



Geography

'University of Koeye' Field School: May 8th – 14th, 2026

Indigenous Knowledge, Science, and Resource Management



University of Victoria Department of Geography & QQS Projects Society

General Information

Are you interested in immersing yourself in an intensive, experiential, field-based, and culturally-grounded field school in coastal BC? The Indigenous Knowledge, Science, and Resource Management Field School (a.k.a. "The University of Koeye") is based in the remote Koeye River Lodge. The class runs from May 8th – 14th, 2026. Students will travel independently to and from Port Hardy, the port from and to which the water taxi departs and returns.

The class is offered in partnership with the QQS Projects Society, a Heiltsuk First Nation not-for-profit organization that works in service of Youth, Culture, and Environment.

Eligibility

We expect many more applicants than the ~20 positions available. Accordingly, we list the following eligibility information:

- Students must have third or fourth year standing in Geography (but see below)
- This field school is designed primarily as a capstone experience for senior Geography students, but the selection committee will consider other applicants at UVic and beyond based on a variety of factors, including course, life, and work experience. *We are particularly interested in students from coastal Indigenous communities in the area (and offer fellowships to eligible applicants; please see below).*
- This field school will involve outdoor activities that will at times be physically demanding, such as hiking over rough or steep terrain and canoeing. Applicants must mention if they have any accessibility needs that may affect their ability to participate in these activities, so that potential accommodations can be discussed.
- Finally, we ask applicants to answer several questions, which allows us to assess the fit of each applicant and what they could contribute to the learning and community-engaged experience.

Application Requirements

Please see the Application Form for all application instructions and requirements.

If you have any further questions after reading the information in this package, please email geography@uvic.ca or darimont@uvic.ca.

Course

The course is worth 1.5 credits. Successful applicants will be registered in this course through special registration by the Department of Geography (*students will not register themselves*). Successful applicants from other institutions must register at UVic as a visiting student, and work with their program advisors at home institutions towards transferring credit.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Geography 453 – Field Studies in Coastal and Marine Resources

Pre-requisite: GEOG 353 or equivalent (assessed via application)

Instructor: Chris Darimont (UVic) and Jessie Housty (QQS Projects Society)

May 8th – 14th, 2026

Koeye Field School 2026

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Courses – Continued

Overview: This land-based educational experience weaves together Indigenous Knowledge and science in the context of natural resource use and management. Designed to be highly experiential, the course gives students time and opportunities in the Koeye watershed to interact with its natural features as well as with Knowledge Holders, scientists, and natural resource managers.

KEY THEMES: Natural resource use and management, Indigenous Knowledge, governance, science, wildlife, plants

Fees and Financial Support

Fees:

For field schools, students pay regular UVic tuition **plus field school fees** (see below).

Field school fees can be paid by **cheque, money order, counter cheque, or cash ONLY**. Cheques should be made payable to the University of Victoria. Payment can be dropped off at the Geography main office (David Turpin Building room B203), or mailed (cheque only). DO NOT MAIL CASH.

Field school fees:

- **\$1500** due within one week (March 12, 2026) of notice of application decision (March 05, 2026)

Field school fees include:

- Room & board at the Koeye River Lodge (includes Koeye staff)
- Water taxi charters to and from Port Hardy (students responsible for own travel to and from Port Hardy)
- Teaching- and research-related equipment and materials
- Compensation (and travel expenses) for guest lecturers and knowledge holders

Field school fees do not include:

- Tuition
- Travel to and from Port Hardy, which might include overnight accommodation
- Other expenses such as any personal gear (e.g. gum boots, field note books) required for the course.

Financial Support:

This field school has been directly and substantially subsidized by the Department of Geography and Qqs Society. No application is necessary to receive this support, as it has already been built into the field school fees.

Indigenous students may apply for the [Edward Martin Field School Award](#), a special fund set up for this field school. Edward Martin was a Heiltsuk Elder and Knowledge Holder who taught youth at the Koeye River summer camps. The fellowship application accompanies the field school application on the field school page of the Geography website.

Course (and Edward Martin Field School Award) application deadline: February 26, 2026.