

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: Identifying “essential” food supplies for climate resilience

Project Background & Overview:

Supply chain disruptions during recent events such as COVID, the 2021 atmospheric river, the avian influenza outbreak, and the recent drought have exposed many vulnerabilities to provincial food security. Many of which are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change which are projected to increase exponentially over time. These impacts are compounded in communities that are rural, remote, low-income, and/or Indigenous.

In the event of a disruption to the supply chain, it is important to ensure the supply of foods to communities, but not all foods are as essential to communities. Therefore, being able to identify essential foods and how they vary from one community to the next is an important aspect of ensuring that every person in BC has access to the food that suits their needs, not only nutritionally but also culturally.

This study is related to a larger initiative flowing from the 2022 mandate letter for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF). In this letter, the Premier directed our Minister to “work with the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to support the resilience of B.C.’s food system through an emergency preparedness strategy for food security.”

AF works closely with other provincial ministries and other levels of government (federal, provincial, and municipal), First Nations and Indigenous peoples and institutions in the civil and private sector to support the strength and resilience of BC agriculture and food.

The AF Strategic Climate Initiatives Branch is conducting Indigenous, stakeholder and public engagement on emergency preparedness for food security. To support the strategy’s outcomes, we are also commissioning various research initiatives to better understand vulnerabilities in the food supply chain. These include an assessment on the food supply chain, initiated in late 2023, and this summer 2024 Scholars project on essential foods. The deliverables of this project may inform decision-making across Provincial ministries and support related work at all levels of government, partnering with Indigenous authorities, and other institutions.

Project description

The purpose of the project is to provide an initial review of the foods that governmental agencies, regions and cultural communities outside of the lower mainland in BC identify as “essential” for continued access during climate-driven emergency events, develop one or more case studies of communities that examines the approach of one or more public institutions with local retail provisioning and provides recommendations for policy, practice and further research.

The results of this study would inform the initiative for Emergency Preparedness for Food Security by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, emergency management practices by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and related activities across ministries, such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

Project scope

The proposed project would involve the following steps:

1. Review official policies for how different levels of government (federal, provincial, local and Indigenous) define/identify essential foods and a comparative jurisdictional scan of “leading” approaches in other jurisdictions.
2. Develop three case studies in communities of BC (to be selected by the Scholar, but they should not be within the Lower Mainland) of how institutional food programs that service this region (hospitals, schools, correctional facilities, emergency relief), as well as local food providers (such as grocery stores or corner markets) identify essential foods and the extent to which essential foods are provisioned in their emergency plans/business continuity plans or through experience of past disasters.
3. Supplement the case studies as appropriate with interviews and/or surveys with institutions and retailers (and possibly businesses supplying the institutions/retailers).
4. Analysis and synthesis of the results, including recommendations for policy, practice and further research, into a report and presentation.
5. Share the results back to participating institutions and provincial policy-makers.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed for Provincial staff to review and provide feedback on prior to publishing a final report
- Original data gathered, along with analysis results and metadata for future use
- A final presentation of the results provided virtually to Provincial staff
- 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, 2024
- The Scholars is to complete their hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Knowledge of cultural diversity in BC, food systems, political science, and emergency management are all assets.
- Lived experience in one or more regional or ethnocultural food “cultures” in BC, an asset

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>