

Summer 2023 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 on the Apply page to confirm your eligibility before applying.

Applications close at midnight on Sunday January 29, 2023.

> 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: Graphic visualization of the lower Fraser River (using a non-Western view) from the Pattullo Bridge to Queensborough

Project Background & Overview:

The Fraser River Discovery Centre (FRDC) is a two-story interpretive space working to bring together the many voices of the Fraser to cultivate a community of river stewards. We also offer school programs, public and family experiences, outreach activations, and speaker series, among others, to highlight the river's contribution to the life, history, and future of the land also now known as British Columbia and its people.

In regard to our in-building interpretive experience, our primary audiences include students (K-5) and families with young children in the Metro Vancouver area. There is also a growing secondary audience of adults and families with toddlers. From a developmental perspective, our youngest visitors need to be building their own relationships to their specific "home places" on their path towards living in a more sustainable, community (both human and non-human) manner. Our work can support this growth by uncovering the "everyday" aspects of the Fraser River that the average community member may not be able to see on their own, making the ordinary extraordinary.

Combined with our MOU with Musqueam Indian Band to develop the FRDC as x^wtatáləm, a Place of Learning about the Indigenous heritage and teachings of the Fraser River, the FRDC seeks to incorporate

what many Indigenous scholars refer to as "two-eyed seeing", a path towards valuing both Indigenous knowledges and western science. To this end, this project serves as a deepening of opportunities for visitors to engage with the river, the baseline research for future exhibit and programming, and a more holistic and intentional approach to assessing the status of the most visually accessible portion of the Fraser River.

Project description

This project is two-fold: synthesize a holistic overview of the current status and health of the Fraser River in the section overlooked by the FRDC (approximately the Pattullo Bridge to Queensborough) and prepare a graphic rendering of the current status.

The overview and status update is intended to move away from a strictly western science approach of examining a distinct element of a space or problem; rather, incorporate how different elements rely on each other and highlight the lived experience and cultural teachings that derive from the river. Functionally, this means looking not at individual aspects of river health (e.g., water quality, habitat availability) but examining how they interact with each other and what are the human relationships present. This could involve incorporating lived experiences with the river (e.g., a personal story of how the different types of salmon harvested have changed through time to demonstrate water quality changes through time and how that interacts with climate change biomarkers).

The graphic rendering of the current status is intended to engage visitors and the general public in getting to know their river better. While many people see the Fraser everyday, not many consider how it has already changed drastically and will continue to do so as the impacts of climate change proceed. Providing a contemporaneous overview of what they can see from the FRDC (or revealing what may be hidden to them) allows for the initiation of deeper conversations with the FRDC's audience. The visualization will involve original art/design and will specifically identify evidence of climate change visible from the FRDC.

Depending on the time required to complete the project, additional renderings may be completed to target different segments of our audience. For example, the initial visualization will be created for an engaged, adult audience, but a secondary version may be created with a younger (aged 6-12) audience in mind. If the candidate has interest, this could also involve converting their deliverables into an exhibit with the Public Engagement Coordinator, which is intended to be done regardless.

Project scope

This project is part of a larger shift in the FRDC's interpretive approach. In our journey towards x^wtatəlləm, we are progressively updating our exhibits to demonstrate a more interconnected approach to the river. The scope of this project will therefore include:

- Identifying what elements to include in the holistic assessment. Must include water quality (this is the topic of the exhibit we are aiming to replace), evidence of climate change, and evidence of cultural modification. Other lenses to examine may include: habitat quality, migration stopovers, memories, ways in which past events show up now, flood capacity, pollution
- Conversations with key stakeholders: We are building relationships with a number of relevant stakeholders who may have additional insights and knowledge.
- Physical scope: Fraser River and surrounding habitat from the Pattullo Bridge to Queensborough. This is the area of the river that is primarily visible from the FRDC and therefore most relevant to our in-building programming.

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- Develop a visualization of how the many elements that determine the current status & health of the Fraser River interact (determined in the overview phase).

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- High resolution, print quality files of the final visualizations (these may be edited in the future to fit public programming and/or exhibit needs)
- A final presentation as part of the FRDC's online [Faces of the Fraser](#) speaker series

Time Commitment

- This project will take 260 hours to complete: 250 hours to be allocated to the research, and 10 hours to be allocated to participating in meetings and collaboration opportunities with the rest of the FERC cohort
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2023
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.
- The Scholar must live in the lower mainland to be available to attend FERC meetings and events in person.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Strong technical design and drafting skills
- GIS training or experience, an asset.
- Demonstrated design and layout skills

Additional notes

Access to the Adobe suite can be provided for the duration of the project.

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 29, 2023**

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 23, 2023. [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>