



# Dean of Science Scholarships

## Recognizing top students, advancing their futures

Every year, the Dean of Science Scholarships recognize a number of outstanding students from across UBC's wide range of science disciplines with achievement awards.

The scholarships, which are funded by generous donors, can make a significant difference in our students' educational and professional journeys.

A hallmark of excellence, the scholarships set students apart, opening the door to future opportunities as they follow their academic and career aspirations. Prospective employers and graduate schools look more favourably on applicants whose curriculum vitae include that they are recipients of the Dean of Science Scholarships. The

awards also provide financial relief for many students, alleviating pressures, such as tuition fees and the high cost of living, so they can focus more on their studies.

Since the scholarships were established in 1996, a growing community of donors has committed to supporting the success of our students. To date:

- **1,190 scholarships** have been awarded
- **\$600,000+** has been disbursed to award recipients

Many scholarship recipients go on to earn graduate degrees, launch successful careers and lead research to help advance healthy lives, create solutions for the planet and shape thriving societies.

# Our scholarship recipients

Recipients of the Dean of Science Scholarships are selected based on academic excellence. They are given to exceptionally high-achieving students in their first, second or third year, and non-graduating fourth-year students.

The scholarships, whose award amount varies, aim to recognize as many top students as possible so they may benefit from the financial boost, motivation and confidence that this pivotal acknowledgement provides.

Our scholarship recipients represent the most promising talent across UBC's science disciplines (many of which are top-ranked in Canada and among the best globally) including:

- Biology
- Botany
- Chemistry
- Computer science
- Earth, ocean and atmospheric sciences
- Integrated sciences
- Mathematics
- Microbiology and immunology
- Physics and astronomy
- Statistics
- Zoology



"Through the prestigious Dean of Science Scholarships, we not only recognize our top scholars, but also inspire and help cultivate their promising futures as the leaders, researchers and innovators our planet needs."

**- Dr. Mark MacLachlan**

Dean, Faculty of Science

University of British Columbia

## Success stories: scholarship recipients are making an impact

Many students who receive the Dean of Science Scholarships are now making a positive impact through fulfilling careers.

### Olivia Bulka

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Toronto

BSc '18 (Microbiology and Immunology)

"Since graduating from UBC, I've dedicated my PhD to studying bacteria that can degrade groundwater contaminants. We focus on training these microbial communities to break down specific chemicals that were originally used in industrial processes, refrigeration and dry cleaning. Unfortunately, improper disposal, leaks and spills have led to widespread groundwater pollution from these chemicals. To combat this problem, we collaborate with industrial partners to scale up our microbial communities and apply them to contaminated field sites. It's rewarding to see the bacteria we research actively working to remediate polluted sites both in Canada and around the world."

### Kasra Kamal

Firmware Engineer, Microsoft

BSc '22 (Computer Science)

"Receiving the scholarship affirmed my hard work, allowed me to engage in learning opportunities, and boosted my confidence and drive—ultimately shaping my academic and professional success beyond university. Today I work as an engineer at Microsoft where I work on the design and verification of innovative hardware and software solutions to enhance user experience and productivity. My work contributes to creating cutting-edge technology that empowers people worldwide, making their daily tasks easier and more efficient."

### Catherine Neish

Associate Professor, Earth Sciences, Western University

BSc '04 (Physics and Astronomy)

"UBC helped me achieve a high-quality degree in my area of interest without incurring student debt, giving me financial stability for my graduate studies. Now as an associate professor of Earth sciences specializing in planetary geology, I work with a diverse group of students to pursue their scientific passions, interest them in scientific research and provide them with the tools they need to be successful in their future careers."







Photo credit: O. Vasik



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