The Edge of Extraordinary
Transformations emerge first at the edges. Creativity and breakthroughs come naturally here. Unexpected and remarkable vantage points take you beyond the safe and predictable to wholly new possibilities. This is where dynamic learning and vital impact meet. This is Canada’s most extraordinary environment for discovery and innovation.
Dynamic learning

The world is interconnected and ever-evolving. Learning should be too. Here, every student is immersed in dynamic learning that’s fuelled by research-inspired insights and personal, hands-on experiences.
Reshaping tomorrow’s classrooms

Working together in small groups with guidance from Indigenous instructors and community partners, UVic education students—tomorrow’s teachers—learn to make course experiences more meaningful for Indigenous learners as they discover how to shape welcome posts, canoes, blankets and other Indigenous arts.

Some work with remote communities in field schools; others tackle international innovation challenges or collaborate on ground-breaking research. When students engage directly in problem-solving, the interplay of ideas and action gives them a powerful edge of career-relevant expertise and personal growth.
Dynamic learning is not just about finding answers. It’s also about being inspired by research to ask different questions. What if... we “listen” to proteins to find disease? Reimagine services for the homeless? Use intergenerational theatre to rebuild communities in tsunami-ravaged India?

“What if?" — learning two small words can change everything.
Vital Impact

Essential, life sustaining—that’s the kind of vital impact that defines us. That’s our commitment to the urgent issues that matter to people, places and the planet.

Catching the wave

Mechanical engineer Brad Buckham leads an international research network which aims to harness the energy of the ocean.
When earthquakes happen, seconds count. Which is why new software and subsea sensor technology developed by UVic’s Ocean Networks Canada—which operates the world’s most advanced ocean observatories—will give disaster responders, utilities and coastal communities more time to save lives and mitigate damage from tectonic shifts and tsunamis.

More time to save lives

Sustainability, healthy societies, social justice, jobs and a strong economy are at the core of our commitment to meaningful change. From inner cities to undersea frontiers, we’re a hub of research collaborations and transformational technological advances.
Vital impact is life-changing for people—transforming disabilities, conquering diseases and supporting the development of strong evidence-based public policies. And it’s vital to life, from probing atomic particles to molecular tracking of environmental contaminants, improving the lives of people affected by homelessness, and mapping critical eco-resources.

Warning signals
Biochemist Caren Helbing uses molecular tools to assess how environmental contaminants affect animals such as frogs, fish and seals. Her work is essential for identifying dangerous chemicals in the environment and designing better drugs for treating diseases such as cancer.

Big science
To see the tiniest things in the universe you have to think big, very big. UVic physicists are partners in the world’s biggest science experiment, and helped to design and build the ATLAS detector in the massive Large Hadron Collider near Geneva.

Changing lives
Ten-year-old Morgan is one of thousands of people with disabilities whose lives have been enhanced by the ingenuity of UVic’s CanAssist program. Working with community partners, CanAssist researchers—including hundreds of students—develop customized technologies and programs for people across the disability spectrum.

Street smarts
“Everyone deserves a home and as a community we all have a role to play in making that happen,” says Bernie Pauly, a registered nurse and community-based researcher with UVic’s Centre for Addictions Research of BC. Pauly and colleagues work closely with community agencies to improve the lives of people affected by homelessness, poverty and substance use.
Place matters. Our Pacific Rim location breeds a profound passion for exploration. Defined by its edges, this extraordinary environment inspires us to defy boundaries, discover, and innovate in exciting ways.

**Extraordinary academic environment**

**Diving into research**

Graduate earth and ocean sciences student Kristen Kanes started out in early biology classes doing field work in UVic’s Mystic Vale. She now works for Ocean Networks Canada, analyzing acoustic data from whales.
Unlocking histories

Working alongside Indigenous communities and tech giant Google, anthropologist Brian Thom and UVic graduate students are helping map and preserve Indigenous place names in BC—bringing new light to age-old Indigenous practices and establishing histories that have new property implications as well.

Living and working in one of the world’s most environmentally rich regions inspires us to learn from its stories and safeguard its integrity. Strong personal relationships are an essential ingredient of a vibrant learning community.
From campus to commerce
What happens to great student and faculty ideas that spring to life on the UVic campus? From start-up support at the Gustavson School of Business-based Innovation Centre for Entrepreneurs all the way to housing budding enterprises at the UVic-owned Vancouver Island Technology Park, UVic helps drive ideas from campus to commerce, bringing viable, valuable products to market.

Energizing green innovation
Engineers at Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic)—UVic’s hub for sustainable energy innovations—are among Canada’s top researchers. Putting their heads together with China’s green energy innovators at the biennial China-Canada Clean Energy Workshop has generated important progress on science-based solutions to climate change and training future clean energy leaders.

Our size and structure nurture rich personal connections on campus and dynamic community, cultural and business networks beyond. Collaborations with vanguard researchers and organizations around the globe ensure we’re on the leading edge of critical knowledge and inspired solutions.

Cultivating service
Three clinical legal programs enrich the learning environment for law students, making UVic the most experientially engaged law school in Canada. These include environmental and business law clinics, a vigorous co-op program, volunteer placements, and a community-access law centre which helps almost 2,000 clients each year.

Making their mark
UVic’s Maker Lab blends humanities research with collaborative makerspace. Faculty and graduate students—inspired by experimental art, interaction design and D.I.Y. culture—build projects using 3D printing, data modelling, programming, circuit design, new media production and more. One recent example is a completely reinvented Victorian stick pin as part of a “box anthology” (culture kit) project.
Global research hub. UVic ranks #173 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings elite Top 200 list. Eight Canadian universities made the list, with UVic the only Canadian comprehensive university to do so.

Preparing students for success. UVic students have a 94% employment rate two years after graduation.

Potting learning in motion. UVic has one of Canada’s largest university co-operative education programs, integrating academics, studies with relevant paid work experience in more than 40 academic areas.

Leadership that crosses all fields. The 2014 QS World University Rankings by Subject place UVic in the top 200 institutions globally for research in six subject areas: English language and literature (top 100), earth and marine sciences, geography, law, physics and astronomy, and psychology. QS also ranked UVic for world-class performance and subject-specific leadership in 16 additional fields.

Accelerating research output. Between 2002 and 2013, sponsored research at UVic more than tripled to over $120 million annually.

Transforming Indigenous education. More than 1,200 Indigenous students—including more than 200 graduate students—choose UVic for their studies. UVic’s commitment to Indigenous education has led to a tenfold increase in the number of Indigenous students on campus over the past 15 years.

Putting learning in motion. UVic has one of Canada’s largest university co-operative education programs, integrating academics, studies with relevant paid work experience in more than 40 academic areas.

Driving Canadian prosperity. UVic operations induce $3.2 billion in annual economic activity—including direct and indirect expenditures such as salaries and benefits, spin-off companies, patents and licenses, student and visitor spending, taxes and the effects of an educated workforce. University research and technology innovation accounts for $994 million of that effect.

An international perspective and global opportunities. UVic has 3,775 international students from 118 countries and MOUs in 60 countries.

1 in 3 undergraduates participate in co-op in the global top 200

94% employment rate

$120 million

1,000 Indigenous students

$3.2 billion

It’s different here, naturally and by design. We live, learn, work and explore on the edge of what’s next—for our planet and its peoples. Our commitment to research-inspired dynamic learning and vital impact make this Canada’s most extraordinary environment for discovery and innovation. Experience the edge of possibilities for yourself.