

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: Promising Practices: Placemaking in Floodplains

Organization: [880 Cities](#)

Work Location: Hybrid - remote and onsite at 401 Richmond St W Studio 364, Toronto, ON M5V 3A8

Work term:

This is a 250-hour position. The intern is expected to work an average of 20 hours per week between June 2 and August 29, 2025, with core office hours from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

Project Description:

880 TowerPOPS: Transforming Underused Spaces to Support Health Equity in Tower Neighbourhoods, is a 3-year multi-disciplinary project led by 880 Cities. The project aims to activate underused spaces in close proximity to large clusters of high-density apartment towers to improve physical health outcomes for the community. 880 Cities is working in two underserved neighbourhoods: 1) Rockcliffe Smythe, Toronto and 2) Cooksville, Mississauga and have identified the two sites we will be working in to transform into vibrant community hubs of social connection and physical activity. These two neighbourhoods are also on floodplains and have experienced a high risk for flooding.

Project Activities and Deliverables

The intern will produce a report that identifies specific opportunities, constraints, and considerations for placemaking in floodplains.

As part of this project, compiling the report will include:

- Researching and analyzing case studies and existing good practices internationally
- Making practical recommendations and application for our two neighbourhoods for our 8 80 TowerPOPS initiative
- Community-engaged research with stakeholder interviews and focus groups
- Creation of a visually appealing, practical guide that can support our 8 80 TowerPOPS project as well as inform the development of a national playbook for placemaking in tower communities

Preferred Background and Skills:

- Demonstrated research and writing skills
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Graphic design capabilities or familiarity with WordPress or other website content tools
- Familiarity and experience working with vulnerable populations

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 including 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.

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.](#)

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 hruniversityoperations@utoronto.ca.