

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.

Research project title: Research to support development of a decision framework for climate resilient asset management at the City of Vancouver

Project Background & Overview:

Climate change increases risk levels and makes it more difficult to deliver desired levels of service at a reasonable cost. Accordingly, this project will support the asset management teams to prioritize renewal and improve their infrastructure in a way that is climate aware and resilient. Asset classes managed by the City range from water and sewer infrastructure to streets and sidewalks to electrical conduits and junction boxes. To continue with the City's initiative to advance and refine its asset management program, a central decision-making framework is needed. A component of this framework should include climate projections and information to inform multi-hazard risk assessment. Climate risks include physical risks to assets from climate change, transitional risk from changes in technology or practices, and liability risk from legal and regulatory requirements. By conducting a review of asset management decision-making frameworks from other jurisdictions or government agencies, this project will contribute to the Climate Adaptation Strategy goals to adapt climate robust infrastructure and climate resilient buildings

Project description

The purpose of the project is to incorporate a climate risk component into a central standardized decision-making tool to be used across all asset classes within Engineering Services. Proactive risk management of engineered assets and timely asset improvements can enhance the overall resilience of asset systems to impact of climate change. This is valuable to the organization to support decision makers in reviewing the level of risk carried by various assets in the face of climate change and sea level rise. The project will provide benefit to the public as well, ensuring that the City is providing an acceptable level of service given the changing demands on infrastructure due to climate change and sea level rise. The results of this project will be implemented annually, by each of the asset owner groups to review their internal prioritization of asset renewal and upgrades. The asset management decision-making framework will also be used to support capital planning decisions within the Engineering Services Department.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Project scope

Conduct a review of asset management decision-making frameworks from other jurisdictions or government agencies and compile a foundational collection of knowledge to develop a risk-based approach to assessing climate hazards to City assets.

- Research best asset management practices and decision-making frameworks from other jurisdictions or government agencies
- Review current information available on City assets (Asset Management Plans, Investment Briefs, asset inventory, Project Management Framework, etc.)
- Discuss current climate considerations with City asset owners, risks and drivers
- Time permitting, identify areas for climate integrations, current gaps, and opportunities for increasing climate change alignment throughout asset management practices
- Prepare a summary of learnings and resources for continuation of the work in developing a decision-making framework

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report (or executive summary) for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library.
- Summary of climate risk best practices and relevant resources for the City to continue the work internally

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 2, 2022 and August 12, 2022
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.

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
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Strong analytical and technical skills
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience in Asset Management, an asset
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys

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>