

## 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: Inventory UBC's climate research partnerships with Indigenous community members, collectives, and organizations in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES)**

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

Indigenous Peoples across Canada have long called for sustainable and just responses to the climate emergency. The Assembly of First Nations declared a climate emergency in 2019, which gave rise to the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (CSAP) in 2022. CSAP amplifies First Nation voices as the original caretakers of these lands, communicates priorities in climate planning, and works collaboratively to ensure the protection and stability of the Earth. In the urban context, the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) advances research on how climate change is affecting the lives of urban Indigenous people. As approximately 61% of Indigenous people living in Canada are in urban settings, understanding their experiences with climate change is incredibly important.

As part of UBC's commitments from the 2021 Climate Emergency Task Force to support Indigenous led climate action, staff and faculty in various units are exploring how UBC might better facilitate the discussions and various actions happening across the campus in service of Indigenous climate leadership. Multiple research partnerships exist and the number of initiatives is growing. Understanding how UBC partners with Indigenous community members, collectives, and organizations in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) around climate change-related research is an important step in ensuring institutional accountability and transparency to urban Indigenous people. Additionally, documenting the research partnerships on climate change also supports the implementation of the Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP), Action 31 to: "Develop a research information repository and communication portal that assists students, faculty, staff, communities, and researchers at large to access resources, information, publications and reports about Indigenous issues and knowledge."

The UBC Sustainability Hub and the UBC Learning Exchange are currently working with community partners on a collective project to make climate change research accessible to

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residents of Vancouver's DTES. The project will build the capacity of the university to understand how to share its research, and define useful research projects, while building the capacity of disproportionately impacted residents and of local organizations to advocate for climate justice policy reform and action. Making climate research accessible and useful to vulnerable communities will improve lives and increase direct participation in a just transition to a net zero world.

## Project description

The purpose of the project is to research and catalogue the current state of climate change-related research partnerships between UBC and Indigenous community members, associations, and organizations in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Specific climate research areas of interest include transportation, housing, food sovereignty, land-based and cultural teachings, building capacity to address climate change impacts, assessing the impact of climate change projects on Indigenous rights, and climate justice. However, the intersecting and cross-cutting impacts of climate change mean that emerging areas of research will also be captured. Exploratory conversations with possible Indigenous community partners have demonstrated the need for this information to be well documented and disseminated, and these conversations have highlighted a focus on understanding the *quality* of the partnerships.

## Project scope

The scope of the project includes:

- Conducting exploratory conversations with previously established partnerships to understand:
  - The usefulness of an accessible database of Indigenous-UBC partnerships on climate-change research in the DTES
  - How to assess the quality of partnerships and the researchers' methods of engagement
  - What climate change-related research topics are considered priorities
  - How/if they would like to hear about the research findings
- Conducting semi-structured interviews with representatives from organizations and associations to collect information on the breadth and quality of Indigenous-UBC partnerships around climate change research in the DTES

## Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A share-back deliverable to community partners on the findings of the work
- Database entries reflecting the breadth and depth of Indigenous-UBC partnerships on climate change research within the DTES

## Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2024

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- 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
- ☒ Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- ☒ Community engagement experience
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Demonstrated experience in community-based research
- ☒ Commitment to culturally safe, anti-oppressive, and trauma-informed approaches to research
- ☒ We welcome all candidates to apply for this position. We especially encourage applicants who have lived experience and/or knowledge of Indigenous ways of knowing and/or Indigenous culture
- ☒ Familiarity with the DTES context and culture, an asset

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>