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.

Research project title: Research and develop an inventory of UBC's climate research partnerships with Indigenous Nations, communities, and associations

Background:
UBC's commitments from the 2021 Climate Emergency Task Force include the support of Indigenous led climate action. Multiple research partnerships exist and the number of initiatives is growing.

The Indigenous Research Support Initiative (IRSI) at UBC has started work on a research repository as called for by the Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP). Action 31 is to: "Develop a research information repository and communication portal that assists students, faculty, staff, communities and researchers at large to access resources, information, publications and reports about Indigenous issues and knowledge." The addition of a Scholar's work on climate related research will contribute to the repository.

The work also relates to discussions between UBC and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC). First Nations (FN) in Canada declared a climate emergency in 2019 via Assembly of First Nations resolution. The BC FN Climate Strategy and Action Plan (CSAP) plan arose from that Declaration and was completed in 2022. UBC is exploring ways to collaborate with the FNLC on the CSAP. Understanding the current state of climate research partnerships between the university and different FNs in BC will provide useful background for collaboration.

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the project is to research and catalogue the current state of MOUs and research partnerships between UBC and First Nations related to climate change. Specific climate research areas of interest include transportation, building capacity to address climate change impacts and climate change planning in FN communities, carbon offsets – assessing the impact of carbon projects on Indigenous rights; energy project development that incorporates climate justice and upholds Indigenous rights, including Indigenous knowledge in climate action planning, raining and skills development especially for transitioning to green economies, GHG and emissions reductions, Emergency Management Planning. The catalogue may be used as background for a proposed dialogue about FNLC-UBC collaboration on implementation of the CSAP. IRSI is interested in learning how many Nations are represented in these partnerships, which geographic areas are involved, and what topic areas are covered.

Scope of Work

The scope of the project includes:

1. Research on UBC's climate related research and educational partnerships with BC First Nations through a desktop literature review of the information available on UBC's websites and other publicly accessible sources.
2. Structured interviews with representatives from
   - the Office of Research and Innovation and Indigenous Research Support Initiative,
   - each faculty at UBC-V and UBCO,
   - Institutes such as the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) and Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions
   - Centres such as the Centre for Climate Justice , Centre for Indigenous Fisheries Centre for Community Engaged Learning, and the Center for Environmental Assessment Research.
   - Key knowledge holders in other UBC units such as the First Nations House of Learning, Sustainability Hub (Sustainability Scholar projects, Campus as a Living Lab projects), Climate Hub (Climate Justice Research Collaborative), Learning Exchange, Wellbeing, Campus and Community Planning, UBC Botanical Garden.
   - Museums on campus such as the Beaty, MOA, and the Pacific Museum of Earth
3. A final report with the results of the desktop review, and interview results, including a description of methodology and a catalogue of UBC-Indigenous climate partnerships as of summer 2023 that can be easily updated, and added to the IRSI research repository.

Deliverables

- Presentation of the findings to IRSI
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed for IRSI
- A final report for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2023
- The Scholars is to complete their 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
☒ Strong analytical skills
☒ Ability to work independently
☒ Deadline oriented
☒ Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys

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