SVP – International Student Specific Website Content

UVic is committed to preventing and addressing sexualized violence on our campus. We want everyone to feel safe here, and to understand the resources and support options available to them. This includes international students, who are an important and valuable part of our community.

Here are the answers to some specific questions and concerns that international students might have about sexualized violence.

UVic में हम अपने कैंपस में लैंगीकृत हिंसा को रोकने और इस समस्या से निपटने के लिए व्यक्तित्व न्यून हैं। हम चाहते हैं कि यहाँ पर हरेक व्यक्ति स्वयं को सुरक्षित महसूस करे और उसे उपलब्ध संसाधनों तथा सहायता के विकल्पों को समझे। इसमें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विद्यार्थी भी शामिल हैं जो हमारे समुदाय का एक महत्वपूर्ण तथा बहुमुख्य अंग हैं।

नीचे लैंगीकृत हिंसा से संबंधित कुछ ऐसे विषय प्रश्नों तथा चिंताओं के उत्तर दिए गए हैं जो हमारे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विद्यार्थीयों के मन में हो सकते हैं।

UVic (Canadian) Expectations:

We want UVic to feel safe and inclusive for everyone, which means we all need to follow Canadian laws and university policies, including those about sexualized violence.

Around the world, people have different ideas about appropriate personal interactions and sexualized violence. At UVic, we define sexualized violence broadly. There is a wide range of behaviours that we think are unacceptable. This may be different from other institutions or countries, so we encourage all students to learn UVic’s definition of sexualized violence. To make this easier, we have translated this definition into several different languages.

We expect everyone to use respect and consent in all interactions. This includes with other students, faculty, staff, and any other people you encounter. If respect and consent are topics you are not familiar with, or you would like to learn more, we have resources for international students, staff, and faculty. This includes translated materials.

We expect students to read and learn more about our community expectations so that everyone understands how to treat each other.

UVic (कैनेडियन) की अपेक्षाएँ

हम चाहते हैं कि UVic में हर व्यक्ति स्वयं को सुरक्षित तथा इसका एक अंग महसूस करे, जिसका अर्थ यह है कि हम सभी के लिए कैनेडियन के कानूनों का तथा UVic की नीतियों का, जिनमें लैंगीकृत हिंसा संबंधित नीति भी शामिल है, पालन करें।

विश्व में उष्ण क्षेत्रीय पारस्परिक क्रियाओं तथा लैंगीकृत हिंसा के बारे में विभिन्न लोगों के विभिन्न विचार हैं। UVic में हम लैंगीकृत हिंसा को व्यापक रूप से परिभाषित करते हैं। व्यवहार का एक क्षेत्र है जो हमारे विचार में अस्वीकार्य है। यह अन्य देशों अथवा संस्थाओं से निभा हो सकता है, इसलिए हम सभी विद्यार्थियों को UVic की लैंगीकृत हिंसा की परिभाषा सीखने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करते हैं। इस काम को आसान बनाने के लिए हमने इस परिभाषा का कई भाषाओं में अनुवाद किया है।

हम हर आपसी क्रिया में समान तथा सहमति की अपेक्षा करते हैं। इसमें अन्य विद्यार्थीयों, शिक्षक, स्टाफ तथा वे सभी अन्य लोग शामिल हैं जिनसे आपकी मुलाकात होती है। यदि आप समान तथा सहमति जैसे विषयों से परिचित नहीं हैं तो यदि आप इनके
Boundaries (having boundaries & recognizing/respecting others’ boundaries)

You are allowed to have personal boundaries. This means that you are allowed to have clear ideas about what is acceptable and not acceptable when it comes to you and your body and that others should respect those boundaries. We must also understand that everyone’s boundaries are different, and that because of this, we must ask for consent before touching other people, or when asking them to do something that might potentially make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

If someone does not listen or respect your boundaries, you are allowed to tell them to stop. It is not your fault if someone chooses to cross your boundaries.

If you are not sure what is appropriate or inappropriate in the UVic community, you can read more here.

Here’s a short video that explains the basics about consent and boundaries by using tea as an example.

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What international students need to know:

- Sexualized Violence is unacceptable and prohibited at UVic
- International students have the same rights as domestic students around sexualized violence
- People who experience sexualized violence are not to blame
- Everyone has the right to confidential support and advice
- It’s okay to ask for help; asking for support will not affect your temporary resident status
At UVic you have a right to:

- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Live and learn without experiencing sexualized violence
- Be asked for your consent before intimate personal interactions. This includes everything from hugging, to dating, and romantic relationships
- Support if you or someone you know is affected by sexualized violence

UVic में आपको निम्न अधिकार हैं:

- गरिमा और सम्मानपूर्ण व्यवहार पाना
- लैंगीकृत हिंसा का सामना किए बिना जीना और सीखना
- अंतरंग पारस्परिक क्रियाओं के शुरू होने से पहले आपकी सहमहति ती जानी। इसमें गले लगाने से लेकर डेटिंग तथा रोमांस वाले संबंध सभी कुछ शामिल है
- सहायता प्राप्त करना, यदि आप या आपका कोई जानकार लैंगीकृत हिंसा से प्रभावित होते हैं।

As a UVic community member, you are responsible for:

- Being respectful and practising consent in your interactions with others
- Knowing UVic’s expectations and definition of sexualized violence
- Asking questions and learning more if you are unsure about these expectations
- Understanding that cultural differences are not an excuse for behaviours that UVic defines as sexualized violence

UVic समुदाय के एक सदस्य के रूप में आप निम्न के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं:

- दूसरों के साथ पारस्परिक क्रियाओं में सम्मानपूर्ण व्यवहार तथा सहमहति का आचरण बनाना
- UVic की लैंगीकृत हिंसा की परिभाषा जानना
- यदि इन अपेक्षाओं के बारे में आपको पक्का पता नहीं है तो प्रश्न पूछना तथा आपकी प्राप्त करना
- यह समझना कि सांस्कृतिक विभिन्नता ऐसे व्यवहार के लिए बहाना नहीं बन सकती जिसे UVic में लैंगीकृत हिंसा के तौर पर परिभाषित किया जाता है।

Resources for international students

Where can I go for support? You can call, email, or go to the Sexualized Violence Resource Office or contact International Student Services.
If you need more information in the language of your choice, we have translated this content into Traditional Chinese, Hindi, Persian, Japanese, Korean, and French.

What is sexualized violence?

UVic defines sexualized violence as "any non-consensual, unwanted, actual, attempted, or threatened act or behavior that is carried out through sexual means or by targeting a person's sex, sexual identity, or gender identity or expression."

What forms it takes

Sexualized violence can take many forms and may or may not involve direct physical contact. This means that sexualized violence can occur verbally, physically, or online. Sexualized violence includes, but is not limited to:

- sexual assault
- sexual exploitation
- sexual harassment
- stalking
- indecent exposure
- voyeurism
- distribution of sexually explicit images without the consent of the people involved

In addition, sexualized violence may also include unwanted sexualized attention including things like:

- catcalls
- sexist remarks or jokes
- transphobic remarks
- leering
- persistent and/or aggressive come-ons
Attitudes and beliefs

Sexualized violence often begins with harmful attitudes and beliefs that are sexist, racist, homophobic, ageist and ableist in nature. Preventing sexualized violence requires that we address multiple intersecting forms of discrimination and oppression at the same time. This means sexualized violence prevention needs a broader, community-wide effort to address discrimination and harassment in all its forms. Visit the Equity and Human Rights website for information, education and initiatives.

What is consent?

The Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy defines consent as “the voluntary agreement to engage in physical contact or sexual activity and to continue to engage in the contact or activity. Consent means that all persons involved demonstrate, through words or actions that they freely and mutually agree to participate in a contact or activity.”
What to remember when it comes to consent

While consent may be a term that many people are familiar with, it's still something that people grapple with. The primary thing to remember is that consent begins with RESPECT. Here are some important points to know:

Respect is the first step to gaining meaningful consent. When we don’t respect that the person we are interacting with is a person – with thoughts, feelings, emotions, and histories – we often can’t appreciate how our words and actions might impact them.

Establish consent at the outset and at each step along the way. This involves clear communication and the ability to understand our own, and each other’s, emotional and physical boundaries. Keep in mind that consent is not an obstacle to over, but an evolving conversation.

Silence or the absence of ‘no’ does not equal consent. Never assume you have consent.

Prepare to hear no (and stop), because consent can be withdrawn at any time, for any reason.

Early on consider whether you or the other person is incapacitated. Incapacitated people cannot give consent.

Consider Power. There is no consent where there is an abuse of power. This includes coercion, force, threats, or intimidation towards any person or where there is fraud or withholding of critical information that could affect a person’s decision to consent.

Take Responsibility. Asking for consent is the responsibility of the initiator. For example, if you want to have physical and/or sexual contact with another person, it is your responsibility to ask first. This includes sending sexually explicit photos of yourself.
To make it easier to gain consent in our intimate and sexual interactions, it’s important to establish and practice consent in all our everyday interpersonal interactions. For example, not everyone experiences a hug as a friendly welcome or goodbye. In order to build a culture of consent, it’s important to ask whether we can touch one another first. If you want to touch someone, just ask! “Hey, can I give you a hug?”

Keep in mind that there are power dynamics in our relationships with others that can make it hard for some people to freely consent and clearly say “yes” or “no.” We must be sensitive to non-verbal body language (e.g., moving away from a touch or embrace) or indirect communication (e.g., changing the subject so they don’t have to respond). Being aware of all the ways people communicate their boundaries is the responsibility of the person wanting the physical and/or more intimate interaction.

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Consent training

UVic has several different workshops that offer training on consent. For example, the Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Training offered through Equity and Human Rights includes a section on respect and consent. The Anti-Violence Project has an entire workshop devoted to Understanding Consent Culture. And the Bringing in the Bystander workshop offered through the Office of Student Life also provides information on consent. Finally, the University of Victoria Student Society partners with the groups and offices mentioned above in their Let’s Get Consensual campaign.