

Sustainability Catalyst Internship Program

Graduate Student Opportunity: Summer 2026

The Sustainability Catalyst Internship Program offers University of Toronto graduate students paid opportunities to work with partners on real-world sustainability solutions faced by their organizations. The internships run part-time from May to September and are managed by the President's Advisory Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability (CECCS) for students in the Greater Toronto Area. Students will move through the internship as a cohort and will receive career development and project management support from a dedicated mentor within the partner organization, as well as from the CECCS Sustainability Catalyst Project Manager.

The pay rate for the summer 2026 program is \$31.10/hour for a 250-hour project. Internships are open to all graduate students enrolled in a full-time program in the 2025-2026 academic year at U of T. This is a non-appointed role with the University of Toronto.

Visit sustainability.utoronto.ca/catalyst to learn how the program works and be sure to confirm your eligibility before applying.

Applications close at 11:59 PM on Sunday March 1, 2026.

Project Title: *Mapping the Future: Indigenous-Led GIS for Sustainable Energy and Land-Use Planning (CLNx Job ID: 262698)*

Organization: Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation via Minogi Corp

Work Location: Remote

Work term:

This is a 250-hour position. The intern is expected to work an average of 15 hours per week between May 1 and August 31, 2026 with core office hours from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday. The schedule will be flexible depending on the student's availability.

Project Description:

This project will support MSIFN in building an Indigenous-controlled geospatial database to inform cumulative effects and sustainability analysis in one of the most intensively developed regions in Canada: the northern shore of Lake Ontario within the Gunshot Treaty territory. This area is experiencing overlapping pressures from energy, transmission, natural gas, highways, aggregate extraction, and urban expansion, yet

decision-making is often based on fragmented or outdated spatial information that fails to reflect Indigenous land use, ecological values, and Treaty rights.

The intern will collect, organize, and standardize GIS data layers related to energy infrastructure, project footprints, land use, wetlands, waterways, species at risk, and known or potential Indigenous land use. These datasets will directly support MSIFN's Consultation Department in ongoing and future cumulative effects assessments, regulatory submissions, and strategic planning.

The resulting GIS products will be used in active consultation and energy files to identify cumulative environmental pressures, rights-based risks, and priority areas for protection and stewardship. This project advances UN Sustainable Development Goals 7 (Clean Energy), 11 (Sustainable Communities), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), and 16 (Strong Institutions) by strengthening Indigenous-led, data-driven sustainability governance.

Project Activities & Deliverables:

- Curated, standardized Indigenous-controlled GIS geodatabase for the Gunshot Treaty area (northern shore of Lake Ontario)
- Set of internal digital maps to support cumulative effects analysis within MSIFN's Consultation Department
- Spatial datasets covering: Energy and infrastructure projects; Project footprints and disturbance areas; Land use and land cover; Wetlands and waterways; Species at risk and ecological values; Known and potential Indigenous land use and cultural values
- GIS data structured for direct use in: Active consultation files; Regulatory and environmental reviews; Strategic and long-term planning

Required Skills

- Demonstrated research and writing skills
- Strong analytical skills
- GIS Mapping

Preferred Background and Skills

- Academic training in geography, environmental studies, sustainability, planning, or Indigenous studies, with hands-on experience using GIS or spatial data in applied research settings
- Coursework in environmental governance, Indigenous-Crown relations, Treaty rights, or community-based research, particularly in relation to Indigenous consultation and cumulative effects assessment in the energy sector
- Familiarity with environmental or infrastructure datasets, regulatory filings, or land-use planning as an asset
- Comfort working with complex, real-world data and thinking critically about how maps and spatial information are used in decision-making
- Respect for Indigenous perspectives on land, water, and sustainability, along with curiosity, cultural awareness, and a willingness to learn in an Indigenous-led workplace

Sustainability Catalyst Internship Program Requirements:

- Students are enrolled in a full-time graduate program at U of T in the 2025-2026 academic year
- Students are in good academic standing and not on academic probation
- Students are legally entitled to work in Canada and will be residing within the Greater Toronto Area during the internship
- Students have confirmed their eligibility to work the required hours by checking the guidelines of any graduate student funding they hold. It is the award recipient's responsibility to comply with the rules and regulations of their award(s).

Application Procedure:

- Students may apply to as many positions as they meet the qualifications for but **must submit a separate application for each project** unless otherwise specified on the application procedure.
- Each application must include a cover letter outlining why this internship is of interest, and a resume highlighting relevant skills and experience
- Applications must be submitted through the [U of T Career & Co-Curricular Learning Network \(CLNx\)](#) by 11:59 PM on March 1, 2026. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Early applications are encouraged.
- If students are applying for more than one Sustainability Catalyst Internship position, [this internship project ranking form](#) must also be completed by March 1.

Early applications submitted between February 20-28 (after our Job Applications Workshop) will be reviewed on a rolling basis and are encouraged. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Resources:

CECCS and U of T Career Exploration & Education invite prospective Catalyst intern applicants to participate in the following workshops. While strongly encouraged, participation in the workshops is not a requirement to apply:

- **Thursday, February 19, 3:00-4:30 PM - Job Applications Workshop & Internship Q&A (online).** This workshop will provide tips on how to highlight relevant skills and experience and tailor applications to the position(s) you are applying for, as well as an opportunity to ask questions about the Sustainability Catalyst Internship Program with the Project Manager. [Please register for the Job Applications workshop here.](#)
- **Tue March 10, 3:00-4:30 PM – Job Interviews Workshop (online).** This workshop will provide students with the opportunity to practice their interview skills and prepare for the internship roles they have applied to. [Please register for the Job Interviews Workshop here.](#)

Diversity Statement

The University of Toronto embraces Diversity and is building a culture of belonging that increases our capacity to effectively address and serve the interests of our global community. We strongly encourage applications from Indigenous Peoples, Black and racialized persons, women, persons with disabilities, and people of diverse sexual and gender identities. We value applicants who have demonstrated a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion and recognize that diverse perspectives, experiences, and expertise are essential to strengthening our academic mission.

Accessibility Statement

The University strives to be an equitable and inclusive community, and proactively seeks to increase diversity among its community members. Our values regarding equity and diversity are linked with our unwavering commitment to excellence in the pursuit of our academic mission.

The University is committed to the principles of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). As such, we strive to make our recruitment, assessment and selection processes as accessible as possible and provide accommodations as required for applicants with disabilities. If you require any accommodations at any point during the application and hiring process, please contact uoft.careers@utoronto.ca.