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.

> 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: Literature & policy review to inform a framework integrating nature-based solutions and restoration work on the Fraser Estuary

Project Background & Overview:
In order to meet the overall objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, countries from around the world met in December of 2022 to set a new targets. Among these targets was a Target 2 focused on restoration*: Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.*

As a significant step toward implementing conservation plans Canada entered a Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation between Canada, British Columbia, and the First Nations Leadership Council. Within the the Tripartite Framework Agreement there is a commitment from all parties to work together on habitat enhancement and restoration initiatives (including grasslands, wetlands, forests, riparian areas, and estuaries).

Following on the Tripartite Framework Agreement, British Columbia has recently released a draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework. Within the draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework there are further commitments to restoration including that

restoration is included as part of planning activities and is used strategically to improve landscape condition.

With interest in restoration growing there is a need to review and refine understanding of key concepts within restoration practice to ensure it is effectively applied to achieve biodiversity and societal wellbeing outcomes.

Project description
WWF-Canada is seeking a student to help refine our understanding of how restoration is being implemented across the Fraser River Estuary.

Project activities will include:

- A policy review of how different levels of government with jurisdiction on the Fraser River Estuary define key concepts of ecosystem restoration, such as “degraded land” “converted land” and “effective restoration,” and “offsets”
- A gray literature search of Nature Base Climate Solutions being applied across the Fraser River Delta and an analysis of how those projects may fit on the restoration continuum.
- Based on the literature review and in consultation with the mentor develop a set of interview questions
- Conduct a series of 5 to 10 expert interviews with Fraser Estuary stakeholders and academics working in this region on how restoration activities are contributing to Nature Based Climate Solutions
- Based on the interviews and research, summarise and analyse the findings

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library.
- An online presentation to restoration practitioners and manager describing methods and results.

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must 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
X Excellent research and writing skills
X Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
X Statistical analysis
X Strong analytical skills
X Ability to work independently
X Project management and organizational skills

X Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
X Experience engaging one or more sectors found on the Fraser River Estuary
X Familiarity analysing and summarising policy
X Familiarity with nature-based solutions
X Familiarity with qualitive analysis
X Experience with social analysis software such as NVIVO

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