

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.

PROJECT PROPOSAL: Capacity Building in Canada for Climate Change Displacement: A jurisdictional scan of best practices, with lessons learned for BC and Canadian governments, service providers, and professional networks.

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Climate Action: This project will focus on addressing human climate change displacement in British Columbia, as identified as an area of climate action by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2009. It will do so by generating a lists and frameworks of best practices for responding to climate change displacement that local, regional and national adaptation efforts can leverage or otherwise align with.

Project Overview:

The [Climate Migrants and Refugees Project \(CMRP\)](#) is a Canadian non-profit with a mission to help governments, particularly cities and local governments, address climate change displacement and to help those who have lost or may need to leave their homes due to climate change impacts.

Climate change is altering our world. Around the world, sea-level rise, water availability, and extreme weather events threaten losses of housing, livelihoods, social and cultural resources, and health. These losses may force people to move, either temporarily or permanently, to get out of harm's way. Between 2010 and 2018, more than 23 million people per year were displaced by slow-onset events such as sea-level rise and desertification; and by sudden-onset events such as wildfires, floods, and storms. Although impossible to accurately predict how climate change will affect human movement, according to estimates by the [UN](#), the [World Bank](#), and others, the total number of people displaced per year could rise to 140 to 250 million people by 2050. Because of the incredible scale of this as a global issue, and

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that in BC, too, we are seeing tens of thousands of people displaced almost every year due to extreme weather, now is the time for charting a course to address displacement at local and global scales.

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of this project is to better understand which jurisdictions in the world are explicitly building their internal capacity to address climate change displacement, and adapt lessons and practices from there to building capacity in BC and Canada.

Scope of Work:

- Review literature to identify criteria for and list of best practices in responding to climate change displacement;
- Scan jurisdictions around the world that are working on climate change displacement (including nation-states, regions, and sub-national governments);
- Identify 1-3 key jurisdictions where experiences have the greatest potential applicability in BC and Canada;
- Conduct desktop research and interviews with staff in 1-3 key jurisdictions to understand their strategies, programs, and other work on climate change displacement, and identify factors for success in building a jurisdiction's capacity to work on this issue;
- Create a [skills and competencies framework](#) for CMRP to use in developing programming for government officials and other professionals to build capacity to address climate change displacement in BC and Canada.CCD

Deliverables

The Scholar will deliver a final report containing a summary of their completed work complemented by a final presentation to CMRP Staff, Board of Directors, and other relevant actors, as well as:

- A matrix of scanned jurisdictions with a high-level summary of their climate displacement activities, strategies, and work-areas, and their relative similarity to BC;
- A matrix of skills and competencies, based on interviews and desktop research, for working on climate displacement;
- A final report open to the UBC Sustainability Scholars Library and for CMRP to distribute, with recommendations, including:
 - An executive summary of findings and recommendations;
 - A narrative summary and/or table of scanned jurisdictions and literature review;
 - 1-3 deeper dive case studies, with summaries of interviews, relevant policies, and other work relevant to capacity building;
 - A list of recommendations to shape CMRP's future capacity building work, including existing programming, research, or resources available already, and types and categories of materials that CMRP will wish to develop in the future.

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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 track hours, approximately 10-15 hours per week; we are flexible with the Scholar's schedule and competing priorities regarding when hours are completed.
- Scholar to be available for project meetings, regular progress updates and final report presentations.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in climate justice
- Demonstrated interest in adaptation and resilience work, both in theory and practice
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with interviews and other qualitative data collection
- Familiarity with WordPress, Drupal, or other website content tools
- Design and layout 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

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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>