

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.

Project title: Research to inform the design of a watershed-scale climate change adaptation plan from the lower Fraser River flood plain (e.g. Sumas Prairie) to the estuary

Project Background & Overview:

Across a global scale, Indigenous peoples are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change relative to non-Indigenous peoples, largely due to their close relationship to and reliance on traditional lands. These longstanding ancestral relationships to the land also uniquely position Indigenous peoples to enhance local adaptation and planning responses to climate change. There is increasing recognition of these relationships and related Indigenous-led climate change adaptation and planning, particularly as Indigenous peoples across the globe exert their traditional rights to act as stewards of their lands and waters.

S'ólh Téméxw is the halq'eméylem name for the shared asserted territory of the Stó:lō peoples, centered on the Lower Fraser River in British Columbia. In English, it can be translated as 'our world' or 'our land'. S'ólh Téméxw has experienced significant impacts to its lands and environments, resulting from road and freeway building, lake drainage, diking for flood prevention, and forestry and agricultural development. Climate change is causing impacts that are cumulative to these development pressures and resulting in observed effects such as warmer and drier summers, reduced snowfall, and increased risk of flooding and wildfires. There have also been noted declines in availability and health of culturally significant species like salmon, western red-cedar, and wild berries. Stó:lō peoples have an ongoing and vested

interest in Indigenous-led climate change adaptation and mitigation planning that will help to address some of these and other challenges for the region, its peoples, and its non-human species.

A key current concern is watershed-scale planning for resilient Stó:lō futures, as more frequent and more severe floods and droughts exacerbate pressures on Stó:lō culture and traditional livelihoods. Stó:lō communities are increasingly involved in efforts to understand and respond to environmental change throughout the Fraser River watershed – including its tributary systems and in connecting upstream traditional territories to those at the Fraser River estuary.

Project description

This project involves assisting in the preliminary design of a climate change adaptation plan, with particular emphasis on watershed-scale planning from the lower Fraser River flood plain (e.g., Sumas Prairie) to the estuary. In collaboration with staff from the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre, the project will support and receive guidance from leaders and knowledge holders of the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA).

The project will focus on applied research. Preliminary work on the plan will involve conducting a literature review and engaging with Stó:lō community members on their priorities and perceived possibilities for climate change adaptation and planning. The project may include qualitative approaches (e.g., through interactive workshops and in-depth interviews with leaders and knowledge holders) and/or quantitative methodologies (e.g., flood modelling and planning through the Fraser River system). The community-engaged project will inform the design of a Stó:lō-led climate change adaptation and mitigation plan, to be utilized by the STSA and Stó:lō peoples to guide future actions around climate change planning and resiliency, with a particularly emphasis on watershed-scale environmental change.

Project scope

1. Conduct a literature review on Indigenous-led climate change adaptation and planning to watershed-scale environmental changes, with a focus on British Columbia's environmental and policy context and particularly emphasis on S'ólh Téméxw and examples of Coast Salish climate leadership. Questions to explore include:
 - a. How could an Indigenous-centric approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation be taken in S'ólh Téméxw?
 - b. How can data be collected through an Indigenous lens?
 - c. What examples of Coast Salish climate leadership provide learning opportunities for Stó:lō-led climate change adaptation and planning for resilience?
2. Assist in the organization of community workshops that explore the priorities and possibilities of climate change adaptation and mitigation planning in the context of watershed-scale environmental changes with several Stó:lō First Nations to understand:
 - a. How are Stó:lō peoples already adapted to changing climatic and environmental conditions? What is working well, and where is more work needed?
 - b. What does resilience in the face of climate change look like to Stó:lō peoples?
 - c. What are the pathways and possibilities for Indigenous-led climate change adaptation and mitigation in S'ólh Téméxw?
3. Analyze the outcomes of community workshops and in-depth interviews with Indigenous leaders and knowledge holders using qualitative research methods to develop a preliminary summary of results and report on:
 - a. What steps are required to develop a fulsome, Indigenous-centric climate change adaptation plan for watershed-scale environmental changes?
 - b. What methods should be used to establish STSA's data collection program?

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Deliverables

Three deliverables are expected from this work:

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed, with feedback from the STSA team incorporated.
- A final report for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library (with Nation-specific information removed as per STSA direction).
- A final presentation given to the STSA board and consulting team on the results of the project (presentation to be shared with STSA team).

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 Scholars is to complete their 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 and be available to attend FERC meetings and events in person.

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
- Statistical analysis
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Background in Indigenous studies, environmental sciences, geography, ecology or planning, an asset.
- We welcome all candidates to apply for this position. We especially encourage applicants who have lived experience and/or strong knowledge of Indigenous ways of knowing and/or Indigenous culture.

Additional project notes

The selected Scholar has the option of working in a hybrid setting, with 1-2 days spent in the office in Chilliwack. If the scholar does not have access to a vehicle, car pooling can be arranged.

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>