Summer 2024 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

The UBC Sustainability Hub is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the guidance of a mentor from the partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing sustainability across the region. These opportunities are paid. The pay rate for the summer 2024 program is $27.50/hour or $6,875 for a 250-hour project.

- 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 28, 2024.

Project title: Best practices for mapping water scarcity hazard, risk, and adaptation

Project Background & Overview:
In the face of escalating climate change impacts, water scarcity has emerged as a critical challenge, especially for regions experiencing rapid urbanization and environmental shifts. Due to climate change, British Columbia is witnessing hotter temperatures, insufficient snow accumulation, faster spring snowmelt, glacier loss, and reduced precipitation over extended periods of time – all of which are exacerbating drought and water scarcity (ClimateReadyBC). As temperatures continue to warm and there are growing population demands, British Columbia will face greater pressures for water management. Drought and water scarcity can seriously impact communities through reduced water availability for residential and commercial use, warmer river temperatures affecting the health of fish and aquatic life, lower groundwater levels, and reduced crop quality and smaller harvests (ClimateReadyBC).

Within this context, our project seeks to address the urgent need for comprehensive water resource management tools across communities in British Columbia, with a focus on water scarcity hazard, risk, and adaptation mapping. Before developing a response plan for water scarcity, communities will need to conduct mapping to generate a better understanding and to gather data on the extent of water scarcity in their region.

Project description
Fraser Basin Council, with support from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), is developing a guidance framework for water scarcity hazard, risk, and adaptation mapping. This guidance framework will act as a resource for First Nations and local governments who are engaged in this mapping work, and it will be publicly available on the provincial ClimateReadyBC platform.

This UBC Scholars project elevates this initiative by conducting thorough research on best practice case studies, encompassing local, national, and global examples of water scarcity

mapping. This research will provide input and direction into the development of the mapping guidance framework.

The case study research report, produced by the UBC Scholar, will be an additional resource for communities engaged in water scarcity mapping. By highlighting the accomplishments of peer communities, it will enhance shared learning and foster collaborative approaches. The final mapping guidance framework will be publicly released by the Fraser Basin Council in March 2025.

This project addresses the urgent need for localized strategies in combating water scarcity in British Columbia. By distilling local and global best practices, conducting in-depth research, and engaging with diverse key actors, our goal is to provide actionable solutions. A comprehensive case study report will provide knowledge to communities, helping them make informed decisions, ensuring a resilient response to water scarcity challenges heightened by climate change.

This project is designed to bridge the critical gap between global expertise and local implementation. It will help consolidate global best practices related to water scarcity hazard, risk, and adaptation mapping and tailor them to the specific context of British Columbia.

Project scope

1. Literature Review and Best Practices Cataloging:
Timeline: May 1 - May 31
Conduct an intensive literature review focusing on local, national, and global case studies related to water scarcity mapping. Begin cataloging best practices during this period.

2. Support Key Actor Engagement:
Timeline: May 31 - July 31
Support outreach to key actors in water scarcity mapping, including research organizations, non-profit groups, and the private sector. Schedule and conduct one-on-one interviews. Gather diverse perspectives for inclusion in the case study report.

3. Case Study Research and Compilation:
Timeline: June 16 - July 15
Deepen research into specific case studies. Extract key insights, methodologies, and lessons learned. Compile findings into a draft comprehensive case study report.

4. Report Refinement and Finalization:
Timeline: July 15 - August 15
Review and refine the case study report, with feedback from the Fraser Basin Council, EMCR, and key actors interviewed. Finalize the report, ensuring it is comprehensive and well-structured.

Deliverables

A comprehensive Case Study Report

- This report will encapsulate the project's objectives, background, research methodologies, findings, in-depth analysis, and recommendations for best practices to include in the guidance framework. It will serve as a comprehensive resource for communities, providing insights into effective water scarcity hazard, risk, and adaptation mapping strategies.
- This report will be formatted and submitted for inclusion in the online public-facing Scholars Project Library. This entry will serve as a valuable resource accessible to a wider audience interested in water scarcity mapping and related sustainability initiatives.

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project will be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2024.
- The Scholar 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
☒ Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
☒ Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
☒ Community engagement experience
☒ Strong analytical skills
☒ Ability to work independently
☒ Deadline oriented
☒ Project management and organizational skills
☒ Knowledge of climate change, drought, and water scarcity is an asset

Additional project requirements.

The scholar will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement to access proprietary information.

Additional information potential candidates should know:

The scholar will have the opportunity to work closely with key actors in water scarcity mapping, enhancing their understanding of real-world applications of sustainability and climate action initiatives.

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 28, 2024**
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, 2024. 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