

## 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.**

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## Research to understand the disaster climate risk assessment market in BC

### Project Background & Overview

The Province's 2023 Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) mandates that local governments complete risk assessments that are developed in consultation with neighbouring First Nations, and consider climate change and equity, among other requirements. While many local governments have completed risk assessments, there is significant variability in the scope of these assessments and uncertainty as to whether they will be sufficient to meet these new legislative requirements. Additionally, a comprehensive analysis of available data has not yet been completed to better understand how many local governments may be expected to develop new or updated risk assessments, how many qualified firms may be available to support this work, and the costs associated with bringing all local governments up to a common standard of completed assessments.

This research project will be led by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and funded by the Green Communities Committee, a collaborative body of the Provincial Government and UBCM. This project aims to conduct a rigorous analysis of the market for risk assessment services, focusing on the demand among local governments, available supplier capacity, and factors that influence risk assessment cost.

### Project Description

The Sustainability Scholar engaged in this project will explore three critical aspects of the disaster climate risk assessment market in BC:

1. Demand-side analysis: Current adoption levels of risk assessments by local governments in BC, differentiating by assessment scope and geographic scale.
2. Supply-side analysis: Identifying and developing a list of firms offering risk assessment services, their expertise, and service scope.

3. **Time permitting:** If sufficient project hours remain, the scholar will also gather and analyze comparative data on the cost of risk assessments completed to date and develop current cost estimates for a range of risk assessment deliverables provided by various firms.

The resulting analysis will support GCC's broader efforts to support local governments in addressing disaster and climate risks effectively.

## **Project Scope**

1. **Demand Analysis of Risk Assessments in BC Local Governments**
  - a. Assess the scope and recency of risk assessments completed by BC local governments;
  - b. Assess how many new or additional assessments will be needed to bring all local governments to a common standard of completed risk assessment, based on different tiers of prospective assessment requirements (e.g. considers climate change, considers equity, developed in consultation with First Nations, etc.)
2. **Supply Analysis of Climate Risk Assessment Service Providers**
  - a. Identify firms operating within BC that have the experience, expertise and capacity to provide risk assessment services for local governments.
  - b. Categorize firms based on expertise (e.g., hydrological, geological, ecosystem-based assessments, etc.) and ability to manage and deliver assessments of varying project scopes.
  - c. Document firms' experience levels, potential service capacity, and methodologies in risk assessment delivery.
3. **Time permitting: Cost and Output Analysis of Climate Risk Assessments**
  - a. Collect financial data on the cost of recent risk assessments completed for BC local governments.
  - b. Review the scope of these assessments and range of assessment outputs including, for example, reports, maps and data visualizations, presentations, and actionable recommendations.
  - c. Analyze variations in cost based on assessment scope and deliverables, local government size, geographic scope, or other relevant factors.

## **Deliverables**

- **Interim Report** – Initial findings summarizing demand and supply-side data for feedback and verification.
- **Final Report** – Comprehensive analysis and recommendations on risk assessment market trends, capacity.

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- **Presentation of Findings** – A concise presentation summarizing the research for UBCM and the Green Communities Committee, and possibly other entities, with recommendations to support local government capacity building.

## Time Commitment

- **Total Hours:** 250 hours over a four-month period, from May 1 to August 31, 2025.
- **Work Schedule:** Completed during standard business hours, with flexibility in scheduling to facilitate communication with UBCM.
- **Work Model:** Primarily remote, with regular remote check-in meetings with project mentor and the option to schedule in-office days at UBCM's offices in Richmond (10551 Shellbridge Way) or Victoria (525 Government Street).

## Required/preferred Skills and Background:

- Project management and organizational skills.
- Ability to work independently.
- Strong analytical skills, particularly in quantitative data collection, information synthesis, and data analysis.
- Experience with data analysis tools such as Microsoft Excel, Tableau, Microsoft BI, or other similar programs.
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills.
- Strong writing and presentation skills for diverse audiences.
- Knowledge or experience in economic analysis and familiarity with market research methodologies, but not essential.
- Knowledge of policy and methodological approaches to risk assessment, particularly with respect to climate risk assessment, but not essential.
- Knowledge of climate change adaptation and resilience in the local government context, but not essential.

## Additional Project Considerations:

- The Scholar will be provided with a background summary with additional information pertaining to available data, project scope, and deliverables.
- The Scholar and mentor will liaise with UBCM, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to integrate any emerging information that pertains to the scope of required risk assessments required under EDMA.
- The timing of this project aims to align with, and benefit from, new risk assessment knowledge developed by a related GCC-funded project currently being undertaken to inform and support local governments disaster risk reduction activities.

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- This project should seek to draw from recent and leading examples of completed risk assessments (e.g., Surrey, Cowichan Valley RD, Kelowna, etc.)

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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 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>