

Clayoquot Sound Field School: January 5 – April 1, 2023

University of Victoria Department of Geography & Raincoast Education Society of Tofino

General Information

The Clayoquot Sound Field School is a semester-long program, running from January 5th to April 1st, 2023, based out of Tofino in the unceded territories of Nuu Chah Nulth First Nations. It is comprised of six intensive, experiential, field-based courses (9.0 credits), that can be applied to your degree. The courses explore a variety of engaging topics with a general focus on human/environment relationships and are grounded in the local context. One course - the term-long Geog 391 Community-Engaged Research & Practice - consists of an internship experience in which students provide service to a local community partner (e.g. local not-for-profits, Indigenous Nations, businesses, townships, Parks Canada).

While rewarding and exciting, students should be aware that the field school represents a rigorous academic experience. Students must enroll in all six courses (with no exceptions) and must accept the group accommodation arrangement.

If you have **questions** after reading through this information sheet please direct them as follows:

For questions about the application process, email geography@uvic.ca.

For more questions about courses or academics email Cam Owens at camo@uvic.ca or Chris Darimont (darimont@uvic.ca).

Eligibility

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

- Students must have third or fourth year standing. While designed primarily as a capstone experience for senior students, the selection committee will consider other applicants based on a variety of factors, including course, life, and work experience.
- The field school will involve outdoor activities that will at times be physically demanding, such as hiking over rough or steep terrain. 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 s/he could contribute to the learning and community-engaged experience.

Three scholarships for local Indigenous students (preferencing those from Nuu Chah Nulth communities) will be available covering the program fee.

Application Requirements

Please see the application form (available on UVic Geography Field Schools [webpage](#)) for all application instructions and requirements. The **deadline** for submission, with an initial deposit of \$1000, is **September 15, 2022**

COVID 19 Precautions

Given the uncertainty in the context of the ongoing pandemic, students are highly encouraged to stay up to date on the recommended doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in advance of the field school. Due to local community concerns and requirements, not being fully vaccinated may limit your ability to participate in all activities. Students must follow all local, provincial and university policies and guidelines related to COVID-19.

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Courses

Apart from the Community-Engaged Research & Practice course which spans the semester, courses have been designed as intensive 10-day experiences with breaks in between. Each course is worth 1.5 credits for a total of 9 credits. Successful applicants will be registered in these courses by the Department of Geography upon acceptance to the program. (i.e. *Students will not have to register themselves*). **Note: The Field School is a semester-long commitment and applications for individual courses will not be accepted.**

COURSE OVERVIEWS:

Geography 391 A02 – Topics in Geography: Community Engaged Research & Practice

Instructor: Mark Maftai (Raincoast Education Society)

Course runs throughout the semester with specific meeting times TBD

Overview: The objective of this course is to immerse you in the work of conservation through partnerships with local organizations in the development of term projects. As the only term-long course of the semester, classes will be held in the inter-class periods between other courses, and will serve as a unifying course tying other topics together into real-life projects. You will gain insight into the present-day social landscape of conservation in Clayoquot Sound, and develop projects that directly benefit the community. This course will have a strong field focus providing you with hands-on learning experiences, complemented by guest lectures and engaging discussion.

Geography 491 Advanced Topics in Geography: Indigenous Environmental Activism

Instructor: Deondre Smiles

Jan 14-23

Overview: In this course, we will critically analyze Indigenous activism in environmental contexts, its root causes, and the outlook of such acts into the future. We will begin exploring the ways in which colonization has wrought tremendous changes to Indigenous environments. We then will turn our attention to the role of Indigenous environmental activism amidst the rise of Indigenous activism in the 1960s and 1970s, moving to the efforts of Indigenous nations and communities in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s to secure and assert rights related to the environment. We then return to the current upswelling of Indigenous environmental activism, contemplating what this may mean for the environment, including both humans and more-than-human kin. Finally, we conclude this course by looking towards Indigenous conceptions of the future of their natural and political environments and what they might look like in an era of climate crisis. This course will utilize unique activities to evaluate and reinforce course concepts, including the production of a podcast episode as the main assignment for this class.

Geography 339 - Disaster Management & Community Resilience

Instructor: Cameron Owens

Jan 28-Feb 6

Overview: In this course you will learn about: the specific risks, hazards, and vulnerabilities facing BC communities (with a focus on communities of Clayoquot Sound); attempts to manage these risks and (actualized disasters) in terms of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery and more comprehensively through building resilience; the social dynamics of disasters recognizing the constellation of geophysical but also cultural and political dimensions of disasters and the factors that inspire and inhibit addressing issues; and Indigenous approaches to hazards; how colonialism has undermined traditional disaster resilience and, indeed can be understood as an ongoing “unnatural disaster” for Indigenous communities; and vital efforts of decolonization and resurgence.

Courses – Continued

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Geography 424 - Field Studies in Coastal Geomorphology

Instructor: Eva Kwoil

Feb 18-27

Overview: This course offers an introductory, field-based exploration of coastal geomorphic processes and landforms. Areas of investigation will span nearshore to backshore environments and wave and tidal processes. You will be exposed to commonly used technology for coastal data collection, learn how to process example data sets, and will be able to interpret the data within the geomorphological context of Clayoquot Sound.

Geography 487 – Advanced Landscape Ecology: Rainforest Biocultural Ecology

Co-instructors: Andy MacKinnon and Gisele Martin

Mar 4-13

Overview: In this course, you will learn hands-on research techniques used to study the structure, composition, and ecological processes of coastal temperate rainforests and how forests have been managed, particularly in coastal British Columbia and Clayoquot Sound. Additionally, you will be exposed to the cultural and ethical context that guides the selection of methods and the larger research programs in which they are embedded. Part of this process will involve interaction with Indigenous knowledge holders from the area. Following the course, you will be able to create a proposal to undertake a research project of your own.

Geography 391 A03 – Geographies of Surfing

Instructor: Chris Darimont

Mar 18-27

Overview: This place-based course will examine the social and physical dimensions of surfing, a prominent and important activity (and lifestyle) in the Tofino area. Social components will include the local and global histories of surfing, as well as the cultural, economic, conservation, and spiritual dimensions. Students will also develop an understanding of how oceanography, geography and climate interact to create favourable surfing conditions. Although no hands-on instruction can be included, students will be supported in pursuing the activity, should that be of interest.

Tentative Schedule

Jan 5	Arrival -check in to the Tofino Hostel
Jan 6-7	Welcome & Orientation
Jan 8	Break
Jan 9-13	Geog 391 A02 – Community Engaged Research & Practice course intro
Jan 14-23	Geog 491 – Indigenous Environmental Activism course
Jan 24-27	Intersession – work on community project / break
Jan 28-Feb 6	Geog 339 – Disaster Management & Community Resilience
Feb 7-17	Intersession – work on community project / reading break
Feb 18-27	Geog 424 – Coastal Geomorphology
Feb 28-Mar 3	Intersession – work on community project / break
Mar 4-13	Geog 487 - Rainforest Biocultural Ecology
Mar 14-17	Intersession – work on community project / break
Mar 18-27	Geog 391 A03 – Geographies of Surfing
Mar 28-31	Final prep for community project presentation
Apr 1	Final presentations & celebration
Apr 2	Departure - check out of Tofino Hostel

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Fees and Financial Support

Fees:

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

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:

- **\$1000 deposit** paid at time of application (deadline **Sept 15, 2022**)
- **\$2000** paid by **Friday, Oct 28, 2022**
- **\$2000** paid by **Friday, Dec 16, 2022**

Field school fees cover:

- accommodation at the Tofino hostel (in shared dorms) from January 5th to April 2nd, 2022
- compensation for guest lecturers and knowledge holders
- classroom space
- assistance with community engaged work and activities to build relationships with community leaders
- teaching- and research-related equipment and materials
- instructor expenses
- boat charters
- other field course expenses

Field school fees do not include:

- tuition
- transportation (e.g. to and from Tofino and to field trip sites)
- meals and entertainment
- other expenses such as any personal gear (e.g., hiking shoes) required for the course.

Financial Support:

The Faculty of Social Sciences has provided a grant to subsidize your costs (approximately \$15,000 to the program). 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>

Three scholarships for local Indigenous students (preferencing those from Nuuchahnulth communities) will be available covering the field school fees (i.e. costs beyond regular tuition, etc.).