

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: Regulatory Barriers to Nature-Based Solutions along the South Coast of B.C.

Project Background & Overview:

Living with Water is a collaborative initiative funded by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions that addresses the pressing challenges of sea level rise and increased flood risks along British Columbia's South Coast. With a diverse, multidisciplinary team, the project aims to help communities adapt to these threats. Recognizing the significance of sea level rise, which affects over 60% of the global population in coastal areas, the project seeks to expand the solution space for decision-makers, planners, and communities by providing new perspectives, resources, and decision-support tools to foster the conception and implementation of innovative and collaborative coastal flood adaptation solutions.

Living with Water prioritizes the exploration of socially and ecologically inclusive coastal environments, emphasizing the importance of coastal adaptation aligning with decolonization principles. The project acknowledges the need for a fundamental re-examination of colonial institutions and researchers' practices, including value systems, community engagement processes, governance systems, regulatory frameworks, and planning horizons. Through this re-examination, the initiative aims to amplify marginalized voices, broaden the solution space, and develop just, integrated, and cross-jurisdictional adaptation measures.

Project description

Recently, two important Nature-based Solutions (NBS) in the Fraser Estuary have begun implementation: the Boundary Bay Living Dike Project and Sturgeon Banks Sediment Enhancement Project. Because these are novel projects that are highly place-based, there are a lot of unknowns with respect to how they should be designed, regulated, implemented and monitored. For projects within the intertidal area, the sheer number of regulations and policies becomes very complex and difficult to navigate. It requires substantial capacity and additional budgets from First Nations communities and local municipalities to support the implementation of NBS, which may be a deterrent to pursue these projects.

This project will focus on the documenting these regulatory processes, including which rightsholders and stakeholders need to be involved and what barriers, and enablers are present. By systematically identifying and analyzing these regulatory factors, we can develop a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing nature-based solutions. This information is vital for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders to streamline decision-making processes, foster collaboration, and design effective policies that support the resilience and conservation of coastal ecosystems. A clear documentation of regulatory frameworks will not only facilitate the implementation of nature-based solutions but also contribute to the development of adaptive strategies, ensuring the long-term success of initiatives aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change and promoting the health of coastal environments.

The research will involve semi-structured interviews with key actors, including project managers, consultants, and staff at regulatory agencies. Findings from these interviews will be summarized in a report, as well as a series of key infographics. The report will also include a policy brief aimed at providing recommendations to streamline regulatory processes in the intertidal zone to support future NBS in coastal British Columbia.

Project scope

- Literature review of barriers and enablers of coastal nature-based solutions
- Jurisdictional scan of policies and regulations at local, provincial and federal levels
- Interviews with coastal managers, consultants, and subject experts to understand barriers to design and implementation of the Boundary Bay Living Dike and the Sturgeon Banks Sediment Enhancement Project

Deliverables

- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A policy brief with a concise summary of the findings, and suggestions/recommendations of how regulatory & policy barriers can be reduced for NBS in coastal areas in BC
- A series of infographics illustrating key findings & recommendations

Time Commitment

- This project will take **360** hours to complete

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- 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 20 to 24 hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent writing skills
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Community engagement experience
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Design and layout skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Familiarity with nature-based solutions, 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>