

Summer 2025 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. The pay rate for the summer 2025 program is \$31.25/hour or \$7,812.50 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 11:59 pm on Sunday January 26, 2025.

Project title: Current and Wise Practices for Climate Risk Assessments in British Columbia

Project Background & Overview:

This project is part the Fraser Basin Council's ongoing efforts to strengthen climate resilience across British Columbia, by enhancing risk assessment frameworks that incorporate diverse regional and cultural perspectives. With mounting climate challenges, including increasing risks of extreme weather events, wildfires, and floods, the need for a coordinated approach to climate resilience has become paramount. In response, the Province of B.C. has introduced the new [Emergency and Disaster Management Act](#), which emphasizes proactive and inclusive approaches to disaster readiness and climate adaptation.

Central to these efforts is the need for robust risk assessments—critical tools for identifying vulnerabilities and guiding targeted adaptation measures. For regulated entities, such as local governments, critical infrastructure operators, public sector organizations and ministries, these assessments ensure resilient infrastructure and services. This work is also foundational to advancing reconciliation, and building relationships between First Nations and local governments, as the risk assessments provide an avenue to integrate cultural and community priorities, fostering resilience grounded in Indigenous Knowledges and stewardship practices.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, this project seeks to compile and enhance knowledge on risk assessments across sectors, including examples of wise practices from B.C. and nationally. By identifying existing practices, highlighting gaps, and documenting successful approaches, the project aims to support a unified, culturally responsive, and sustainable risk assessment framework for British Columbia.

Project description

The purpose of this project is to consolidate current knowledge and practices in climate risk assessment conducted by regulated entities and Indigenous Governing Bodies in B.C., as well as

to identify exemplary cases and wise practices. By exploring and documenting various approaches to risk assessment, the project will enhance understanding of current methodologies, promote alignment among ongoing projects, and inform future regional risk assessments. Ultimately, this work will be valuable in guiding effective, culturally responsive, and sustainable climate adaptation planning.

Project scope

The Scholar will engage in the following key activities:

1. Literature Review

Conduct a comprehensive review of existing repository of climate risk assessment frameworks and products used by and produced by regulated entities and Indigenous Governing Bodies in B.C. and in Canada.

2. Jurisdictional Scan

Examine risk assessment policies and incentives employed by other regions and jurisdictions, identifying case studies that exemplify effective practices in diverse contexts.

3. Interviews with Subject Matter Experts

Engage with experts, including representatives from First Nations, critical infrastructure operators, and public sector bodies, to gain insights into current practices, challenges, and aspirations for risk assessment in climate resilience. Recognizing the challenges of scheduling interviews over the summer, insights will also be drawn from established sources and alternative experts, such as academic scholars as needed.

4. Data Synthesis and Analysis

Analyze gathered information to determine commonalities, strengths, and gaps in current risk assessment practices across various sectors.

5. Development of Recommendations

Based on findings, provide actionable recommendations for enhancing risk assessments in B.C., ensuring that they are adaptable, inclusive, and regionally aligned.

6. Report Refinement and Finalization

Review and refine the case study report, with feedback from the Fraser Basin Council, EMCR, and key actors interviewed. Finalize the report, ensuring it is comprehensive and well-structured.

Deliverables

- **June 1:** Report outline
- **July 15:** Draft report
- **August 15:** Final report

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The Final Report will outline project objectives, background, research findings, analysis, and recommendations. This report will be archived in the online public-facing UBC Scholars Project Library.

Time Commitment

- This project will be completed between May 1 and August 15, 2025.
- The Scholar will work approximately 17-20 hours per week, totaling 250 hours, within regular business hours (9 am - 5 pm, Monday to Friday).
- Specific dates for key meetings and presentations will be scheduled based on availability.

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
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Knowledge of climate change, disaster risk reduction, and B.C.'s climate policy landscape is an asset
- Demonstrated experience in engaging with Indigenous communities and organizations is an asset

Additional information about the project

The scholar will have the opportunity to work closely with key actors in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, enhancing their understanding of real-world applications of sustainability and climate action initiatives.

Applications close at **11:59 pm Sunday January 26, 2025**

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 21, 2025. [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>