

University of Victoria

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS VIEWBOOK 2025-26



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We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ 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 ʔtə
HÁEQ ŁTE OL TFE ČELÁNEN ŁTE
Remember our ancestors/birthright

Nəcəmaat kʷəns če?i
ČANEUEL OL
Work together

Nəwəs šxʷ cən ʔáy šqʷeləqʷən
ÁMEKT TFEN ÍY, ŚKÁLEQEN
Bring in your good heart and mind

Le?t šxʷ helə ʔə cə makʷ sče?i sə?
S,HOL ET MEQ EN ENÁ SE SCÁ
Be prepared for the work to come

Ləkʷəŋən – top
 SENĆOŦEN – middle
 English – bottom

Cover photo: *First Peoples House* 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: *Frogs Emerging After the Great Flood*. Artist: the late TEMOSEN-ŦET (Charles W. Elliott), WJOLELP, Tsartlip First Nation

Be at home here

At UVic, you'll be part of our welcoming community of students, staff and professors 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 gathering place for events and an Elders in Residence lounge.

INDIGENOUS ART ON CAMPUS

Discover an inspiring collection of Indigenous art in buildings like the First Peoples House, Čeqʷəŋín ʔé?lən (Cheko'nien House), Sŋéqə ʔé?lən (Sngequ House), the Cornett Building, and throughout our outdoor spaces. Carved poles, woven blankets, 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. Learn more at uvic.ca/ovpi/indigenous-art.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT LOUNGE

Located on the first floor of Sŋéqə ʔé?lən, the Indigenous student lounge offers regular culturally specific programs and activities organized by friendly staff, as well as a common space for all Indigenous UVic students to connect with peers who share similar cultural backgrounds. Drop in to hang out, study, grab a snack or ask about campus resources.

MYSTIC VALE

Ləkʷəŋən and WŚÁNEĆ 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.



SIÁM SLELWÁŁ NONET SWEKEŁ (The Highly Respected One's, Peace of Mind at Last) blanket by Myrna Crossley, Songhees Nation.



75%

OF STUDENTS ARE FROM OUTSIDE THE GREATER VICTORIA AREA

You'll be surrounded by students from all over the world who are looking to make friends.

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.



Haylee Gardiner (left) and Tiffany Friesen (centre) host a podcast called "The Power of Indigenous Kinship" in which they discuss what it's like to be a first-year Indigenous student studying in a colonial institution. Haylee is Dene Métis and is studying biology, and Tiffany is Nuxalk and Ojibwe/Cree and is pursuing a degree in psychology. Here they're joined by LE,NONET First Year Coordinator Candice Cook, who was a guest on their podcast. Candice is a member of Driftpile Cree Nation and Métis.

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 2025, you need to apply for housing before **May 1**. You don't need an offer of admission in order to apply for on-campus housing. 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.

Student Wellness Centre

The Student Wellness Centre is your wellness hub. Speak with a counsellor, doctor, nurse, chaplain or other health and wellness practitioner. LGBTQIA2S+ students will find gender-affirming care and other supports at the Centre. uvic.ca/student-wellness.

Student supports

- Academic Advising
- Centre for Accessible Learning
- Counselling Services
- Multifaith Services
- Math and academic writing tutors
- Student Support Services

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, IACE staff, Native Students Union and other resources and supports to start your term in a good way.

Wellness events

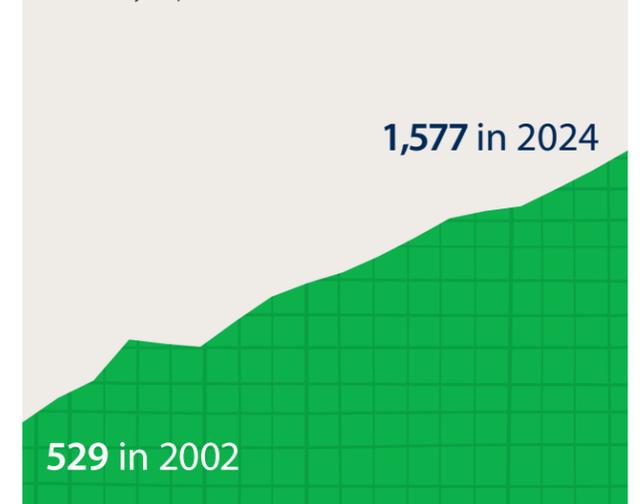
Throughout the year you can take part in wellness activities at the First Peoples House that can help reduce the stress that sometimes comes with being a student.

Cultural activities

You can connect with Indigenous cultural practices by taking part in a variety of in-person or online cultural workshops and events.

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 2024, that number nearly tripled to 1,577!



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. UVic boasts an incredible community of over 70 Indigenous professors contributing their expertise and enriching our academic life.

- 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 right)
- Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Language Proficiency
- Bachelor of Child and Youth Care (Indigenous Specialization)
- Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Education (Elementary)
- 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)

INDIGENOUS STUDIES (BA) PROGRAM

Indigenous Studies is an 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 SENĆOŦEN LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Interested in passing on the SENĆOŦEN language to others? UVic's W,SENĆOŦEN IST Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization prepares you to do just that! This two-year community-based program is open to all students who have a passion for learning SENĆOŦEN. The next intake into this program will be fall 2026.



**You are unique.
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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.



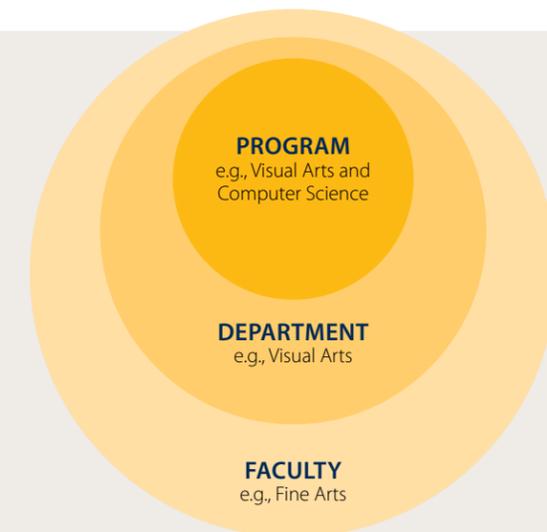
ABOVE UVic will be the home of the new National Centre for Indigenous Laws (provisional name). Image by Tango Studio.

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.




**NEARLY
100
COURSES WITH
INDIGENOUS
CONTENT**

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.

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

Tiffany Friesen. (Nuxalk, Ojibway/Cree) "I'm a first-year student and came straight from high school. The Indigenous Living Learning Community has helped me with my adjustment to university. You get to build really close friendships through study groups and regular community events. There are so many different resources available. Being surrounded by people with similar experiences and backgrounds is a big part of the Indigenous Living Learning Community that you wouldn't get anywhere else!"



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/coop. If you have a specific position in mind, we will work with you to organize your own unique placement.

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 living 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.

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 ≈ \$13,300
YEAR 3	STUDY	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$13,300	STUDY
YEAR 4	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$13,300	STUDY	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$13,300
YEAR 5	STUDY/GRADUATE		

Graduate with up to **16 months** of work experience and earn up to **\$53,000** (on average) over the course of your degree.

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.

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.

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.

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.



External awards

Visit uvic.ca/safa for a list of external awards.

Bursaries

Indigenous students with identified financial need are eligible to apply for LE, NONET bursaries.

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.

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.

ENTRANCE 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. Scholarships are available to students who meet a minimum admission average of 90%.

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.

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.

SAMPLE FIRST-YEAR COSTS*

Domestic tuition for all programs except Engineering and Computer Science programs	\$6,413
Domestic tuition for Engineering and Computer Science programs	\$7,097
Books and supplies (estimated)	\$2,000
Student fees	\$900
Residence fees	\$15,048
Total Canadian fees (tuition, books, residence, etc.)	\$24,361 – \$25,045

*Tuition, residence and student fees are based on September to April 2024-25 rates. Eight months of study (generally five courses per term). Tuition figures are estimates. Final costs will be determined by the student's actual registration. All figures may be subject to change. All figures in Canadian dollars.

Plan your budget at uvic.ca/whatdoesitcost.

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.

Contact your Indigenous recruiter to:

Answer your questions

Book a tour of the First Peoples House

Discuss band funding and scholarships

Explain admission requirements

indigenous.recruiter@uvic.ca • 250-853-3729



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Student Recruitment

Jamie Cassels Centre, Welcome Centre,
3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, BC, V8P 5C2

If there are any discrepancies between this publication and the University of Victoria Undergraduate Admissions website, the website will take precedence.