We acknowledge and respect the Lkwungen peoples on whose unceded traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.
The MSWF Student Program Guide is an essential tool for students admitted to our MSW Foundation program in September 2021. This guide contains program requirements, important contact information, university policies, and guidelines for program planning. Admitted students are responsible for keeping abreast of changes in program requirements and processes. Updated copies of this handbook can be found on our website.

If you are interested in the MSW Advanced or MSW Indigenous Specialization, please see the appropriate program guide and website for the most up to date information.

MISSION STATEMENT

We recognize the impact of ongoing colonialism in lands currently known as Canada and the ongoing commitment to advancing practices of racial equity and decolonization within our School, the university, and with our community partners more broadly. We utilize an intersectional, decolonial equity, and anti-racist approach to advancing teaching, learning, scholarship, research, service, and community activism. In this, our mission is that our School leadership will reflect decolonial-equity values in all that we do as scholars and learners.

Our vision is that “who and how” we are as a School will contribute to socially-just practices by confronting barriers and transforming dominant systems to create opportunities for access and meaningful participation in our communities and society. Our vision is that when students complete their studies with us, that their learning of social justice and decolonial equity practices will strengthen and enhance lives of children, families, and communities.

ACCREDITATION

The MSW Indigenous Specialization, MSW Foundation, and MSW Advanced programs all lead to a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree that is fully accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE). The last accreditation review was in 2017. For further information on the CASWE and on the accreditation process visit the CASWE website.

MSWF PROGRAM

MSW Foundation (MSWF) students bring diverse history, knowledge, and experience to the School. Students are challenged to further existing knowledge and skills within the context of social justice as a core element of practice. Significant related work experiences and a variety of undergraduate degrees provide a rich learning environment. Students engage in a curriculum that is under continual redevelopment as we strive together to meet the challenges set by the School’s Mission Statement and
the Program Objectives. Students are encouraged to incorporate their particular interests in course assignments and in their practicums or thesis.

THE MSWF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Develop critical self-reflection and critical analysis of social work from a variety of difference-centered theories, particularly Indigenous, critical race, post structural and feminist approaches;
- Build on students’ experience and understanding of the political conditions and contexts of social work practice and social policy;
- Cultivate practice approaches for working across difference; and
- Conceptualize and critique their critical social work practice framework.
- Building skills and knowledge for socially just social work practice in the context of colonization, transnationalism, neoliberalism and Indigenous resurgence;
- Promoting and enhancing skills and knowledge for socially just social work practice through the integration of students’ own experiences and critical engagement with and analysis of social work knowledge and practice;
- Advancing transformative knowledge and practice through the interrogation of dominant social work histories, structures, theories and actions;
- Developing skills for critical, anti-oppressive, anti-racist and decolonizing knowledge production, application, evaluation and the articulation of new understandings to theorize practice;
- Centering Indigenous social work knowledges and practices and research by Indigenous peoples;
- Cultivating critical reflexivity to account for and address the impact of identity, positionality and intersectionality on social work knowledge and practice;
- Engaging in collaborative and decolonizing relationships; and
- Developing skills for critical, anti-oppressive and decolonizing social policy analysis.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

GRADUATE PROGRAM ASSISTANT
Lucas Baird E-mail: swgrad@uvic.ca
Phone: 250-472-5622 Office: HSD B302

ADMISSIONS & ACADEMIC SUPPORT COORDINATOR
Saeed Sheshehgar E-mail: mswadvise@uvic.ca

GRADUATE ADVISOR
Dr. Bruce Wallace E-mail: mswfacultyadvisor@uvic.ca

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
School of Social Work, University of Victoria Phone: 250 721-8036
PO Box 1700 STN CSC Fax: 250 721-6228
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2 Website: http://socialwork.uvic.ca/
GRADUATE ADMISSIONS & RECORDS (GARO)

GARO provides administrative support to the student and the School of Social Work. This support begins at the time of application and continues through your program in the form of transcripts, grades and grade changes, registration, and convocation. Contact GARO directly for information about your official or unofficial UVic transcript. You can view your unofficial transcript at any time on your Online Tools.

GARO CLERK:
E-mail: grad6@uvic.ca
Phone: 250-472-5224
Fax: 250-472-5420
Website: https://www.uvic.ca/graduate/

MAILING ADDRESS:
Graduate Admissions and Records
University of Victoria
PO Box 3025 STN CSC
Victoria, BC V8W 3P2

THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES (FGS)

FGS governs the administrative portion of your program. Although your academic unit is the School of Social Work, FGS is the home faculty for all UVic graduate students. Any appeals, challenges, requests or issues that you may encounter during your MSW go through this office, with outcomes determined by the Dean or Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. FGS also handles paperwork for oral defense of theses. All graduate students are governed by FGS policies and regulations in addition to School of Social Work policies and regulations. Students are encouraged to review relevant FGS policies and regulations on the FGS website.

FGS CLERK:
E-mail: fgs@uvic.ca
Website: http://www.uvic.ca/gradstudies/
FGS Important Forms: https://www.uvic.ca/graduestudies/forms-policies/index.php

MAILING ADDRESS:
Faculty of Graduate Studies
University of Victoria
PO Box 3025 STN CSC
Victoria, BC V8W 3P2
We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Welcome to the School of Social Work on behalf of the faculty and staff. Please review the “welcome to WS’ANEC’ territory” by Sencoten teacher John Elliot on our website.

Throughout your studies in our school, we will continue to recognize diverse knowledges about territories and identities. As is in many different protocols, and in Anti Oppressive or Social Justice work – our practice is to continue to welcome Indigenous students, racialized students, students with diverse abilities and students from diverse sexual orientations. We extend a welcome to students whose country of origin is not Canada. We want to welcome and recognize our non Indigenous students who reside in this territory, or are from somewhere in Turtle Island. As faculty and staff, we seek to recognize the diversity of history, knowledge and experience that you bring to the School.

You are joining a school with a strong sense of mission: a commitment to social justice and anti-racist, anti-colonialist and anti-oppressive social work practice. The School’s curriculum is under continual redevelopment as we strive to meet the challenges we have set for ourselves in the Mission Statement and to recognize the diversity of our student body. Responding to the complexity of our students’ lives and need for many outside of Victoria to live and work in home communities, we are committed to a flexible, accessible delivery of our courses. We encourage you to pursue your particular social work practice and policy interests through incorporating those interests in your course assignments and in your choice of practicum or thesis to complete your graduate work with us.

This program guide may answer some of your questions, anticipate some difficulties and direct you to who has more information. It is primarily an administrative guide to help you through the maze of rules and procedures. The School encourages all students to be independent learners, to care about your own well-being as practitioners, and to view your degree as only one step in your ongoing professional development. Remember, as you begin this step of your journey: stay as healthy as you can, be generous with yourself and others and keep your humour. Learning happens best when there is balance.

I am pleased to be able to welcome you and wish you well in your studies with us.

Dr. Donna Jeffery (she/her/hers)
Acting Director/Professor
School of Social Work
Students are responsible for their own registration. Registration time tickets are distributed by the Registrar’s Office to admitted students’ preferred email addresses. You should register at your allotted time to ensure that you can access all required courses. More information about registration can be found in the MSWF Program Guide. In June, you will be asked to register for both September and January terms. The School of Social Work is not responsible for students who have missed their registration times or who are unable to access all required courses because of delayed registration. The most up-to-date program flow is available here.

- Students are required to complete 31.5 units to obtain their MSW degree (this includes both thesis and course-based options). 16.5 units are taken in the first calendar year of the Foundation program and the remaining 15.0 units are taken after transfer from the MSWF program into either the MSWA or MSWI program.

**Part-time status:** one course per term  
**Full-time status:** two or more courses per term

**On-Campus Courses:** OC  
**Distance Education Courses:** DE

### FOUNDATION YEAR

#### FALL 2023
- SOCW 551: INDIGENOUS SOCIAL WORK FOUNDATIONS (OC)  
  (1.5 units)
- SOCW 547: HISTORICIZING SOCIAL WORK (OC)  
  (1.5 units)
- SOCW 542: ANTI-RACIST PRACTICE (OC)  
  (1.5 units)

#### WINTER 2024
- SOCW 554: INDIGENOUS POLICY AND PRACTICE (OC)  
  (1.5 units)
- SOCW 549: RESEARCH FOUNDATIONS (OC)  
  (1.5 units)
- SOCW 544: SOCIAL WORK, THE STATE AND CITIZENSHIP (OC)  
  (1.5 units)

#### SUMMER 2024
- SOCW 550: SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL WORK AND THE LAW (DE?)  
  (1.5 units)
- SOCW 540: FOUNDATION PRACTICUM (DE)  
  (4.5 units)

### ELECTIVE REQUIREMENT

The Foundation program requires students to register in one (1) elective during their first year (1.5 unit). More information about electives can be found in the MSWF Program Guide and on the Elective Credit Information PDF.
TRANSITION INTO MSWA OR MSWI

Following the completion of all MSWF core and elective courses, MSWF students must choose to follow either the MSW Advanced program or MSW Indigenous Specialization program. For more information, please see the program flow documents for the MSWA and MSWI programs.

STEPS FOR CHOOSING MSWI: Non-Indigenous MSWF students who have 6000 hours of work experience in Indigenous human services have until midnight on January 15th to apply to the MSWI program stream by submitting an Experience Summary and a referral from an Indigenous community member, as detailed on the MSWI website. Indigenous MSWF students don’t have to submit a formal application, but must still notify the school by midnight on January 15th, if they wish to pursue the MSWI program. Please contact the MSW Admissions & Academic Support Coordinator (mswadvise@uvic.ca) to further discuss your options, or the MSW Program Assistant (swgrad@uvic.ca) for general inquiries.

All students are required to pay a minimum of five (5) fee installments in order to have their degree issued by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS). See Page 12-13 for FGS Regulations.

COMPLETION OPTIONS

The choice of whether to complete your MSW degree via the thesis or the course-based route is an important one. This choice should be considered in the context of your research and practice interests, your strengths and challenges as a practitioner/graduate student, and your future plans. Students are encouraged to discuss these options with each other and with the Graduate Advisor.* We advise students to make final decisions on completion options after admission and after acquiring some experience in the program, but preferably no later than the second term of your program

* Please advise the MSW Program Assistant of your choice via email.

COURSE-BASED COMPLETION

The course-based completion option requires the completion of SOCW 571: MSW Capstone and SOCW 506/506A: MSWA/MSWI Practicum (450-hour placement). Registration in these courses requires the completion of some program requirements. Pre-requisite requirements are listed below, and the most updated information can be found in the University Calendar:

SOCW 506/506A: MSWA/MSWI PRACTICUM
Pre-requisite: Completion of 6.0 units of core course work

SOCW 571: MSW CAPSTONE
Pre-requisite: Completion of all core course work
Co-requisite: SOCW 506/506A

SOCW 571: MSW Capstone is designed to be the final course in a student’s program. Normally, SOCW 571 is taken concurrently with SOCW 506/506A to enhance reciprocal learning between class and the field.

THESIS COMPLETION

Writing a thesis is an opportunity to contribute to socially just knowledge, particularly knowledge useful for social work practice, social policy, or activism. Thesis research makes an original contribution to a field of study. Students interested in writing a thesis will work with a supervisor and supervisory committee.
The supervisory committee will provide support through this process and evaluate thesis work. Students will work collaboratively with their supervisor to develop a realistic plan that considers institutional rules and timelines, personal resources, possible constraints, and student responsibilities.

A thesis must be the result of an individual endeavour. Depending on the thesis topic and methodology, theses typically range from 100-120 pages in length. The Faculty of Graduate Studies offers comprehensive guides for writing a thesis on their [website](#). It is often useful to look at the work of other graduate students. Copies of all recently completed UVic theses can be viewed on UVic DSpace. All recent Social Work theses can be viewed here.

**THESIS SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE**

MSW thesis students must have a supervisory committee of at least two members, approved by the School of Social Work and the Dean of Graduate Studies. The thesis supervisor must come from Social Work and other committee members may come from Social Work or another UVic department. The supervisor facilitates all activities of the supervisory committee. All members of a supervisory committee must be members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies or be specifically approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM**

As a Master’s student in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the School of Social Work, there are a number of things that you must take responsibility for as you move through your MSW program.

- **Register each term.** Continuous registration is required until you complete your Master’s program, unless you are on an approved Leave of Absence. Registration dates and times for each term will be posted on UVic’s Online Tools. For more information see Page 14.
- For terms in which there are no courses for you to take, you must register yourself for a Personal Leave. Students are eligible to apply for three (3) terms of Personal Leave during their program.
- Questions about registration and leave should be directed to the MSW Program Assistant ([swgrad@uvic.ca](mailto:swgrad@uvic.ca)).
- Contact the MSW Program Assistant ([swgrad@uvic.ca](mailto:swgrad@uvic.ca)) or the Grad Advisor ([mswadvise@uvic.ca](mailto:mswadvise@uvic.ca)) if you want assistance with course planning prior to registration. Please email with your proposed registration plan for them to view prior to responding to you.
- The 2021-22 UVic Graduate Studies Calendar is available May 1st, 2021. All graduate students in graduate programs are responsible for following the policies and procedures outlined in this calendar. All UVic graduate programs operate under Faculty of Graduate Studies regulations and policies.
- Familiarize yourself with other useful resources on the [School of Social Work website](#).
- Please note that the School does not advise on any financial matters. If you have questions related to tuition or other financial matters, see the [Accounting Services website](#).
- Familiarize yourself with [Faculty of Graduate Studies](#) policies that apply to your graduate program at UVic.
• Check your e-mail regularly – information and notices are sent only to your UVic e-mail address. Please use this e-mail address as the primary address for your communications with the School and all university departments.
• Regularly check messages posted from time to time on the MSW Listserv – this is where important information about courses, awards, scholarships and jobs across Canada are posted.

FSW Field Education Information

All MSWF and course-based completion students must successfully complete a 450-hour placement in an approved practice setting. Field Education is offered as resources permit, and therefore may not be offered in every term each calendar year. Students are asked to apply for Field Education courses well in advance of the term they intend to complete their placement. Please see the Field Education Brightspace for more information.

SOCW 506, 506A, 540 Application Deadlines:
September term (Part Time and Full Time) - January 15
January term (Full Time) - May 1
May term (Full Time) - September 15

• All incoming students will have an opportunity to learn about field during an advising session scheduled with the Field Education Team.

Questions About Field Education?
The Field Education Assistant is your first point of contact for all questions related to placements.

Field Education Assistant
Michelle Fyfe
Phone: 250-472-5109
E-mail: swfield@uvic.ca
Office: HSD B302
**ELECTIVE INFORMATION**

MSWF students must take at least 1.5 units (1 course) of elective credit, though additional electives may be taken. Students are encouraged to select elective courses from:

- *The School of Social Work’s graduate course offerings.* Courses are listed in the University Calendar.
- *Other graduate programs across campus.* Course listings can be found in the calendar. Please consult with the MSW Program Assistant and MSW Advisor prior to registration.
- *MSW students are permitted to register in one 400-level course for elective credit.* Course listings can be found in the University Calendar. Please consult with the MSW Program Assistant and MSW Advisor prior to registration.

Please see the [Elective Credit Information PDF](#) and the instructions below regarding registration processes.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**WINTER SESSION:**
September to December
January to April

**SUMMER SESSION:**
May to August

**FULL VS. PART-TIME**

Any student who is registered for a single term in Winter Session or Summer Session is defined as full-time if:

- Enrolled in courses totaling a minimum of 3 units, or
- Enrolled in thesis (SOCW 599)

*A part-time student is defined as any student who does not fall into either of the above categories.*

**CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION**

All students admitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies must register in every term from the time of admission until the requirements of the degree have been met. If there are no courses available for registration or a student would like to take temporary leave from their program, they must register for Personal Leave (temporarily withdrawn status) or formally withdraw in accordance with the regulations.

- Students who need to take time away from their studies for medical or parental reasons should contact the MSW Advisor and MSW Program Assistant to arrange for Compassionate Leave.

*Students who do not maintain continuous registration are considered to have abandoned their program. That program will be terminated and they will be withdrawn from the university. The notation “Withdrawn Without Permission” will be entered on the transcript.*

**HOW TO REGISTER**

Students are required to complete their own registration via UVic’s Online Tools. For help, please see Graduate Admissions and Records registration tutorial.
REGISTERING IN A COURSE THAT REQUIRES DEPARTMENT PERMISSION
Please contact the MSW Program Assistant if you require Department Permission to register in a course.

REGISTERING IN AN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE
Graduate students may register in one 400-level undergraduate course for elective credit during their program. This may be a School of Social Work course or a course from another department. Students must obtain instructor permission and contact the MSW Advisor for their permission. A completed Graduate Registration Form needs to be sent to the MSW Program Assistant for processing.

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES

All university regulations, policies and procedures are outlined in the University Calendar. Students are responsible for staying up to date on information relevant to their program. Outlined below is important information about your graduate program from Graduate Admissions and Records and the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

FEE STRUCTURE
The minimum regular program fee for a Master’s degree is five (5) fee instalments, which can consist of a combination of regular full and regular half fee instalments totaling to five full regular fee instalments. Further information about the fee structure of a graduate degree can be found in the University Calendar under Tuition and Other Fees.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FEES AND TUITION?
Please direct all inquiries about fees and tuition payments to Tuition Fees in the Office of the Registrar. *Please note that the School of Social Work does not advise on any financial matters.

TUITION FEES
Phone: 250-721-7032
Email: tuition@uvic.ca

GRADES BELOW “B”
Students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies must achieve a grade point average of at least 5.0 (B) for every session in which they are registered. Individual academic units may set sessional and course standards at a higher level than the Faculty of Graduate Studies minimum. Students with a sessional or cumulative average below 5.0 will not be allowed to register in the next session until their academic performance has been reviewed by their supervisory committee and continuation in the Faculty is approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.
Grades for courses designated FNC (for no credit) or used for Transfer Credit will not be used in the calculation of sessional or cumulative grade point averages.
Every grade of 4.0 (B-) or lower in a course taken for credit in the Faculty of Graduate Studies must be reviewed by the supervisory committee of the student and the academic unit graduate adviser and a
recommendation made to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Such students will not be allowed to register in the next session until approved to do so by the Dean.

Conditions may be imposed by the Faculty (upon the advice of the supervisory committee) for continuation in the program; if not met within the specified time limit, the student will be withdrawn. A student whose dissertation, thesis or project is not progressing satisfactorily, or who otherwise fails to meet academic standards, will be withdrawn from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Normally, such students will not be eligible for re-admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

**TIME LIMIT FOR MASTER’S DEGREES**

Normally, a student proceeding toward a Master's degree will be required to complete all the requirements for the degree within five years (60 consecutive months) from the date of the first registration in the master's degree. In no case will a degree be awarded in less than 12 consecutive months from the time of first registration.

Students who advance beyond the five year time limit must obtain permission for an extension prior to the expiry date.

Students who fail to apply for a program extension will be considered to have abandoned their graduate program. Students who wish to have their abandoned program reactivated may have a letter of recommendation forwarded from the School of Social Work to the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies. If approval is given, a reinstatement fee must be paid to the Graduate Admissions and Records Office.

**SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIP POLICY**

Thesis Completion Students must keep up to date on the [Graduate Supervision Policy](#). This document outlines the rights and responsibilities in the supervisory relationship. Questions about the nature of a supervisory relationship should be addressed directly to the MSW Advisor.

**ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**

The Faculty of Graduate Studies policies governing [Academic Regulations](#) can be found in the University Calendar. All students in the MSW programs are bound by the policies governing academics at the University of Victoria, this includes the policy on [Academic Integrity](#). Students are responsible for adhering to all regulations during their time within the program.

**REQUEST FOR ORAL DEFENSE**

Thesis stream students must defend their work in a formal, oral defense. Students will work closely with their supervisor and committee member to prepare for defense. Faculty of Graduate Studies policies dictate that students must formally submit their original work to the MSW Program Assistant in preparation for the defense. If you are nearing the completion of your thesis, please contact the MSW Program Assistant to begin the preparatory work. Further information about the oral defense processes can be found in the [University Calendar](#). Students must successfully pass their oral defense before their degree will be granted. Thesis students must also apply for graduation.

**APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION**

Graduate Students need to apply for Graduation for the term they plan on completing their program in. If a student goes beyond the term they have selected, they will be required to fill out the application for graduation for the next term as well as pay the graduation fee again. The Application for Graduation can
be found online through your Online Tools. Further information about graduation, including convocation ceremonies, can be found here. Application deadlines are:

- **November 15** for students completing in December (spring graduation ceremony)
- **February 15** for students completing in April (spring graduation ceremony)
- **July 15** for students completing in August (fall graduation ceremony)

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

**CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION (CAC)**  
CAC offers free one-on-one tutorials (in person or virtually) and has many resources available for download on their [website](#).

**UVIC LIBRARIES**  
The Library offers research support and downloadable citations guides. They also offer additional academic support services to on-campus and distance students. See their [website](#) for more details.

**CENTRE FOR ACCESSIBLE LEARNING (CAL)**  
Students who require additional academic support because of varying abilities and/or medical issues can access unique programming and accommodations through CAL. Students are required to register with CAL to access these services. See their [website](#) for more information.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR GRAD STUDENTS

**UNIVERSITY-BASED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**  
All new applicants are evaluated for the University Fellowship and new student graduate awards. Successful incoming students are notified of their awards with their admission offer. The minimum standard required for consideration for these awards is first-class standing (A- average). Grade calculations and equivalencies are determined by the Graduate Admissions and Records Office. The process is competitive and meeting the minimum standard for consideration does not guarantee that you will be successful. In addition to these awards for incoming students, you may be eligible to apply for other awards and bursaries available through:

- **The Faculty of Graduate Studies**: A number of awards, scholarships, and bursaries are available to full-time students. The Faculty of Graduate Studies provides a list of available awards and necessary applications [online](#) or through their office in the University Centre.

- **Student Awards & Financial Aid Office**: Information about bursaries and scholarships can be found at the UVic Student Awards & Financial Aid Office (SAFA), located in the University Centre or through their [website](#). In addition, SAFA can assist with applications, maintenance, and questions related to provincial, territorial, and federal government student loans.

- **The School of Social Work**: provides a small number of graduate awards each year. Information about these awards and how to apply for them is provided, usually in early September, via the
MSW Listserv. When the School receives notification about other external awards, information is posted to the MSW Listserv.

**BAND FUNDING**

Band-funded students must obtain Third party billing information and a [Third party billing form](#) to be completed by your Band office. The office may then fax or email the form to [Accounting Services](#). Please ensure that the forms are sent before the following tuition deadlines:

- **FALL SESSION**: September 30
- **WINTER SESSION**: January 31
- **SUMMER SESSION**: May 31

For more information about the processing of Band Funding, please contact Accounting Services:

**ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

Phone: 250-472-4525

Email: askacct@uvic.ca

**AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES**

The Faculty of Graduate Studies has specific criteria (e.g. GPA, publication record, research expenses, etc.) for the disbursement of graduate budgets, the selection of nominees for donor awards, and other requirements for recipients of awards determined within the School. For more information see their [website](#).