

Sustainability Catalyst Internship Program

Graduate student opportunity: Summer 2025

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 2025 program is \$32.31/hour for a 250-hour project. Internships are open to all graduate students enrolled in a full-time program in the 2024-2025 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 30, 2025.

Project Title: *Financing Municipal Climate Solutions*

Organization: City of Toronto - Environment, Climate & Forestry Division

Work Location: Hybrid – remote and onsite at Union Station, 65 Front Street, Toronto

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 29, 2025 with core office hours from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday, or as agreed upon between the intern and their project mentor. The intern will be expected to attend regular in-person meetings and assignments as determined by their project mentor.

Project Description:

One of the biggest challenges facing every city working to reduce emissions and climate risk is how to pay for it. While many climate actions ultimately pay for themselves, directly (e.g. through lower lifetime costs) or indirectly (e.g. a reduced public health burden), securing upfront capital and developing the financial structures needed to deliver climate projects are hurdles for cities in every context.

Toronto has already exhibited success in mainstreaming a healthy portion of funding approved climate actions via the City's formal Annual Budget Process – [Toronto's Carbon Budget](#) – however, revenue

generation and outside investing has not been a focus in the equation of sustainable financing for climate actions. Growing an effective pipeline structure of projects that optimize early collaboration and or innovative financial instruments to unlock private funding opportunities, articulating the clear links between the City's credit worthiness and disclosures to build investor confidence, as well as other financial tools at the taxation level that may be available to the City have not been fully explored.

Project Scope:

This project will undertake a full jurisdictional scan of North American cities and select European cities to provide a full scope of financing possibilities and assess whether these possibilities can be mapped through the current internal mechanisms of the City of Toronto administrative structure.

Project Deliverables:

- White paper on "Opportunities for Financing Toronto's Net Zero Future" which will help to guide near term interdivisional policy discussion
- Process map (or critical path) of pathways to financing climate action at different scales of investments and intended outcomes

Expected Activities:

- Literature Review, Jurisdictional Scan
- Interviews with cities (C40 cities in North America, Europe); interviews with Matchmaker program through CDP
- Internal interviews with City staff from Capital Markets, Financial Accounting, Environment, Climate and Forestry
- Process Mapping
- Risk and Dependency Discussion

Preferred Background and Skills:

- Academic background in Finance, Economics, Business Administration, Municipal Governance
- Demonstrated research and writing skills
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Strong analytical skills
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Familiarity preparing feasibility studies
- Experience with financial modelling and analysis

Sustainability Catalyst Internship Program Requirements:

- Students are enrolled in a full-time graduate program at U of T in the 2024-2025 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:

Applicants should email their cover letter explaining why this internship is of interest to them, and their resume highlighting relevant skills and experience, as a single PDF document to keagan.urbanowicz@utoronto.ca no later than 11:59 PM on March 30, 2025, noting the project title in the email subject line. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Early applications are encouraged.

If you are applying for more than one Sustainability Catalyst Internship position, you must also [fill out this internship project ranking form](#) by the application deadline to indicate your preferred projects.

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.

Resources:

CECCS and U of T Career Exploration & Education invite prospective Catalyst intern applicants to participate in the following workshops (participation in the workshops is not a requirement to apply):

- **Friday March 21, 1:00-2:30 PM - Job Applications Workshop** (online). This workshop will provide students with tips on how to highlight relevant skills and experience and tailor your application to the

position(s) you are applying for. [Please register for the March 21 Job Applications workshop here](#)

- **Monday April 7, 12:00-1:30 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 April 7 Interview Workshop here](#).