

Quaternary Geomorphology and Paleoenvironment Field School:

May 18th - 24th, 2026

University of Victoria Department of Geography

General Information

The Scablands Field School is based in the Channeled Scablands, Washington, USA. This field school is comprised of a 7-day long course from May 18th-24th, 2026. Students must be available for a mandatory classroom component in early May (date TBD) and to meet on campus at 4:00am on May 18th to begin travel.

This field-based course introduces students to the Channeled Scablands & Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument of Eastern Washington, one of the most distinctive geologic landscapes in North America. Over one week, we will uncover how ice-age floods, glaciers, and volcanic activity shaped the region during the Quaternary period (the last 2.6 million years).

Sites visited include Leavenworth, Moses Coulee, Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park, Frenchman Coulee, Zillah, Columbia Hills State Park, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, and Hood River.

Eligibility

- Students must have minimum of third-year standing.
- Preference will be given to students who have completed GEOG 276 (Introduction to Geomorphology), GEOG 376 (Process Geomorphology) or EOS 450 (Quaternary Geology).
- 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.
- Must be a UVic student. Non-Geography students are invited to apply.
- A valid passport (with a 6 month+ expiry date at the date of the field school), visa or alternative travel document required to enter the United States.

Application Requirements

Applications are due by 4.00 pm February 12th, 2026.

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

Contact sophienorris@uvic.ca and geography@uvic.ca if you have any questions.

Courses

This field school is comprised of one course worth 1.5 credits. Successful applicants will be registered in the course through special registration by the Department of Geography (students will not register themselves).

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Geog 491 –Geomorphology and Paleoenvironment Field School

This field-based course introduces students to the Channeled Scablands of Eastern Washington, one of the most distinctive geologic landscapes in North America. Over one week, we will explore how ice-age floods, glaciers, and volcanic activity shaped the region during the Quaternary period (the last 2.6 million years).

Through visits to state parks, nationally significant geologic sites, and active research sites, students will examine stratigraphic, geomorphic, and paleoenvironmental evidence that helps scientists understand how

national phenomena shaped this region. Along the way, we will meet with regional experts and community members who contribute to ongoing research and land stewardship.

This course emphasizes hands-on learning, observation, mapping, sedimentological analysis, and hypothesis-making and testing. Students will gain practical field skills while developing a deeper understanding of the dynamic processes that have formed—and continue to influence—this unique landscape.

Fees and Financial Support

Fees:

For field schools, students pay regular UVic tuition plus field school fees.

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 (cheques only).

Field school fees*:

- \$300 deposit paid at the time of application, plus:
- \$800 paid upon acceptance

*All field school fees are subject to change between program offerings

Field school fees include:

- Accommodation (booked campsites)
- Group meals
- Transportation to/from field sites (including Port Angeles ferry)
- State Park Passes
- Printed field guidebook

Field school fees do not include:

- Tuition
- Some excluded dinner/lunch meals (~3) while in transit and our first night in Leavenworth
- Other expenses such as any personal gear (e.g., tents, sleeping bags and mattress pads, day packs, hiking boots, etc.) required/recommended for the course (equipment list provided upon acceptance into field school)

Financial Support:

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

Students are encouraged to explore other funding opportunities for example at the Undergraduate Scholarships & Funding page: <https://www.uvic.ca/undergraduate/finances/scholarships-funding/index.php>