

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Summer 2022 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

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.

- 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 January 30, 2022.

>> This is a Fraser Estuary Research Collaborative Project >>

The Fraser Estuary Research Collaborative (FERC) is focussed on advancing efforts to protect the Fraser River estuary in collaboration with key NGO and Indigenous partners. If you are interested in producing new knowledge and supporting Fraser estuary protection through scientific, technical, governance and policy innovations, the following project might be for you. Read on for more details.

Project title: Identifying barriers and opportunities for eelgrass restoration in the Fraser River Estuary

Project Background & Overview:

The restoration of blue carbon ecosystems such as eelgrass meadows is a nature-based solution which can help address the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Eelgrass meadows can store significant amounts of carbon long-term, provide valuable habitat for many marine species, help prevent shoreline erosion and improve water quality. High levels of industrial, residential and recreational activity in the Fraser River Estuary have led to historical losses of eelgrass and continue to threaten eelgrass meadows. The restoration and stewardship of eelgrass meadows are an important way to rebuild the historical eelgrass distribution while ensuring current meadows maintain their health and functioning. This project aims to identify the barriers to eelgrass restoration in the Fraser River Estuary while scoping innovative solutions to address the barriers.

Project description

The purpose of the project is to identify the barriers to eelgrass restoration in the Fraser River Estuary as well as potential solutions. Eelgrass meadows are a valuable carbon sink and the restoration of these ecosystems can support WWF-Canada in achieving the climate goals outlined in our ten-year strategic plan. Although a valuable nature-based solution, eelgrass restoration can be difficult to accomplish

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

because of a variety of challenges and barriers. WWF-Canada would like to better understand these challenges and barriers in the Fraser River Estuary so that we can build an effective restoration program which includes quantifiable carbon storage metrics. The results of this project will directly and immediately inform the development of WWF-Canada's restoration work in the region.

Project scope

- The Scholar will conduct a targeted literature review of current eelgrass restoration practices on the coast of British Columbia. The scope of the literature review may be increased as necessary by expanding the review to restoration work on the east coast of Canada, the coastlines of the US, and/or the UK. Depending on the results of the literature review, the review may be supplemented to fill in any gaps by in-depth interviews with a small number of local restoration practitioners.
- The Scholar will then design a survey, using the literature review and interviews as guidance, to gather information on the current methods used for eelgrass restoration in the Fraser River Estuary, the specific challenges these methods entail and the barriers to implementing eelgrass restoration projects. The survey will be designed to identify barriers related to ecological, social, political, economic and cultural aspects of restoration in the Fraser River Estuary. Under the guidance of WWF-Canada mentors, the Scholar will design the survey to also propose and gather feedback on potential innovative approaches to eelgrass restoration in the region. The survey will be designed to collect information from Rightsholders and a variety of stakeholders in the restoration ecology space, such as restoration practitioners, eNGOs, environmental consultants, and government employees.
- The Scholar will then implement the survey with the support and contact network of WWF-Canada mentors and summarise the results.
- Finally, the Scholar will provide recommendations for how WWF-Canada could move forward with restoration-based work in the Fraser River Estuary to support current work on-going in the area, address challenges, and maximize benefits to people and nature.
- The Scholar will present these recommendations along with a general cost estimate for each to WWF-Canada mentors and staff.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A survey which solicits information on current restoration practices, barriers and feedback on potential innovative approaches

Time Commitment

- This position is for 270 hours of work.
- This project must be completed between May 2 and August 12, 2022
- The scholars are to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 19 to 22 hours per week.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Background in ecology, biology or a related field
- Experience designing surveys an asset

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 30, 2022**

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

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.

<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>