

Mountain Meteorology Field School: January 2-9, 2026

University of Victoria Department of Geography

General Information

The Mountain Meteorology Field School is based on Mount Cain, Namgis First Nation Territory on Northern Vancouver Island. This field school is comprised of a 7-day long course from January 2-9, 2026 and a mandatory orientation lecture in December (date TBD). This course has been designed to provide students with an immersive opportunity to understand the physical processes of meteorological phenomena in mountain environments. Measuring and monitoring of snowpack, extreme weather, and climate in coastal mountain ranges will be prominent course themes, along with challenges associated with alpine tourism operations due to weather and climate extremes and hazards. This field school is primarily outdoors and some excursions will be physically demanding. Students do not need previous ski or snowshoe experience, just positive attitudes and a willingness to get outside and try new things!

Eligibility

There are often more applicants than positions available. Accordingly, we list the following eligibility information:

- Students must have second year standing, with preference given to students with 3rd year standing or higher.
- Preference will be given to students who have completed or are enrolled in GEOG 272 (Introduction to Climatology and Hydrology).
- This field school is primarily outdoors and will be physically demanding. Applicants must mention if they have any accessibility needs that may affect their ability to participate in these activities.
- 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 fargey@uvic.ca.

Courses

This field school is comprised of one course 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*).

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Geography 313 – Field Studies in Mountain Meteorology

Instructor: Shannon Fargey

January 2-9, 2026

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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 in the Geography office drop box (David Turpin Building, in the hallway beside room B203), or mailed (cheque only). DO NOT MAIL CASH. If you leave a deposit in the drop box, please send an email to geography@uvic.ca to let us know.

Field school fees:

- \$100 deposit paid at time of application, plus:
- \$600 paid upon acceptance

Field school fees include:

- Accommodation for the week
- Meals for the week
- Transportation to and from Mount Cain from UVic
- Ski lift tickets for two days

Field school fees do not include:

- Tuition
- Rental of outdoor equipment such as skis, snowboards, snowshoes
- Other expenses such as any personal gear required/recommended for the course (packing/equipment list provided upon acceptance)

Financial Support:

This field school has been directly subsidized by the Faculty of Social Sciences Field School Support Fund. No application is necessary to receive this support, as it has already been built into the field school fees.