

## Summer 2026 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 February 1, 2026.**

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## Project title: Scope an integrated floodplain strategy for Bridgeview–South Westminster

### Project Background

The Bridgeview–South Westminster is a low-lying floodplain area along the Fraser River in Surrey, BC, facing multiple hazards including flooding, sea level rise, seismic liquefaction, and industrial and residential land use development pressure.

As climate change intensifies, developing a resilient and integrated floodplain strategy is critical. This project contributes to climate action and sustainability by identifying best practices and actionable strategies for hazard mitigation and land use planning. The research will support long-term planning efforts and inform future infrastructure and policy decisions.

### Project description

The Scholar will conduct applied research to identify global best practices in floodplain management, focusing on industrialized regions that have transitioned to mixed land use while mitigating multiple risk from multiple hazards. An interactive timeline of how land use and flood management in the community has evolved is needed to provide context for future adaptation and change.

The project will culminate in a portfolio of precedent examples and a draft terms of reference for an integrated floodplain strategy for Bridgeview-South Westminster. The Scholar will present findings to internal City stakeholders, supporting education and feedback collection to develop a screening level review of potential risk reduction approaches. The work will be actionable by informing future planning and policy development and support community outreach and engagement.

### Project scope

- Characterize the Bridgeview – South Westminster area in terms of land use, infrastructure, hazards and development and relevant history
- Conduct literature review and jurisdictional scan of global floodplain strategies, including Squamish and Rotterdam as well as two to three other relevant precedent examples identified by the student

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- Analyze policy frameworks and hazard mitigation approaches applicable to the Bridgeview-South Westminster area such as elevated roadways, phased land fill, secondary dykes, super dykes, self closing gates and stop log structures.
- Develop a portfolio of precedent examples arising from the literature review and jurisdictional scan
- Prepare a draft terms of reference for a technical study to develop an integrated floodplain strategy
- Lead internal presentations to City engineers and planners to share findings and gather feedback.

## **Deliverables**

Summary of up to 5 relevant precedent examples of integrated floodplain strategies implemented elsewhere.

- Timeline of community history and opportunities for improved outreach on existing webpage [Fraser River Floodplain | City of Surrey](#)
- Screening level review of community wide risk reduction approaches including policy frameworks and hazard mitigation approaches applicable to the Bridgeview-South Westminster area
- Draft terms of reference for the Bridgeview floodplain strategy.
- 2 internal presentations/briefings to City staff (mid way through project and at end of project)
- Notes from meetings and discussions arising from staff briefing and any one-on-one follow up meetings that may occur
- A final internal report containing a summary of the work completed (research findings, analysis and recommendations)
- A final summary report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

## **Time Commitment**

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 14.
- The Scholar is to complete their hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.
- Mandatory meetings will be coordinated by the sponsor for internal presentations.

## **Required/preferred Skills and Background**

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability and climate resilience
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Policy analysis experience
- Ability to work independently and manage deadlines
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Project management and organizational skills
- Strong technical and drafting skills
- Demonstrated experience in urban planning, geoscience or engineering
- Familiarity preparing feasibility studies

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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 19, 2026.  
[Click here for details and to register.](#)

Below are some links to useful resources to help you with your resume, cover letter and preparing for an interview (there are many more online).

<https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>