

## 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.**

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### **Project title: Policy and Best Practice Research to Inform Climate Resilient Development in Kamloops**

#### **Project background & overview**

The City of Kamloops adopted the [Community Climate Action Plan](#) (CCAP) in 2021. The CCAP features 8 Big Moves that set a course for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing climate resilience. Big Move 8: Healthy Urban Ecosystem aims to enhance and restore urban ecosystem health to improve carbon storage capacity and resilience to climate change, such as by using green infrastructure technologies that improve green space, stormwater management, urban cooling, and air quality.

The City is preparing to update relevant plans, policies, and design guidelines to align with the CCAP, Extreme Heat Response Plan, as well as emerging government regulations, including the Government of BC's new housing targets. By applying their research findings to existing City policies, guidelines, and practices, the UBC Sustainability Scholar will identify gaps, barriers, and opportunities for consideration by City staff when they undertake future policy and plan updates, with the ultimate objective of bolstering climate resilient development in Kamloops.

#### **Project description**

This project will provide foundational research to inform and prioritize future updates of the City's landscape guidelines, development permit guidelines, tree protection bylaw, and KAMPLAN: the City's Official Community Plan (OCP), among others. The research findings and recommendations will be presented to relevant municipal staff and industry partners (time permitting) for input and feedback.

#### **Project scope**

##### **Phase 1: Situational Analysis**

- Research best practices that promote climate resilience objectives in new urban development within BC and other suitable jurisdictions.

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- Review existing City policies (e.g., landscape guidelines, development permit guidelines, tree protection bylaw, and OCP) to identify opportunities to increase resilience to climate hazards.
- Depending on available time and in consultation with the project mentor, focus on analysing two or more climate hazards (e.g., extreme heat, wildfires, extreme storm events) in terms of how the City can increase resilience through the integration of measures such as green infrastructure, tree canopy initiatives, fire smarting, etc.
- Conduct interviews with relevant City staff to gather their views on the successes, challenges and opportunities for promoting climate resilience objectives in new development, and present them the research findings and preliminary analysis of opportunities for feedback.

## **Phase 2: Policy Options**

- Based on staff feedback, conduct further research to fill in any gaps and prepare a draft report of recommended policy options and other actions.
- Present draft report to relevant City staff and, time permitting, targeted external interest groups (e.g., developers, landscape architects, etc.) for input and feedback.

## **Phase 3: Reporting & Recommendations**

- Prepare a final report summarising the research and making recommendations.

## **Deliverables**

- Final report for the Scholars Program online project library (including an executive summary, recommendations, background information, methodology, research and feedback summary, glossary of terms, and citations).
- A power point presentation deck summarizing final report.

## **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 8 am and 4 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
- Public speaking and presentation skill
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills

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- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- ☒ Familiarity preparing feasibility studies

## **Additional information**

If it is feasible/desirable, a workstation is available for temporary use by the Scholar in the Climate and Sustainability office located in Kamloops.

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

Apply here: [Click here to apply](#)

Contact Karen Taylor at [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto: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>