



2024/25 ENROLMENT ANALYSIS REPORT

November 2024



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Summary and strategic context

UVic's Strategic Enrolment Plan has guided our recruitment and retention efforts since its launch in April 2019. Our commitments as outlined in the Plan include recruiting the best undergraduate students, diversifying our international undergraduate student population by geographic location and program of study, and increasing our enrolment of Indigenous students and others from under-represented populations. We also aim to increase the proportion of graduate students, especially in research programs.

Further to this, our Strategic Plan, Distinctly UVic, builds on our strong foundation of excellence in teaching, research and creative works, and our commitment to an outstanding student experience. It urges us to bring together different perspectives and lived experiences to build better solutions, together. As we continue to implement Distinctly UVic and other institutional plans, we will revisit and revise our enrolment goals to align with our purpose, pledge, principles and priorities that define and unite us.

Our annualized student full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolment for the 2024/25 academic year is expected to be 19,477—an increase of 98 FTE from last year. Our 2024 fall term headcount is 21,923, with 18,581 undergraduate students and 3,334 graduate students.

As with previous years, we expect to achieve our funded enrolment targets for 2024/25 set by the BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSEFS), as well as our internal targets approved by UVic's Board of Governors in March 2024 on recommendation of Senate. Given the projected lower intake of international undergraduates and the strong demand domestically, the Board endorsed a planned international undergraduate enrolment level lower than previous years and a domestic enrolment level higher than our target with PSEFS. Our funded enrolment target includes new student seats in engineering and computer science and health-related academic programs.

We are also on track to meet our international enrolment target, which is set internally and alongside our domestic undergraduate and graduate targets. Our international undergraduate target for 2024/25 was set at 1,339 or 248 lower than our 2023/24 enrolment of 1,587 FTE. Actual international undergraduate enrolment is expected to be 1,426, or 87 FTE above target. This expected reduction in enrolment and associated tuition revenue informed our budget framework for 2024/25, which included a 4% budget reduction.

In 2019, as part of our Strategic Enrolment Plan, we committed to doubling Indigenous enrolment across all faculties by 2029, so that Indigenous students comprise at least 10% of the overall student population at UVic. We continue to see a steady increase in the number of students who identify as Indigenous, attributed to our K-12 pathways, community outreach, academic programs of interest to Indigenous learners, and culturally appropriate supports for Indigenous students. Representation is also an important factor for any diversity goal, and UVic has increased the number of Indigenous faculty and staff through initiatives like the Indigenous Recruitment Support Fund, as well as through significant efforts by units, faculty, librarians, staff and community leaders. Distinctly UVic and our Indigenous Plan *Xʷkʷənəŋ istəl* / *W̱ĆENEN̓ISTEL* (*Helping to move each other forward*) envision a future where ways of knowing, being and learning are embedded into UVic's programs, systems and organizational structure.

National and global context

Domestic enrolment remains strong, with UVic once again achieving our funded PSFS target and internal target. Of the 25 publicly funded post-secondary institutions in BC, only nine—including UVic—are currently meeting their PSFS domestic undergraduate enrolment target.

UVic continues to experience a decline in international undergraduate enrolment, compounded by several years of smaller international cohorts (a smaller entering class one year persists for 4-5 years—the span of time we expect a student to complete their degree). The decline began during the COVID-19 pandemic and has persisted due to several external factors.

The international post-secondary landscape continues to challenge Canadian universities and colleagues, with institutions across Canada experiencing declines to international enrolment. Notably, changes to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada policies and regulations have created uncertainties for students, despite available spaces at BC universities, including UVic.

As well, some countries—particularly China, which has been our biggest overseas recruitment country for several years—continue to advocate national policies to study in-country. The ongoing dispute between Canada and India has also limited student interest from India—our second biggest overseas recruitment country. Many international students are choosing to study in countries that have fewer restrictions, such as the USA, United Kingdom, France and Germany. It is important to note that geopolitical considerations and conflicts also create instability and may limit opportunities for international students to study abroad.

In response to these challenges, we have reviewed and revised our recruitment targets and goals (including diversification targets), sent admission offers earlier in the cycle, streamlined the registration process, expanded our recruiting network including through our partnership with Kaplan, and created new scholarships for international students. In fall 2024, we launched a new international undergraduate marketing campaign that speaks to UVic's value proposition, focusing on place and nature, experiential learning and the student experience, and academic and career outcomes.

Significant progression efforts by our Division of Student Affairs and in the Faculties have resulted in a good rate of student admits, both domestic and international, choosing to register at UVic. These combined efforts aim to demonstrate that UVic is a welcoming place for all students, and that we are committed to the retention and success of our students.

Annualized student FTEs

Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolment is a weighted measure of student enrolment that considers course load. This measure is the principal enrolment accountability with the province and determines our funding for domestic students. For undergraduates, the FTE for a term is calculated by dividing a student's total registered units by the expected unit total for that particular program and year level. For full-time graduate students, the term FTE is 1.0. For part-time graduate students, the term is 0.33.

An annualized FTE measures course activity over a 12-month period, beginning with the Summer Session. For an undergraduate, this is the sum of the FTEs for the summer, fall and spring terms. For a graduate student, the annualized FTE is the sum of the three FTEs divided by 3.

PSFS sets enrolment targets for UVic based on annualized FTEs, and UVic's Board of Governors approves our enrolment levels to help meet those targets. UVic's grant funding, like other post-secondary institutions in BC, is provided by PSFS based on our domestic undergraduate and graduate enrolment targets. This represents our "PSFS-funded target," and we submit a Board-approved "Institutional Accountability Plan and Report" to PSFS every summer that demonstrates how well we have met those targets.

UVic sets a higher internal target for enrolments for the purpose of its own academic and budget planning, which takes into account undergraduate international students (who are not funded by government and thus pay full international tuition). International graduate students are included along with domestic students in the PSFS graduate targets—out of a 2024/25 annualized total of 3,001 FTE, 1,090 were international.

As demonstrated in the table below, our overall annualized enrolment of 19,477 FTE exceeds our target of 19,447 by 30. We expect to exceed our PSFS target by 1,310 FTE in 2024/25, which comprises domestic undergraduates and all graduates (18,051 FTE on a target of 16,741). International undergraduate enrolment levels are down from last year, at 1,426 FTE but exceed our planning and budget target of 1,339 FTE.

Annualized FTE target comparison

	2023/24 actuals	2024/25 target	2024/25 forecast	Ministry funded
Domestic undergraduates	14,818	15,111	15,050	14,363
International undergraduates	1,587	1,339	1,426	0
Total undergraduates	16,405	16,450	16,476	14,363
Total graduates	2,974	2,997	3,001	2,378
Total students	19,379	19,447	19,477	16,741

Table 1: UVic's overall annualized enrolment for 2024/25 is projected to exceed our target by 30 FTE.

Over the past decade, our greatest enrolment growth has been in international students. This population was affected by the pandemic as Canada had restricted inbound and outbound travel and implemented strict quarantine rules. Home countries also limited outbound travel, and Visa application and biometric centres around the world reduced capacity or closed entirely. Many incoming international students experienced significant delays by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada in processing and approving their study permit applications.

Annualized student FTEs over time

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	7-yr % chg
Undergrad domestic	14,064	14,129	14,239	14,083	14,299	14,818	15,050	7.0%
Undergrad international	2,333	2,577	2,492	2,275	1,907	1,587	1,426	-38.9%
Total undergraduates	16,397	16,706	16,731	16,358	16,171	16,405	16,476	0.5%
Total graduates	2,732	2,688	2,630	2,791	2,853	2,974	3,001	9.8%
Total students	19,129	19,364	19,361	19,149	19,059	19,379	19,477	1.8%

Table 2: UVic's overall annualized student FTEs have been stable, with a growth of 1.8% in seven years. As we are currently in the 2024/25, this number is a projection and includes a best estimate of spring term 2025.

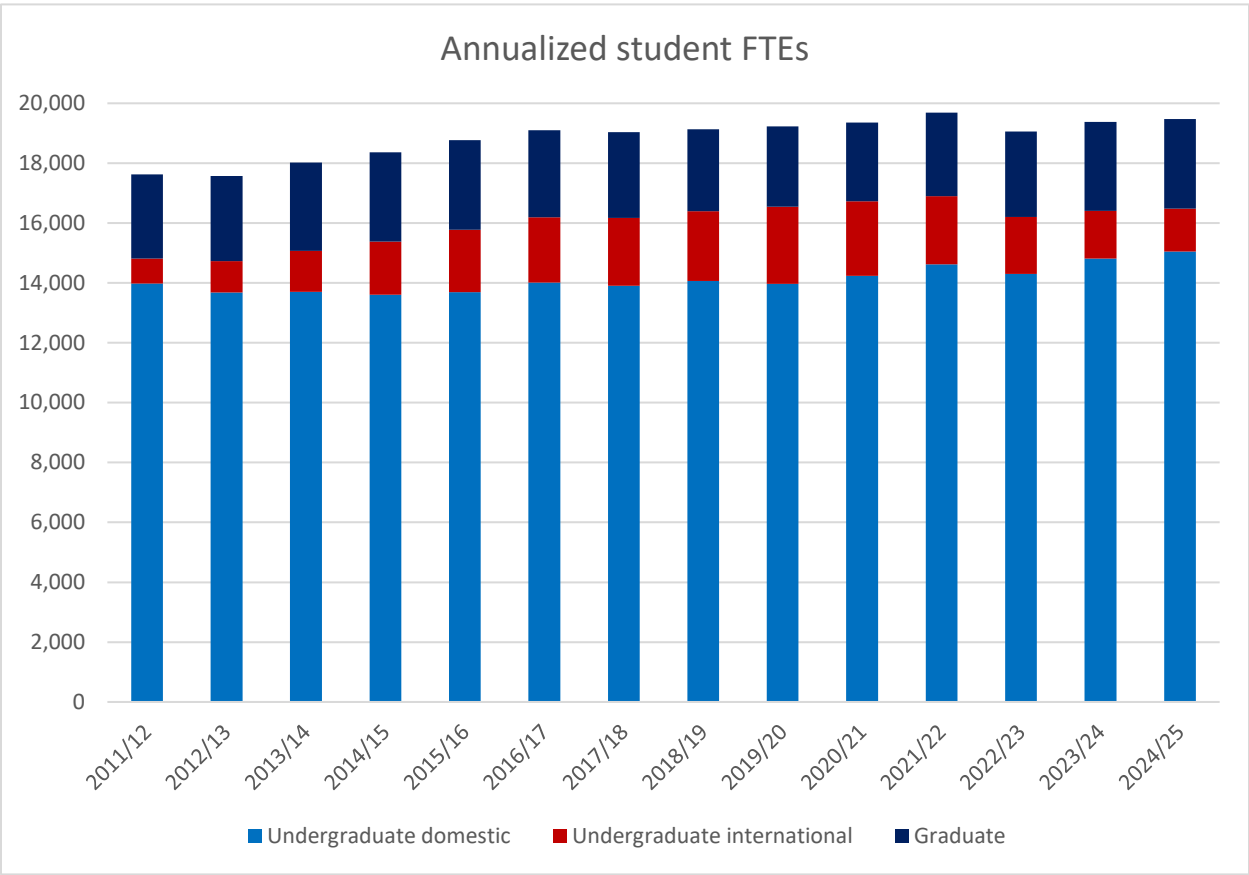


Figure 1: Annualized student FTEs over time.

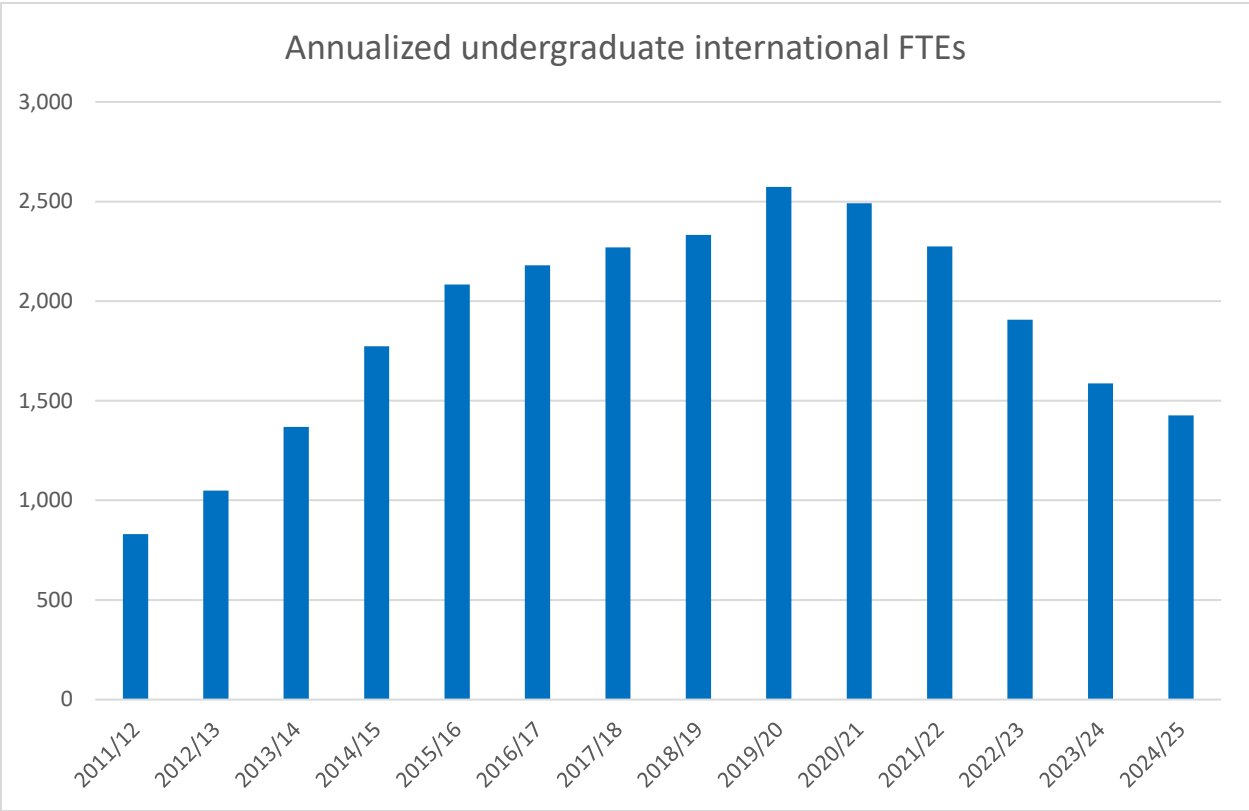


Figure 2: Annualized undergraduate international FTEs over time.

Each UVic Faculty has undergraduate and graduate enrolment targets and is resourced to meet those targets. Deans subsequently set enrolment expectations within their Faculties. There is no mechanical formula for per-student funding in the faculties since costs and resources vary substantially, depending on several factors, including the nature of the pedagogy, services, technologies, research equipment and related personnel, labour market differences by discipline, the success of the faculty in generating additional resources, and economies of scale.

Ministry-funded program expansions

As noted elsewhere in this report, the provincial government—through PSFS—funds up to a university’s domestic and graduate enrolment targets, which they set. Any additional students enrolled provide only tuition revenue, which—particularly in the case of domestic students—is insufficient to cover the full cost of education.

Through the leadership of the Vice-President Academic and Provost, and in coordination with Deans and Faculties, UVic works with PSFS on targeted expansions of academic degree programs, which increases our enrolment target and thus provincial grant. Program expansion proposals take years to negotiate and must align with our academic plans, government priorities and student demand. These expansions are one of the few ways BC universities increase their provincial grant (the other being funding to cover negotiated compensation increases through BC’s Public Sector Employers' Council).

Recently approved program expansions at UVic have been in engineering, computer science, health information science, and nursing, as shown below. Previous expansions have included engineering, computer science, social work, nursing, and the joint Indigenous laws programs.

Program	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Bachelor Software Engineering	60	60	60
Bachelor Computer Science	75	70	75
Bachelor Health Information Science	10	10	10
Master Health Information Science	8	15	12
Nurse Practitioner	15	15	-
Total funded expansions	168	175	157

Table 3: Ministry-funded academic program expansions (by student FTEs) for 2024/25–2026/27.

Funding is provided by the province on a per-FTE basis and, along with increased tuition revenue, the expansions in 2024/25 through to 2026/27 are expected to generate an additional \$13 million in operating revenue to the university. These new revenues help cover the costs of educating additional students through new faculty and staff positions, sessional and teaching assistant funding, and funding for associated supports and services.

Additionally, expansions can result in significant equipment and capital funding associated with the academic programs, which contributes to our research mission. For example, the current engineering and computer science expansion includes funding for the creation of a \$3.75 million computing cluster for software engineering, and the previous multi-year program expansion led to an addition to the Engineering Computer Science Building and the construction of a new High Bay Research and Structures Lab currently underway.

Headcounts

Student enrolment is usually measured in two ways: as a full-time equivalent (FTE)—previously explained—or as a headcount. A headcount is an unweighted count of individuals, where part-time and full-time students contribute equally to the final tally. Headcount totals are always referenced to a particular date and term, such as November 1 in the fall term (i.e., after the course drop-date deadline for the term).

Over the past seven years, headcount enrolment at UVic has been stable, with a change of only -0.2%. Enrolments within most faculties have been mostly stable and within a range related to their enrolment targets. In this timeframe, we have seen notable headcount growth in the Faculty of Law due to the launch of the joint Indigenous law JD/JID program (+16%) and growth in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (+3%) due to funded expansions. As previously noted, a further expansion is underway that includes an additional 600 new student spaces in software engineering and computer science.

The largest decrease has been in the Faculty of Human and Social Development (-15%), primarily related to nursing. This pattern is consistent with nursing programs throughout BC, and we are working with our government partners to realign our targets and develop new programs. When the Faculty of Health becomes operational on May 1, 2025, programs currently in HSD will move to the Faculties of Health, Social Sciences, or Education. Decreases in the Faculty of Science (-5.6%) and Faculty of Social Sciences (-2.3%) are due to fewer international students.

Fall term student headcounts

Faculty/Division	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	7-yr % chg
Business	1,268	1,193	1,366	1,293	1,207	1,365	7.6%
Education	981	943	942	905	868	971	-1.0%
Engineering & Computer Science	3,111	3,122	3,163	3,117	3,183	3,215	3.3%
Fine Arts	1,123	1,189	1,146	1,116	1,147	1,155	2.8%
Human & Social Development	1,368	1,281	1,206	1,123	1,143	1,162	-15.1%
Humanities	1,845	1,861	1,741	1,674	1,684	1,803	-2.3%
Law	397	396	439	449	460	460	15.9%
Science	2,971	3,026	3,193	3,020	2,886	2,805	-5.6%
Social Sciences	5,691	5,917	6,080	5,817	5,680	5,558	-2.3%
Medical Sciences*	125	127	130	127	133	143	14.4%
Total undergraduates	18,880	19,055	19,406	18,641	18,451	18,637	-1.3%
Total graduates	3,140	3,008	3,214	3,279	3,346	3,337	6.3%
Total students	22,020	22,063	22,620	21,920	21,737	21,974	-0.2%

Table 1: UVic's overall student headcounts have been stable.

*Enrolments in the Division of Medical Sciences represents students in UBC's Faculty of Medicine, as part of our distributed education partnership. Growth can be attributed to a recent expansion of the Island Medical Program and new spaces for Speech Language Pathology and Physical Therapy graduate programs.

Indigenous enrolment

As per our 2019 Strategic Enrolment Plan goal, we are committed to doubling Indigenous enrolment across all Faculties by 2029, where Indigenous students comprise at least 10% of the overall student population at UVic. Currently, Indigenous students comprise about 6.5% of the overall student population.

This year, Indigenous enrolment was similar to the previous year, with an increase of 0.1% in undergraduate programs and 3.1% in graduate programs.

The Faculty of Law has experienced significant Indigenous enrolment growth in recent years because of the JD/JID program, with a 22% increase in overall Indigenous student enrolment in seven years. The Faculties of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business have also made notable efforts to increase Indigenous enrolment. LE, NONET and the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement provides a suite of programs designed to welcome and support Indigenous students throughout their university journeys.

We also continue to strengthen our academic programming, courses and Indigenous-focused field schools, including land- and water-based learning opportunities. In 2018/19, UVic began offering annual Strategic Initiative Indigenous Grants to encourage faculty and staff across the university to revise their programs, courses, curricula, or learning resources aligned with UVic's commitment to reconciliation. In 2023, UVic launched a new REACH Award to recognize Indigenous scholars who have modernized their curricula and pedagogical practice using decolonization and/or anti-Indigenous racism approaches.

Indigenous students by faculty

Faculty/Division	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23	2023/ 24	2024/ 25	7-yr % chg
Business	24	33	33	39	34	39	50	108.3%
Education	119	128	134	116	110	115	130	9.2%
Engineering & Computer Science	120	120	113	103	95	91	86	-28.3%
Fine Arts	76	86	86	98	103	112	115	51.3%
Human & Social Development	195	189	198	179	153	173	163	-16.4%
Humanities	128	170	176	181	204	192	229	78.9%
Law	50	51	55	56	57	66	61	22.0%
Science	161	153	154	156	147	151	122	-24.2%
Social Sciences	284	292	332	339	310	305	291	2.5%
Medical Sciences*	10	13	16	17	18	17	15	50.0%
Total undergraduates	1,167	1,235	1,297	1,284	1,231	1,261	1,262	8.1%
Total graduates	234	240	253	271	288	321	331	41.5%
University total	1,377	1,442	1,517	1,516	1,485	1,543	1,543	12.1%

Table 2: Most faculties have seen a growth in the number of Indigenous students over a 7-year period. Reflects the number of individual students registered, rather than FTEs. *Enrolments in Medical Sciences represents students in UBC's Faculty of Medicine, as previously noted.

In the last decade, the overall trend for undergraduate enrolment at UVic is +20.9% and the trend for graduate enrolment is +36.8%.

Growth in Indigenous students at UVic

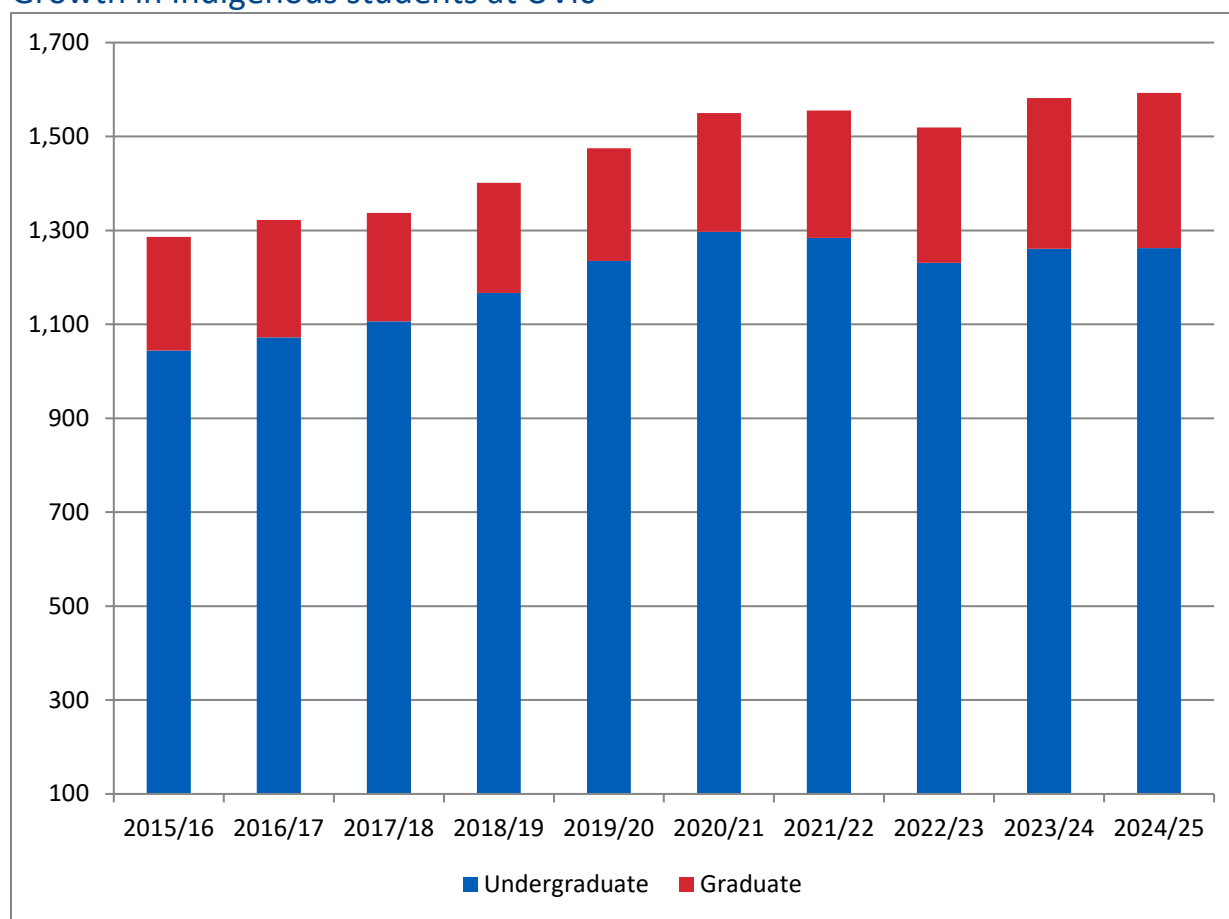


Figure 1: Currently, there are 1,262 Indigenous undergraduate and 331 Indigenous graduate students registered at UVic. Figures reflect individual students rather than FTEs.

Because Indigenous students may self-identify at any point in their education, there is some uncertainty as to actual enrolment numbers, which may be higher than indicated. The [Better Data Project](#)—aimed at enhancing the collection of information to inform inclusive action provides for more inclusive and expansive options for individuals to self-identify,.

Attracting new students

UVic sets enrolment targets every year for our new incoming classes to ensure overall enrolment levels are met and we achieve goals associated with new and growing programs (e.g., the technology- and health-related expansions) as well as our strategic enrolment goals. The applications and admissions cycle requires us to work with each Faculty to set enrolment targets and admission cut-offs to meet those enrolment levels.

About 77% of UVic students come from outside of the Greater Victoria Area—one of the highest of any Canadian university west of Quebec. In terms of geographic distribution, the greatest number of undergraduate registrants has consistently been from Vancouver Island, while the next largest group has been from the Lower Mainland.

Numbers of applicants are increasing, in large part due to new scholarships and increased recruitment efforts led by the Division of Student Affairs. Our partnership with Kaplan has also

started to bring new international applicants for our admission officers to review. Thanks to significant efforts within Student Affairs and the Faculties, including direct outreach and opening waitlists, we have been able to successful progress students from applicants to registrants. Progression efforts are particularly important as competition for top students intensifies.

Fall undergraduate applicants, admits and registrants

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-yr % chg
Total applicants	15,443	16,680	17,854	16,439	16,801	8.8%
Total admits	10,757	12,147	11,297	11,822	12,547	16.6%
Registrants						
Vancouver Island	1,482	1,387	1,319	1,232	1,457	-1.7%
Lower Mainland	1,142	1,202	822	914	1,049	-8.1%
Rest Southern BC	454	525	419	436	448	-1.3%
Other BC	170	199	185	207	219	28.8%
Rest of Canada	707	894	758	715	643	-9.1%
Outside Canada	371	611	591	585	538	45.0%
Total registrants	4,326	4,818	4,094	4,089	4,321	-0.1%

Table 3: New registrants have remained stable in the past five years.

Domestic undergraduate headcounts: new, returning and graduating

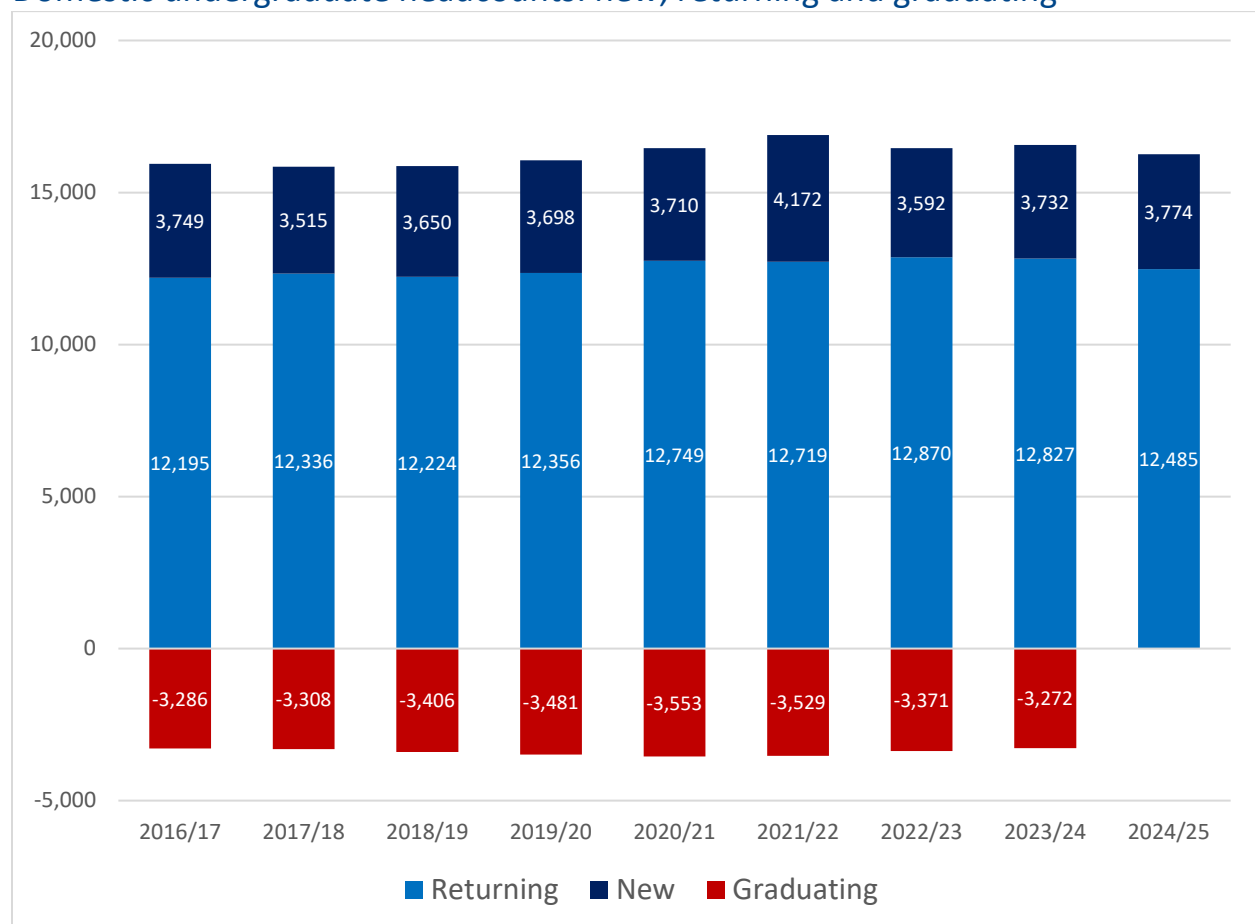


Figure 4: New intake targets take into account the expected number of returning students and the expected number of graduating students each year.

International undergraduate headcounts: new, returning and graduating

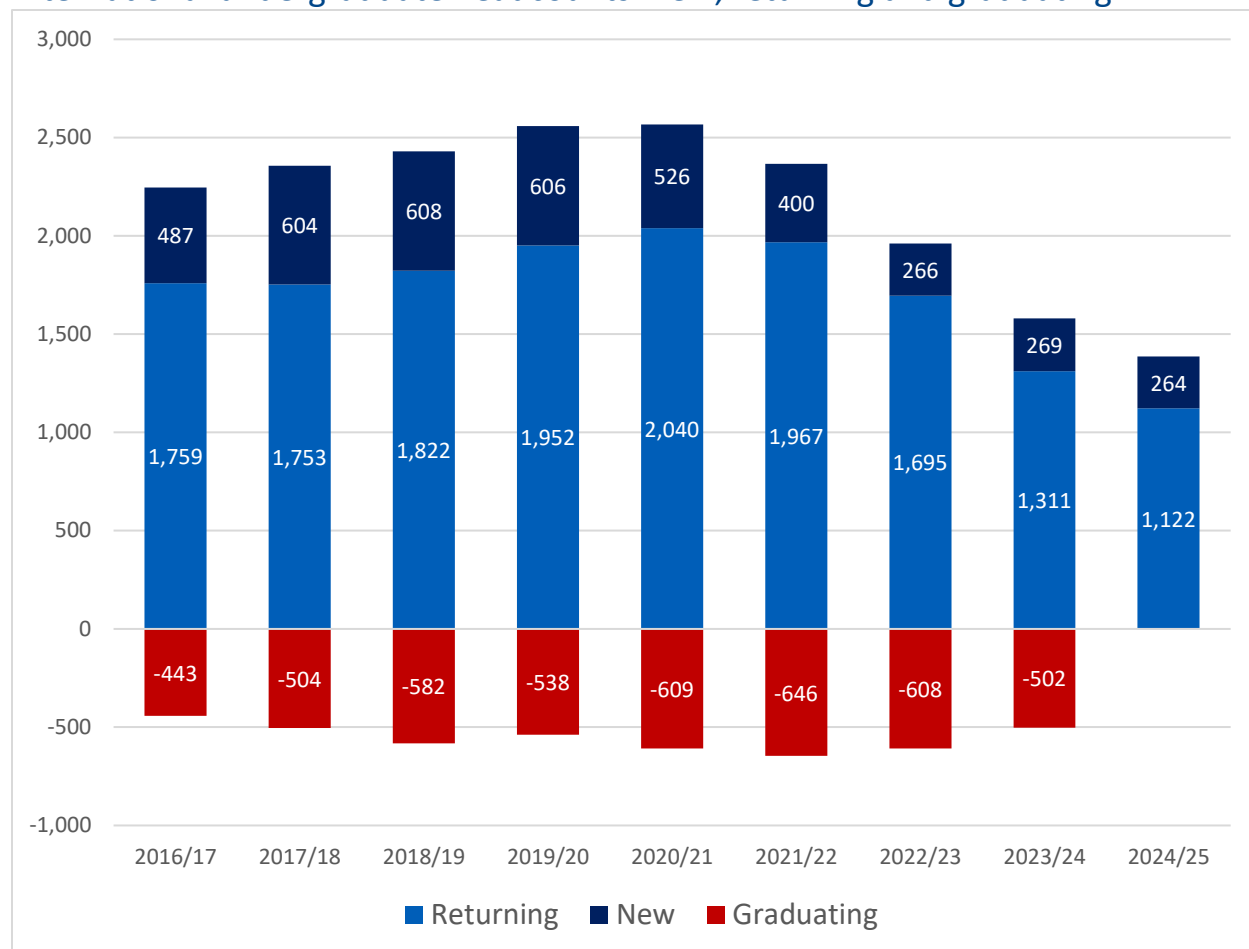


Figure 5: New intake targets take into account the expected number of returning students and the expected number of graduating students each year. For international students, this includes degree-seeking students and excludes those on international exchange.

The largest group of new undergraduate students has historically been BC high school students, and 2024 is no exception. Although we have seen a decrease in students coming from BC colleges, they continue to play an important role due to strong partnerships and pathway agreements. UVic and Camosun College have the single biggest transfer pathway in BC, with over 300 students per year transferring from Camosun to UVic in a typical year. About 1,500 students registered at UVic previously attended Camosun. Many of these students transfer to UVic through our engineering bridge program.

Undergraduate registrants by previous institution type

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-yr % change
BC high schools	2,240	2,633	2,140	2,216	2,494	11.3%
BC colleges	710	503	438	400	451	-36.5%
Total BC	2,950	3,136	2,578	2,616	2,945	-0.2%
All high school	2,913	3,612	2,940	2,990	3,184	9.3%
All post-secondary	1,413	1,201	1,147	1,099	1,137	-19.5%
Total registrants	4,326	4,813	4,087	4,089	4,321	-0.1%

Table 4: Most UVic students enter from high school.

UVic currently has students from over 128 countries. After Canada, the primary country of origin is China, with India and the United States as second and third. The proportion of students from China has declined over five years, from 43% to 22% of the overall international student population. In the same timeframe, we have seen an increase in students from Iran, Vietnam, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Mexico and Bangladesh, among other countries.

We are committed to diversifying the international student population by country and continue to implement several international recruitment strategies, including the strengthening of our recruitment network. This year, our partnership with Kaplan has been responsible for 74 new registrants, including from China, Vietnam, India, Turkey, South Korea and Brazil.

International headcounts by country (fall 2024)

Country	Graduate		Undergraduate		Total	
	Headcount	Percent	Headcount	Percent	Headcount	Percent
China	337	25%	457	21%	794	22%
India	128	9%	296	13%	424	12%
USA	106	8%	253	11%	359	10%
Iran	232	17%	68	3%	300	8%
Nigeria	40	3%	53	2%	93	3%
Mexico	26	2%	66	3%	92	3%
Vietnam	14	1%	69	3%	83	2%
Republic of Korea	12	1%	69	3%	81	2%
Japan	10	1%	69	3%	79	2%
United Kingdom	17	1%	57	3%	74	2%
Other	448	33%	750	34%	1,198	33%
Total	1,370		2,207		3,577	

Table 5: Most international students at UVic are from China, India, the USA and Iran. Note that percentages may not equal 100 because of rounding.

Challenges, strategies and new initiatives

As our overall domestic enrolments are strong, our focus going forward will be on international recruitment and further diversification, guided by our Strategic Enrolment Plan, Equity Action Plan and Indigenous Plan. We also continue to prioritize the retention and success of all students, including by offering culturally appropriate supports. The recruitment and success of graduate students across all Faculties is central to our mission as a research-intensive university.

Our strategies to maintain and recover international undergraduate enrolments within the context of a challenging post-secondary landscape have minimized the impact of government relations and global affairs. Compared to many of our peer institutions across Canada, UVic did not experience as sharp a decline in international enrolment.

Strategies have included a strengthening of our recruitment efforts, and new entrance scholarships. Our partnership with Kaplan continues to expand our recruitment network and our ability to attract high achieving students from around the globe. Our value proposition—which is reflected in our new marketing campaign for key international markets—continues to be a high-

quality, research-enriched education that includes significant experiential learning opportunities, including our highly successful co-op program.

UVic annually reviews the size and scope of our scholarship programs to ensure we are competitive and successful in attracting and retaining top-performing students. We also continue to offer bursaries to improve access for equity-deserving groups and students who demonstrate financial need during their studies, for both domestic and international students. To remain competitive, attract high-quality students, and meet our enrolment targets, we will need to continue to prioritize entrance scholarships. The value of student financial aid is outlined in the Student Awards and Financial Aid Report submitted annually to the Board of Governors.

We will also look for opportunities to expand and strengthen our academic programming in key areas of growth—both in terms of provincial priorities and our own education and research strengths, informed by our strategic plans. For example, with provincial support we continue to expand enrolment in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, and the new West Shore campus—a partnership between UVic, Camosun College and Royal Roads University that’s currently under construction—will provide new space for computer science and software engineering students. The Faculty of Health, which will become operational on May 1, 2025, will provide opportunities to attract new learners to our existing programs and to offer new health-related programs of interest to students that will also help address unmet need in the province.

Professional master’s programs, accelerated degree options and micro-credentials are other ways we can reach new learners, including adult learners, career professionals and international students. Through micro-credentials, learners can potentially stack or ladder credits into degree programs, certificates or diplomas.

Finally, and importantly, UVic will continue to prioritize opportunities for Indigenous students and support their success. In recent years, specifically for Indigenous students, we have increased one-to-one supports and culturally relevant co-op opportunities, created new and expanded existing pathway opportunities, expanded scholarships and bursaries, and increased community partnerships and outreach. We continue to work on decolonization efforts across the university, including through academic and non-academic programming, working towards our goal of increasing Indigenous student enrolment and success.

Conclusion

Our enrolment outlook this year remains mixed. We have surpassed our targets for domestic and graduate enrolments but continue to be challenged by lower international undergraduate student numbers, as are many other post-secondary institutions in BC and Canada. We will once again achieve our funded PSFS target, and we are well positioned to deliver on several of our key enrolment goals articulated in our Strategic Enrolment Plan.

The university will continue to focus on delivering quality academic programs; ensuring our outreach activities and pathways resonate in the increasingly competitive post-secondary market; offering competitive scholarship and bursary programs aligned with our recruitment and retention goals; maximizing research opportunities for students; and ensuring that key university supports and services are responsive to students’ needs.