like to increase its

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understanding of how to address climate grief internally and externally. The outcomes of this project will allow us to integrate an understanding of climate grief as well as activities and interactive opportunities for participants into our climate change events, workshops and resources. This work will be actionable immediately, and we hope to have the Scholar integrate it into our upcoming regional climate change adaptation workshops this fiscal year.

Scope of Work:

- Conduct a scan to identify organizations around the world that are analysing climate grief and integrating climate grief into activities and programs.
- Conduct desktop research and remote interviews to understand climate grief work taking place and to identify factors for success in addressing climate grief both with public audiences and also with climate practitioners.
- Work with Fraser Basin Council (FBC) staff to understand present climate change work that takes place at FBC and where climate grief information and activities could fit into this work and into staff processes.
- Prepare a number of written materials and presentations, as listed below.

Deliverables

- A report written in a clear, non-academic style, analysing different methods of addressing climate grief, with case studies of how this has been done in practice.
- A report written in a clear, non-academic style, of research-informed methods of integrating climate grief into workshops, events, and resources, including a range of levels of interactivity, from statements and written information to individual activities to highly interactive group activities.
- A public webinar presentation on key findings.
- Time permitting: short presentations and climate grief activities at 2 regional climate change adaptation workshops.
- A final report for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library, comprised of the two reports noted above.

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between October 19, 2020 and March 12, 2021
- The Scholar is to complete approximately 12 hours per week. There is a lot of flexibility in the actual work hours that the Scholar keeps, given that all of the work will be remote. However, a short weekly or biweekly check-in between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday would be useful. The regular time for this meeting can be determined in further discussions with the Scholar.
- We would like the Scholar to host a webinar on their findings, as well as attend our regional adaptation workshops if possible. The dates for these events are not determined as of yet.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Experience writing for lay audiences, in a clear, concise, engaging non-academic style

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- Demonstrated interest in climate change and health
- Knowledge of the difference between climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation
- Experience conducting engagement events and using creative engagement techniques
- Experience in creative communications
- Experience working with a wide range of stakeholders (e.g., First Nations and non-First Nations communities, professionals, government staff, industry, etc.)
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills

Applications close **midnight Sunday September 20, 2020.**

Apply here: <http://sustain.ubc.ca/scholarsapply>

Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions

Useful Resources

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.

Resume workshop for prospective Sustainability Scholars: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/resume-workshop-for-prospective-sustainability-scholars-tickets-117422877989>

<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>