

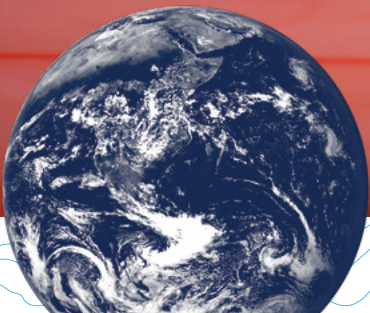
# UVC

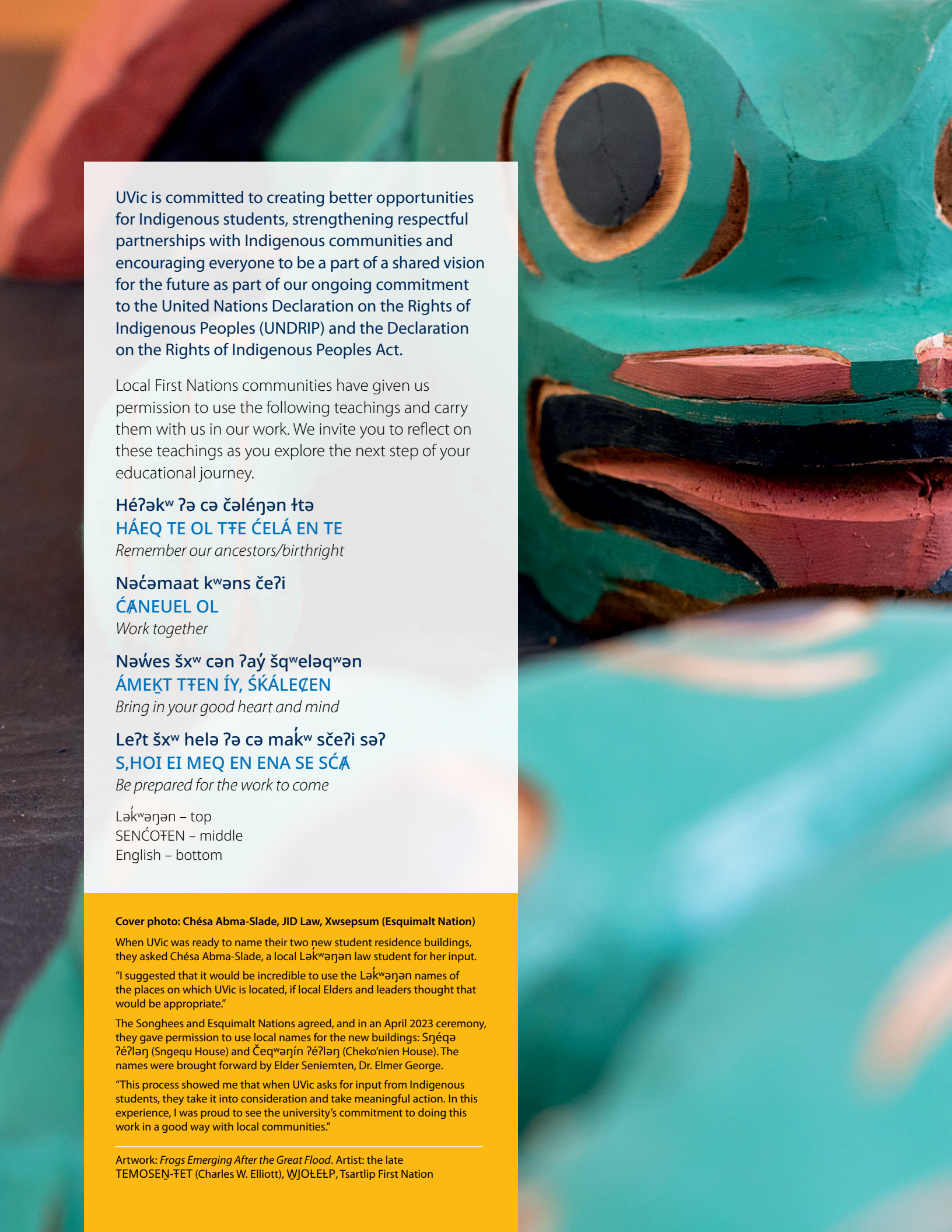
## 2024-25 INDIGENOUS STUDENTS VIEWBOOK University of Victoria



Chésa Abma-Slade,  
JID Law, Xwsepsum (Esquimalt Nation)  
Read her story on the following page.

We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.





UVic is committed to creating better opportunities for Indigenous students, strengthening respectful partnerships with Indigenous communities and encouraging everyone to be a part of a shared vision for the future as part of our ongoing commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Local First Nations communities have given us permission to use the following teachings and carry them with us in our work. We invite you to reflect on these teachings as you explore the next step of your educational journey.

**Hé?əkʷ ʔə cə čəlénən ɫə**  
**HÁEQ TE OL TFE ČELÁ EN TE**  
*Remember our ancestors/birthright*

**Nəcəmaat kʷəns če?i**  
**ČANEUEL OL**  
*Work together*

**Nəwəs šxʷ cən ʔay šqʷeləqʷən**  
**ÁMEKT TFEN ÍY, ŠKÁLEČEN**  
*Bring in your good heart and mind*

**Le?t šxʷ helə ʔə cə ma kʷ sče?i sə?**  
**S,HOI EI MEQ EN ENA SE SČA**  
*Be prepared for the work to come*

Ləkʷəŋən – top  
SENĆOFEN – middle  
English – bottom

**Cover photo: Chésa Abma-Slade, JID Law, Xwsepsum (Esquimalt Nation)**

When UVic was ready to name their two new student residence buildings, they asked Chésa Abma-Slade, a local Ləkʷəŋən law student for her input.

“I suggested that it would be incredible to use the Ləkʷəŋən names of the places on which UVic is located, if local Elders and leaders thought that would be appropriate.”

The Songhees and Esquimalt Nations agreed, and in an April 2023 ceremony, they gave permission to use local names for the new buildings: Snéqə ʔé?ləŋ (Sngequ House) and Čeqʷəŋín ʔé?ləŋ (Cheko'nien House). The names were brought forward by Elder Seniemten, Dr. Elmer George.

“This process showed me that when UVic asks for input from Indigenous students, they take it into consideration and take meaningful action. In this experience, I was proud to see the university's commitment to doing this work in a good way with local communities.”

Artwork: *Frogs Emerging After the Great Flood*. Artist: the late TEMOSEN-FET (Charles W. Elliott), WJOLĒLP, Tsartlip First Nation

# Be at home here

At UVic, you'll be part of our welcoming community of students, staff and faculty who come from diverse communities across Canada and from over a hundred countries. Wherever you're from, you'll soon feel at home at UVic.

## First Peoples House

The First Peoples House is your cultural and social centre at UVic and your home away from home. Here you'll find a study area, Ceremonial Hall, computer lab, lunch room, a social centre for events and an Elders in Residence room.

## Indigenous art on campus

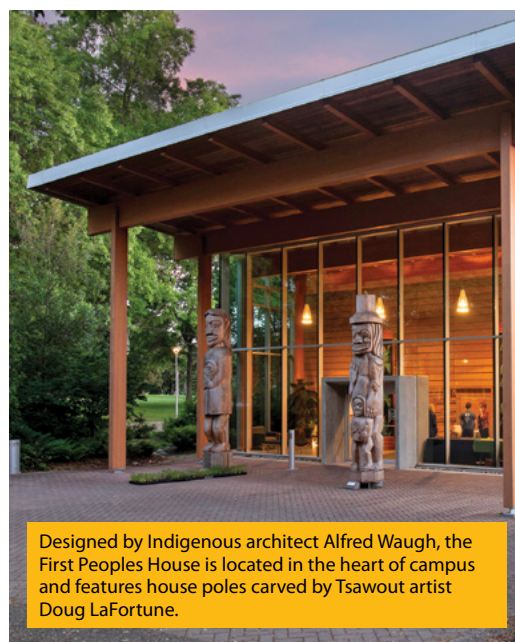
Discover an inspiring collection of Indigenous art in buildings like the First Peoples House and the Cornett Building, and throughout our outdoor spaces. Totem poles, welcome figures, prints, button blankets and sculptures are reminders that we live and work within Indigenous territories. Take a self-guided walking tour and discover the works of many prominent Indigenous artists.

## Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA)

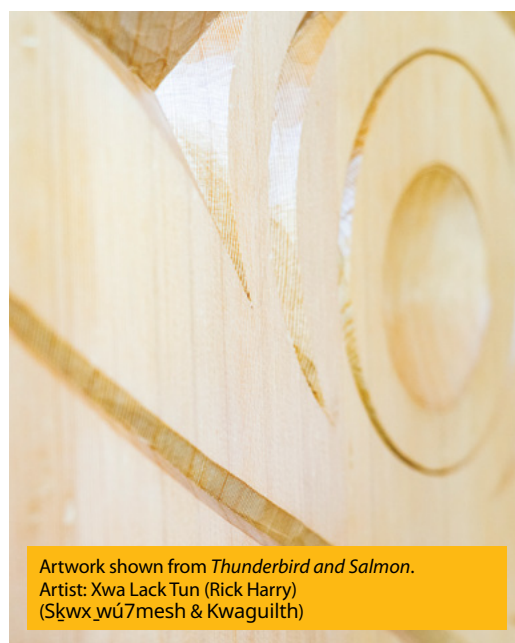
No matter what your sport or recreational activity, you'll find it at CARSA. Here you can use the state-of-the-art gymnasium, indoor field house, climbing tower, rowing centre, and fitness and weight-training centre. It's just one of many places on campus to train your mind and body.

## Mystic Vale

Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ oral traditions tell us that this is a sacred site and a hunting and harvesting area. Popular walking trails wind through the forest where you'll find cedar, Douglas fir, arbutus, camas, deer, many bird species and traditional plant medicines.



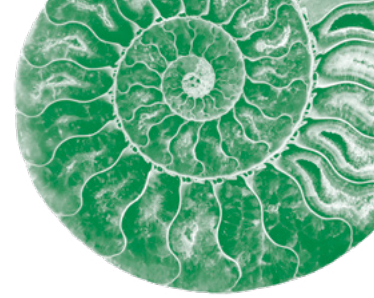
Designed by Indigenous architect Alfred Waugh, the First Peoples House is located in the heart of campus and features house poles carved by Tsawout artist Doug LaFortune.



Artwork shown from *Thunderbird and Salmon*.  
Artist: Xwa Lack Tun (Rick Harry)  
(S̱kw̱x̱\_wú7mesh & Kwaguilth)



Native plants outside of First Peoples House.



# Opportunities matter

Choose from over 100 undergraduate academic programs and 120 graduate programs, some of which emphasize Indigenous languages and cultures, health and social welfare, and governance and leadership.

- Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Certificate in Foundations in Indigenous Fine Arts
- Diploma in Child and Youth Care in Indigenous Communities
- Diploma in Indigenous Community Development and Governance
- Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies (see below)
- Bachelor of Child and Youth Care (Indigenous Specialization)
- Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Bachelor of Social Work (Indigenous social work or Indigenous child welfare)
- Bachelor in Public Health (Indigenous Peoples' Health Specialization)
- Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Nationhood
- Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance
- Master of Arts in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Master of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Master of Social Work (Indigenous Specialization)

In addition to the programs listed above, UVic offers nearly 100 undergraduate courses that contain content with an Indigenous focus. UVic is committed to having Indigenous educators in all faculties.

## Indigenous Studies (BA) program

Indigenous Studies is an exciting area of study that emphasizes Indigenous ways of knowing and learning. Open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, the program explores the social, political, cultural and historical contexts that shape the lives and resurgence of Indigenous peoples—here and around the world. The program is offered as a minor and a major.



### **NEW! Indigenous Community Development and Governance (minor)**

Learn how to contribute to the development and governance of your Indigenous community. This program will prepare you for careers in Indigenous governments, communities and organizations, or for public service roles that work with Indigenous citizens and governments.



## The world's first joint degree program in Canadian Common Law (JD) and Indigenous Legal Orders (JID)

Combining intensive study of Canadian Common Law and deep engagement with the laws of Indigenous peoples, you'll develop the skills needed to practice within Canadian Common Law, within Indigenous Legal Orders, and at the interface between them.

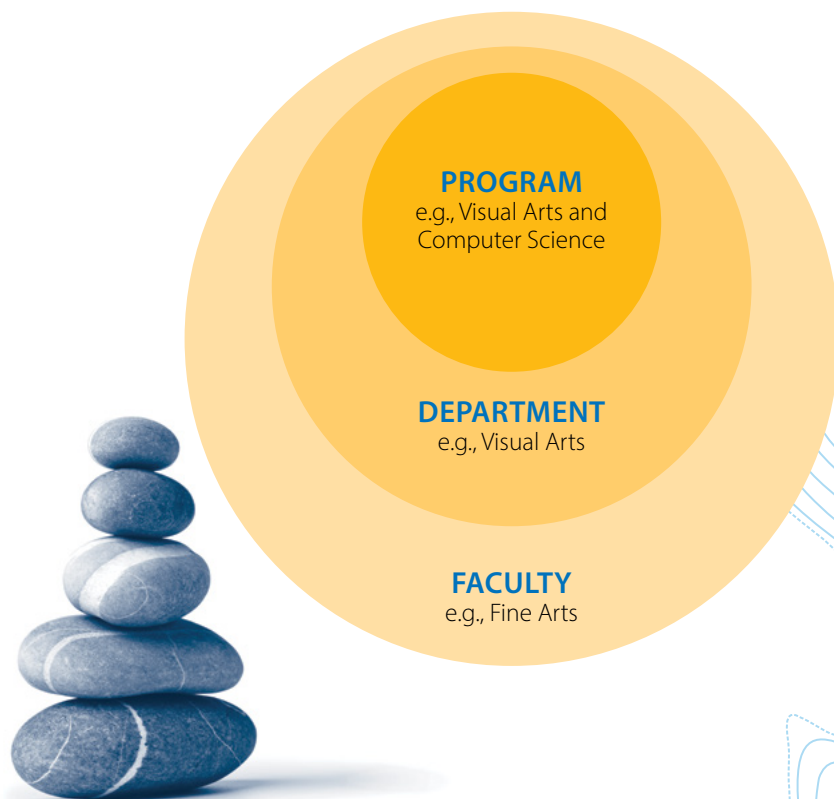
UVic will be the home of the new National Centre for Indigenous Laws (provisional name), which is expected to open in 2024.

### What is a program? What is a faculty?

Your **program** is a series of related courses you take to earn a degree.

Your **department** is the academic unit that offers your program.

Your **faculty** is a group of academic departments.



“There is a richness of history in Indigenous laws together with ways of managing that are thousands of years old. They not only help Indigenous peoples to govern ourselves today; they provide the foundation for a new relationship with Canada ... and that matters!”

Val Napoleon—Interim Dean of Law, Law Foundation Chair of Indigenous Justice and Governance and Director of the Indigenous Law Research Unit

# Hayley Ellis

Psychology | Kwakwaka'wakw

Hayley brought her desire to work with children to her co-op placement with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. There, she played many roles, including supporting an event to honour new babies in the community.

Artwork: The totem *Namima* represents Generations and is in Kwakwaka'wakw style. Artist: Hayalthkin'game (Carey Newman), Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish First Nations.



# Bring your learning into practice

Your experience matters. That's why UVic offers many opportunities to take what you learn in the classroom into real life work and research environments through hands-on learning, co-op placements, internships, field schools and cultural and academic exchanges.

## Co-op for Indigenous students

Take a break from your studies and apply your skills in the community. Our paid co-op placements offer you culturally and professionally relevant work opportunities, and the chance to work with employers related to your program. Employers include community organizations, Indigenous governments, Indigenous companies and government agencies. Learn about many other co-op opportunities at [uvic.ca/coopandcareer](http://uvic.ca/coopandcareer). If you have a specific position in mind, we will work with you to organize your own unique placement.

## Sample UVic Co-op schedule

Alternate terms in school with terms in a job related to your program and get real-world experience as you learn.

	SEP-DEC	JAN-APR	MAY-AUG
YEAR 1	STUDY	STUDY	FREE SUMMER
YEAR 2	STUDY	STUDY	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$12,600
YEAR 3	STUDY	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$12,600	STUDY
YEAR 4	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$12,600	STUDY	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$12,600
YEAR 5	STUDY/GRADUATE		

Graduate with up to **16 months** of work experience and earn up to **\$50,000** (on average) over the course of your degree.

## LE,NONET

During your time at UVic, you can access academic and leadership programs and needs-based financial aid offered by LE,NONET. You can use LE,NONET courses towards an Indigenous Studies degree or as electives in any other program.

## Indigenous exchange in Australia

If studying abroad for a term interests you, you can apply for a co-op work placement at a partner institution in Australia through the Indigenous International Work-Integrated Learning Exchange.

# Your community

Whether you're coming from a small town, a big city or an Indigenous community, UVic offers plenty of support with your transition to university life.

## People

### Campus Cousins

Campus Cousins are friendly upper-level Indigenous students who will welcome you at exciting social, cultural and recreational activities on and off campus.

### Native Students Union

The Native Students Union is an organization run for and by Indigenous students. You'll have the opportunity to form community, support each other, advocate for Indigenous rights and wellbeing, and just exist together at UVic.

### Elders in Residence

Elders are the keepers of sacred stories, songs, languages, cultures and traditions. You can stop by and visit one of the Elders at the First Peoples House for a friendly chat or cultural guidance.

### Indigenous counsellors

Our Indigenous counsellors are here to help you navigate your transition to university life, and to support you throughout your journey. This free service is open to all Indigenous students.

## Services

### On-campus housing

If you're coming to UVic directly out of high school, you're eligible for a space in residence through the first-year guarantee. If you're graduating from high school in 2024, you need to apply for housing before May 1. If you're not a current high school student, you can apply for on-campus housing and request a space in our dedicated Indigenous housing. These spaces are limited and successful applicants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. This accommodation is available for single undergraduate and graduate students. There are also dedicated spaces in Family Housing for students and their families. For more information and residence application deadlines, see [uvic.ca/residence](https://uvic.ca/residence).

### Indigenous Living and Learning Community

Live with other Indigenous students in on-campus housing. The Indigenous Living Learning Community offers a fantastic opportunity to connect with other Indigenous students while away from home.

Take part in social and cultural activities to enhance your experience living on-campus. Activities could include beading, health and wellness programs, and cooking programs.

If you self-identify as Indigenous and are an undergraduate student, you can apply to live in the Indigenous Living and Learning Community.

UVic opened two new student housing and dining facilities recently. In the local languages, they are called Sḡéqə ʔéʔləŋ (Sngequ House) and Čeqʷəŋín ʔéʔləŋ (Cheko'nien House). Each houses close to 400 students.





## Academic supports

If you need extra support in math and academic writing, our tutors are here to help you improve your skills with no cost to you. Other supports include:

- Academic Advising
- Centre for Accessible Learning
- Counselling Services
- Multifaith Services
- Orientation
- Student Support Services
- Student Wellness Centre

You can connect with the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement in The First Peoples House to learn about all our academic supports.

## Events

### Indigenous Week of Welcome

At the beginning of the September and January terms, you can take part in the Indigenous Week of Welcome, which includes activities like welcome feasts and cultural workshops. Meet the Elders in Residence, the Indigenous staff and start your term in a good way.

### Wellness events

Throughout the year you can take part in wellness activities at the First Peoples House that can help reduce the stress that sometimes comes with being a student.

### Cultural activities

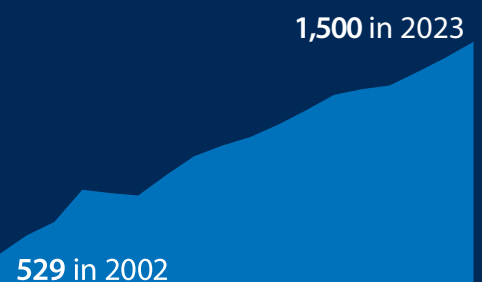
You can connect with Indigenous cultural practices by taking part in activities like preparing traditional foods and learning to make a drum or ribbon skirt at the First Peoples House.



## See how our Indigenous student-body is growing!

Nearly every year since 2002, the number of Indigenous students enrolled at UVic has risen.

In 2002, 529 Indigenous students were enrolled at UVic. By 2023, that number nearly tripled to 1,500!



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Nearly 100 courses  
with Indigenous content

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# Invest in your future

Your UVic education is a valuable investment that will reward you throughout your life. Finances should not be a barrier. No matter your financial situation, UVic offers opportunities to offset the cost of university through scholarships, awards, bursaries, co-op, work study and more.

SAMPLE FIRST-YEAR COSTS*	COST
Domestic tuition for all programs except engineering programs and Computer Science	\$6,166
Domestic tuition for engineering programs	\$7,504
Domestic tuition for Computer Science	\$6,822
International tuition for all programs except engineering programs and Computer Science	\$29,716
International tuition for engineering programs	\$35,269
International tuition for Computer Science	\$32,064
Books and supplies (estimated)	\$2,000
Student fees	\$900
Residence fees	\$8,353 – \$13,934
Total Canadian fees (tuition, books, residence, etc.)	\$17,419 – \$24,338
Total international fees (tuition, books, residence, etc.)	\$40,969 – \$52,103

\*Tuition and student fees are based on September to April 2023-24 rates. Eight months of study (five courses per term except engineering programs which require 11 courses in the first 2 terms). Tuition figures are estimates. Final costs will be determined by the student's actual registration. All figures may be subject to change. On-campus residence rates based on September to April 2023-24 rates. All figures in Canadian dollars.

Plan your budget at [uvic.ca/whatdoesitcost](https://uvic.ca/whatdoesitcost).

## How will I fund my education?

### SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit. Awards are assigned on the basis of specific criteria. Bursaries are awarded on the basis of financial need. For a complete list of scholarships, awards and bursaries, visit [uvic.ca/safa](https://uvic.ca/safa).

### In-course scholarships

In-course scholarships become available once you have completed a full-time academic year.

### Athletic awards

Varsity athletes may be eligible for athletic awards. Learn more at [uvic.ca/safa](https://uvic.ca/safa).

### Scholarships, awards and bursaries for Indigenous students

UVic offers over 90 scholarships, awards and bursaries to First Nations (status/non-status), Inuit and Métis students. To be eligible you will need to self-identify as Indigenous on your admission application and apply via the online scholarship application.

### Scholarships, awards and bursaries from your faculty or program

Once you're a UVic student, you can apply for scholarships, awards and bursaries for students in your faculty or program.



## BC provincial tuition waiver program

If you have been a youth in care in BC, you may be eligible for the BC Provincial Tuition Waiver. This program covers the cost of tuition and fees charged by the post-secondary institution for any credit or non-credit courses leading to a certificate, diploma, credential or undergraduate degree.

## External awards

Visit [uvic.ca/safa](http://uvic.ca/safa) for a list of external awards.

## Bursaries

Indigenous students with identified financial need are eligible to apply for LE, NONET bursaries. Visit [uvic.ca/safa](http://uvic.ca/safa) for a list of bursaries open to all UVic students.

## UVic Youth in Care Tuition Award

If you have been a youth in care in BC, you may be eligible for the UVic Youth in Care Tuition Award. It covers tuition and fees for the terms required for the completion of a first undergraduate degree. Eligible applicants may also receive funding to assist with the costs of books, supplies and living expenses. If you are transferring from another college or university, you are welcome to apply. Learn more at [uvic.ca/safa](http://uvic.ca/safa).

## Emergency funds

If you face unexpected financial hardships while attending UVic, you can meet with the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement to apply for emergency funding.

## Nation or band funding

Some bands and nations have funding to support your education. Contact your band, Nation, Métis organization or your UVic Indigenous recruiter to learn more.

## Scholarships

If you're a high school student, or if you have graduated within the last two years, you may be eligible for entrance scholarships when you receive a conditional offer of admission based on your in-progress grades submitted no later than March 15.

Special scholarships are available to

- Women and Indigenous Engineering and Computer Science students with a minimum admission average of 85%
- Indigenous students with a minimum admission average of 85%.

If you meet more than one scholarship criteria, scholarships may be combined! UVic also offers many scholarships based on a combination of admission average and other criteria.

While you do not need to apply for entrance scholarships based on admission average only, you do need to apply for specific criteria scholarships.

Learn how and when to apply for scholarships at [uvic.ca/entrancescholarships](http://uvic.ca/entrancescholarships).

## Interested in learning more about how you will fund your UVic education?

Our UVic Indigenous recruiters are happy to meet with you to walk you through funding, scholarships and bursaries—and anything else you'd like to know.

Contact your UVic Indigenous recruiter via the email address or phone number on the back cover of this book.

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## Contact your Indigenous recruiter to:

Answer your  
questions

Book a tour of the  
First Peoples House

Discuss band funding  
and scholarships

Explain admission  
requirements

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[indigenous.recruiter@uvic.ca](mailto:indigenous.recruiter@uvic.ca) • 250-853-3729

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Learn about upcoming UVic events.

[uvic.ca/undergraduate](http://uvic.ca/undergraduate)



Book a campus tour or watch  
our campus tour video.

[uvic.ca/tour](http://uvic.ca/tour)



Learn about student life on MyUVic  
Life—a blog for students by students.

[uvic.ca/myuviclife](http://uvic.ca/myuviclife)



Take a virtual tour right now.

[uvic.ca/virtualtour](http://uvic.ca/virtualtour)



Get your questions answered by  
current UVic students.

[f My First Year @ UVic](#)



Learn more about UVic's Indigenous  
Academics and Community.

[f @UVicIACE](#)



See what our amazing campus  
life is like.

[@universityofvictoria](#)



Join us for on-campus and  
virtual events to learn where a  
UVic degree can take you!

[uvic.ca/join-us](http://uvic.ca/join-us)



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