

## 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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### > 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.

**Successful candidates are expected to attend workshops and other events in the lower mainland in person.**

#### **Project title: Advancing Flood Resilience for the Lower Mainland: Best Practices Research & Workshop Series**

##### **Project Background & Overview:**

At the beginning of one of the most important and prolific salmon rivers in the world, the lower Fraser watershed (Richmond to Hope) contains over 1,500 kilometers of important floodplain habitat inaccessible to salmon due to over 150 pieces of aging flood control infrastructure (including floodgates, pumpstations, and dikes) many of which are in poor and failing condition. These floodplains also serve as critical agricultural land under increasing development pressure for other land uses, all of which are vulnerable to increasing flood impacts caused by climate change. First Nations along the Lower Fraser are disproportionately impacted by flood and loss of salmon, with many of these communities' reserve lands at risk of flooding in any given year.

For all these reasons flood related structures and practices require much more thoughtful planning and innovative multi-benefit solutions to prepare communities for climate change impacts with very limited funding and coordination to do so. Resilient Waters has been engaging a cross sector audience across the Lower Mainland on the issue of flood resilience since 2020. As part of an ongoing workshop series, we regularly get attendance of 50-70 attendees who are eager to learn more and share their experiences in improving community, salmon, and ecosystem resilience to flooding and climate change more broadly.

This work also falls under a broader collaborative initiative called the Lower Fraser Floodplains Coalition which is working actively towards a more integrated and holistic approach to floodplain management in the Lower Mainland.

## **Project description**

With the flooding events of November 2021, it has become well understood that BC and the Lower Mainland are suffering from a lack of attention to thoughtful and proactive flood resilience techniques. With input from our cross-sector network, we have identified important issue areas to advance best practices for more ecological and climate resilient approaches to flood resilience. To help inform these efforts further we will be hosting a series of workshops to encourage information sharing and innovation around place-based flood infrastructure best practices which will run spring and summer of 2024. These workshops will invite local government staff, consultants, First Nations, academia, farm associations and other experts from across disciplines primarily from civil and geotechnical engineering and environment to share their experiences and innovate new best practices together.

These best practices workshops will focus on some o (maximum 3) of the following issue areas (to be determined at a later date, potentially with input from the student):

1. Dikes and Nature Based Diking alternatives
2. Agriculture and Flood Resilience
3. Fish-friendly Pump Stations
4. Cross-sector Collaboration
5. Eco-friendly Bank Stabilization

We are seeking a student that would help to capture and translate workshop results and do additional desktop research to support best practices proliferation on the above topics. The student will ideally be able to attend the workshops to aid their understanding, with opportunity to facilitate or take notes at table conversations. The student will also be provided with results of the workshops, other existing research, and will be asked to seek other relevant research to fill any gaps. Results will primarily be qualitative in nature, not quantitative data. Synthesizing all of the above, the student will prepare an engaging summary best practices report, and if time / skill allows produce engaging multimedia products to share with our cross-sector network to encourage adoption of best practices.

## **Project scope**

The student will primarily be responsible for:

- Reviewing existing research (literature reviews and case studies)
- Support workshop development and attend workshops if possible, as note-taker / table facilitator
- Seek additional research, including interviews or desktop research, to fill any gaps in information not captured by prior research and workshops. This could include development of a survey for workshop invitees if deemed helpful.

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- Summarize results and key messages of the workshops for a report back to our cross-sector network and workshop participants
- Where time allows, create engaging best practices multimedia for a target technical audience

We will assist the student in reviewing results and determining key best practices, and in developing them into an engaging format.

## Deliverables

- One summary report for each issue area explored
- A final report containing a summary of all work completed that would also be shared on
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

## Time Commitment

- This project will take **350** 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.

## 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
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience a plus
- Familiarity conducting focus group research and synthesizing / analyzing qualitative data
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience in developing engaging communications
- Familiarity with nature-based solutions, flood management, flood infrastructure, or related concepts (e.g., stormwater management, green infrastructure)
- Design and layout skills an asset

## Additional project requirements.

Must be located in Lower Mainland and available to attend in person workshops where possible (though most will likely be run virtually) and participate in FERC knowledge exchange events

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>