

The Edge of Extraordinary



University
of Victoria

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.





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.

Dynamic learning

Touching history

Undergrad anthropology student Arielle Hofmeister-Bullick worked for a term in UVic's animal bone lab, learning from senior lab instructor Becky Wigen.

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.

A photograph showing a group of approximately 20 students of various ages and ethnicities gathered around a large, light-colored wooden canoe. They are all focused on working on the canoe together, with their hands visible as they sand or paint it. The setting appears to be a workshop or classroom with a white tent-like background. The students are dressed casually, with some wearing hats and sunglasses. The overall atmosphere is one of teamwork and shared purpose.

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.

Nano-innovation

In Reuven Gordon's Nanoplasmonics Research Lab, grad students use nano-optical tweezers to explore nanoparticles, viruses and protein dynamics—a field that's about to change the pace of drug discovery for diseases such as cystic fibrosis and cancer.

Moving experiences

Kinesiology student Breezy Beaudry pushed new technology to the edge during an international co-op placement with Biometrics France—testing the capabilities of a combined 3D-motion electroencephalography (EEG) and electromyography (EMG) system through active experimentation.



Post-tsunami cultural healing

Led by PhD candidate Matthew Gusul, 14 theatre students created a community-building applied theatre program for seniors and youth in India who were displaced by the 2006 tsunami. The team is also training new Indian theatre directors.



Menu for change

At Our Place, an organization which supports the homeless and the marginally housed, students from the Gustavson School of Business analyzed and recommended improvements for the agency's food services program that serves up to 1,500 meals per day.





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.

Vital Impact

Catching the wave

Mechanical engineer Brad Buckham leads an international research network which aims to harness the energy of the ocean.



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.

More time to save lives

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.

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.

A photograph showing two men working on a large map spread out on a wooden picnic table. The man on the left, wearing glasses and a dark jacket, is smiling and looking at the map. The man on the right, wearing a cap and a red plaid shirt, is also smiling and looking at the map. A laptop and a camera are visible on the table next to the map.

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.

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.

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.



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.



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.



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 bi-annual China-Canada Clean Energy Workshop has generated important progress on science-based solutions to climate change and training future clean energy leaders.

Among the world's top universities. 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.

The only Canadian university of its size to make the Top 200 list

A global research hub. UVic has a higher proportion of published research based on international collaborations than any other Canadian university (2013 and 2014 Leiden university rankings).



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

94%
employment rate

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

1 in 3
undergraduates
participate in co-op

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.

In the global top
200

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

\$120
million

Transforming Indigenous education. More than 1,000 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.

1,000
Indigenous students

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.

\$3.2
billion

An international perspective and global opportunities. UVic has **3,775** international students from **118** countries and MOU's in **60** countries.

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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.

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