University of Victoria

2025/26 ENROLMENT ANALYSIS REPORT

November 2025



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Summary and strategic context

UVic's Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Plan has guided our recruitment and retention efforts since its launch in April 2019. Our commitments as outlined in the SEM 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 other university plans build on our strong foundation of excellence in teaching, research and creative works, and our commitment to an outstanding student experience. As we continue to implement our SEM Plan and other institutional plans, we will revisit and revise our enrolment goals to align with our principles and priorities that guide us.

Our annualized student full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolment for the 2025/26 academic year is expected to be 19,790—an increase of 488 FTE from last year, or 2.5%. Our 2025 fall term headcount is 22,344 students, with 19,055 undergraduate students and 3,329 graduate students.

As with previous years, we expect to achieve our funded enrolment targets for 2025/26 set by the BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS), as well as our internal targets approved by UVic's Board of Governors in March 2025 on the 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 PSFS. 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 undergraduate enrolment target, which is set internally and alongside our domestic undergraduate and graduate targets. Our international undergraduate target for 2025/26 was set at 1,340, or 99 lower than our 2024/25 enrolment of 1,439 FTE. Actual international undergraduate enrolment is expected to be 1,345—just 5 FTE above target. Our operating budget for 2025/26 was set with these enrolment targets and we therefore expect to balance our budget, which positions us well and is a rarity in the Canadian post-secondary landscape this year.

In 2019, as part of our SEM 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. Our Indigenous Plan *Xʷkʷənəŋ istəl | W̱ȻENEṈISTEL (Helping to move each other forward)* envisions 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 10—including UVic—are currently meeting their PSFS domestic undergraduate enrolment target.

UVic continues to experience constrained 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 colleges, 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 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. Recent improvements in international relations between Canada and both India and China show promise for renewed student interest. Also, given political divisions in the United States, interest and applications from US students are showing improvement.

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 2025, we extended our 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 admitted students, 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 their retention and success.

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 three.

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 2025/26 annualized total of 2,916 FTE, 979 were international.

As demonstrated in the table below, our overall annualized enrolment of 19,790 FTE comes close to meeting our target of 19,879 by 89. We expect to exceed our PSFS target by 1,499 FTE in 2025/26, which comprises domestic undergraduates and all graduates (18,445 FTE on a target of 16,946). International undergraduate enrolment levels are down from last year, at 1,345 FTE but exceed our planning and budget target of 1,340 FTE.

Annualized FTE target comparison

	2024/25 actuals	2025/26 target	2025/26 forecast	Ministry funded
Domestic undergraduates	14,874	15,512	15,529	14,508
International undergraduates	1,439	1,340	1,345	0
Total undergraduates	16,313	16,852	16,874	14,508
Total graduates	2,989	3,027	2,916	2,438
Total students	**19,302**	**19,879**	**19,790**	**16,946**

Table 1: UVic's overall annualized enrolment for 2025/26 is projected to exceed our undergraduate target by 22 FTE but be short of our graduate target by 111 FTE. Our graduate forecast and target both exceed our Ministry-funded target.

Over the past 15 years and as shown in figure 2, international enrolment has both grown and declined. 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

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	7-yr % chg
Undergrad domestic	14,129	14,239	14,083	14,299	14,818	15,050	15,529	9.9%
Undergrad international	2,577	2,492	2,275	1,907	1,587	1,426	1,345	-47.8%
Total undergraduates	**16,706**	**16,731**	**16,358**	**16,171**	**16,405**	**16,476**	**16,874**	**1.0%**
Total graduates	**2,688**	**2,630**	**2,791**	**2,853**	**2,974**	**3,001**	**2,916**	8.5%
Total students	**19,364**	**19,361**	**19,149**	**19,059**	**19,379**	**19,477**	**19,790**	**2.2%**

Table 2: UVic's overall annualized student FTEs have been stable, with a growth of 2.2% in seven years. As we are currently in the 2025/26 academic year, this number is a projection and includes a best estimate of spring term 2026.

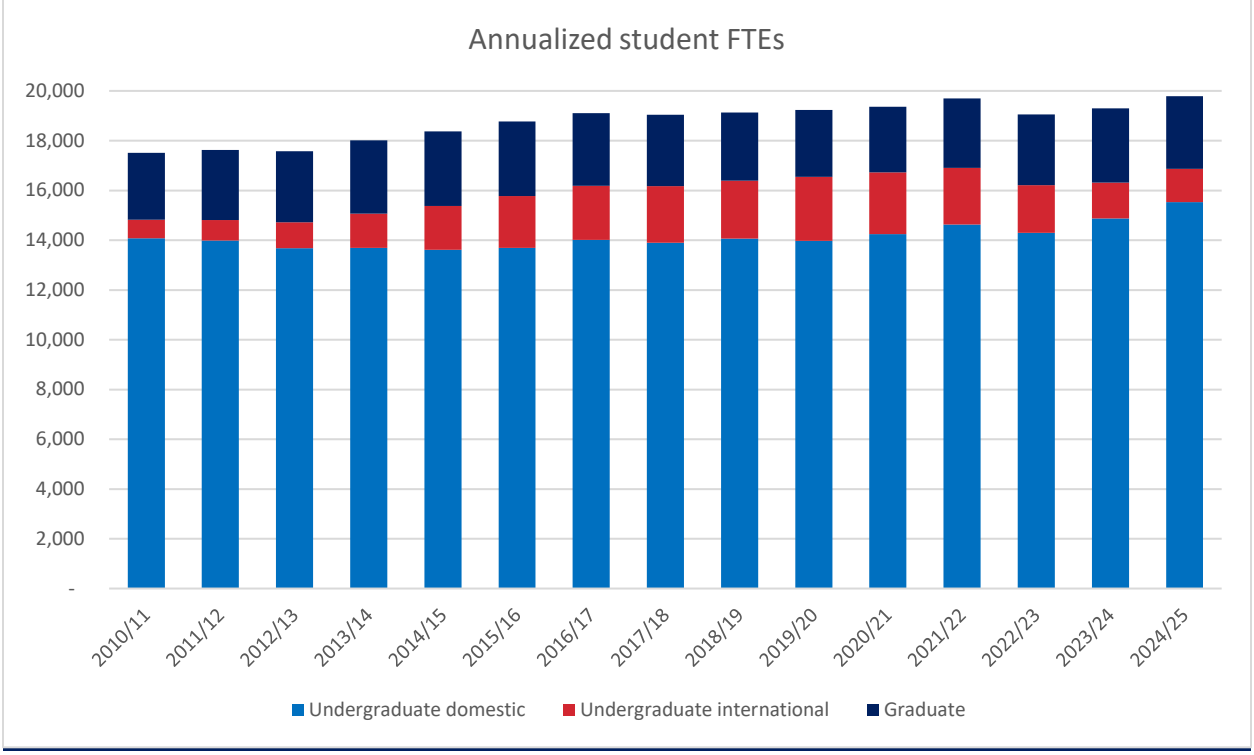

Figure 1: Annualized student FTEs over time.

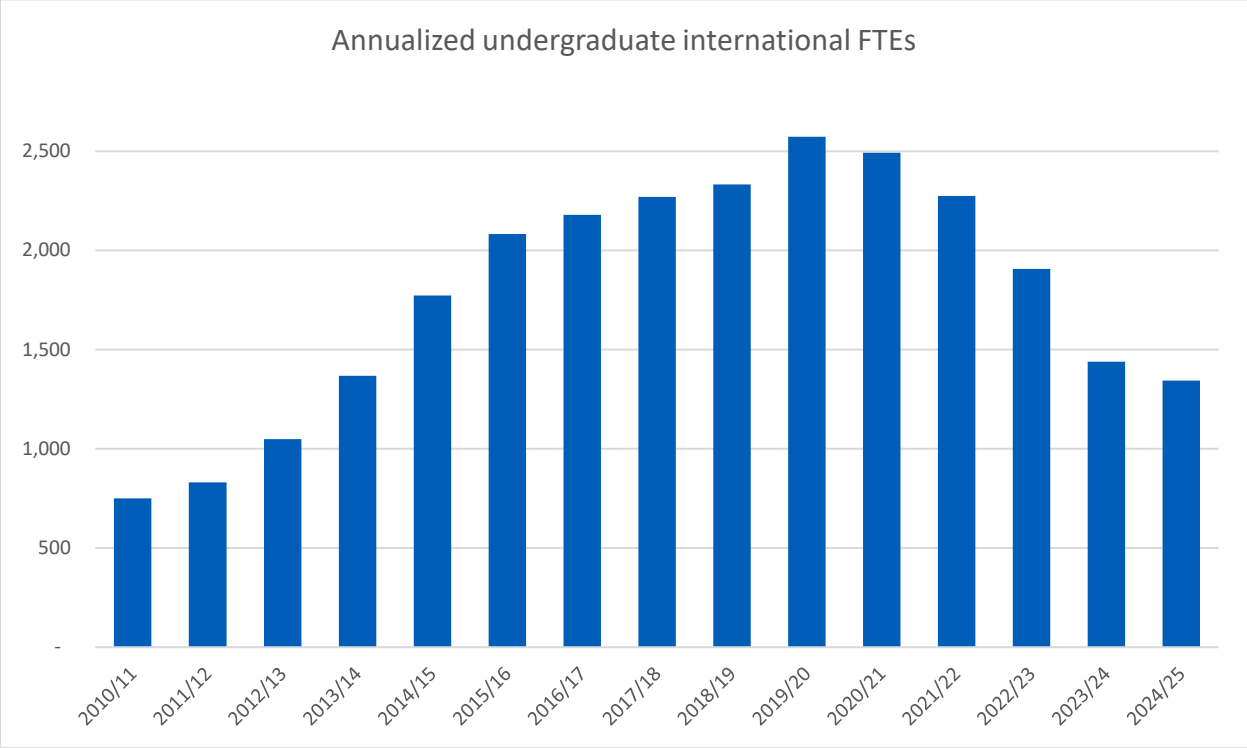

Figure 2: Annualized undergraduate international FTEs over time.

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	2027/28	2028/29
Bachelor Software Engineering	60	60	60	60	-
Bachelor Computer Science	75	75	75	75	-
Bachelor Health Information Science	10	10	10	10	-
Master Health Information Science	8	15	12	9	4
Nurse Practitioner	15	15	-	-	-
Accelerated Nursing	-	-	-	40	40
Total funded expansions	**168**	**175**	**157**	**194**	**44**

Table 3: Ministry-funded academic program expansions (by student FTEs) for 2024/25–2028/29.

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. As well, 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). Annualized headcounts, in the case of Indigenous enrolments represent unique individuals over the entire academic year.

Over the past seven years, overall headcount enrolment at UVic has been relatively stable, with an increase of 1.5%. Enrolments within most faculties have also been mostly stable and within a range related to their enrolment targets. In this timeframe, we have seen notable headcount growth in the Gustavson School of Business due to its curriculum revamp (+14%), in the Faculty of Law due to the launch of the joint Indigenous law JD/JID program (+19%) and growth in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (+6%) due to funded expansions.

Decreases in the Faculty of Humanities (-9%), and Faculty of Science (-6%) relate to broader national and international trends of fewer majors studying in those fields. However, course enrolments in those faculties have been rising over the same period.

Fall term student headcounts

Faculty/Division	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	7-yr % chg
Business	1,268	1,193	1,366	1,293	1,207	1,364	1,442	13.7%
Education	981	943	942	905	868	970	973	-0.8%
Engineering & Computer Science	3,111	3,122	3,163	3,117	3,183	3,210	3,298	6.0%
Fine Arts	1,123	1,189	1,146	1,116	1,147	1,153	1,145	2.0%
Health*							1,294	
Human & Social Development*	1,368	1,281	1,206	1,123	1,143	1,151		
Humanities	1,845	1,861	1,741	1,674	1,684	1,790	1,686	-8.6%
Law	397	396	439	449	460	460	472	18.9%
Science	2,971	3,026	3,193	3,020	2,886	2,799	2,792	-6.0%
Social Sciences	5,691	5,917	6,080	5,817	5,680	5,541	5,807	2.0%
Distributed programs**	125	127	130	127	133	143	146	16.8%
Total undergraduates	**18,880**	**19,055**	**19,406**	**18,641**	**18,451**	**18,581**	**19,055**	**0.9%**
Total graduates	**3,140**	**3,008**	**3,214**	**3,279**	**3,346**	**3,342**	**3,289**	**4.7%**
Total students	**22,020**	**22,063**	**22,620**	**21,920**	**21,737**	**21,923**	**22,344**	**1.5%**

*Table 1: UVic's overall student headcounts have been stable. *The Faculty of Health become operational in 2025, and the Faculty of Human and Social Development was disestablished. **Represents students in UBC's Faculty of Medicine, as part of our distributed education partnership. Growth is due to the 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 SEM 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 7.7% of the overall student population.

This year, Indigenous enrolment was higher than last, with an increase of 8.4% in students in undergraduate programs and 7.5% in graduate programs.

The Faculties of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business have experienced significant growth in Indigenous enrolment in recent years. The Faculty of Law's Indigenous enrolment growth in recent years can be attributed to the JD/JID program.

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	54	125.0%
Education	120	129	135	117	110	117	133	10.8%
Engineering & Computer Science	120	120	113	103	95	91	94	-21.7%
Fine Arts	76	86	86	98	103	113	116	52.6%
Human & Social Development	196	192	200	179	153	177	199	1.5%
Humanities	131	172	177	183	205	197	245	87.0%
Law	50	51	55	56	57	66	61	22.0%
Science	165	156	157	159	147	152	138	-16.4%
Social Sciences	285	296	337	346	316	312	333	16.8%
Distributed programs*	10	13	16	17	18	17	15	50.0%
Total undergraduates	**1,177**	**1,248**	**1,309**	**1,297**	**1,238**	**1,281**	**1,388**	**17.9%**
Total graduates	234	242	254	272	289	321	345	47.4%
University total	**1,411**	**1,490**	**1,563**	**1,569**	**1,527**	**1,602**	**1,733**	**22.8%**

*Table 2: Most faculties have seen a growth in the number of Indigenous students over a seven-year period. The numbers reflect individual students registered, rather than FTEs, for the most recent full academic year. *Represents students in UBC's Faculty of Medicine, as previously noted.*

In the last decade, the overall trend for Indigenous undergraduate enrolment at UVic is +18% and the trend for graduate enrolment is +47%.

Growth in Indigenous students at UVic

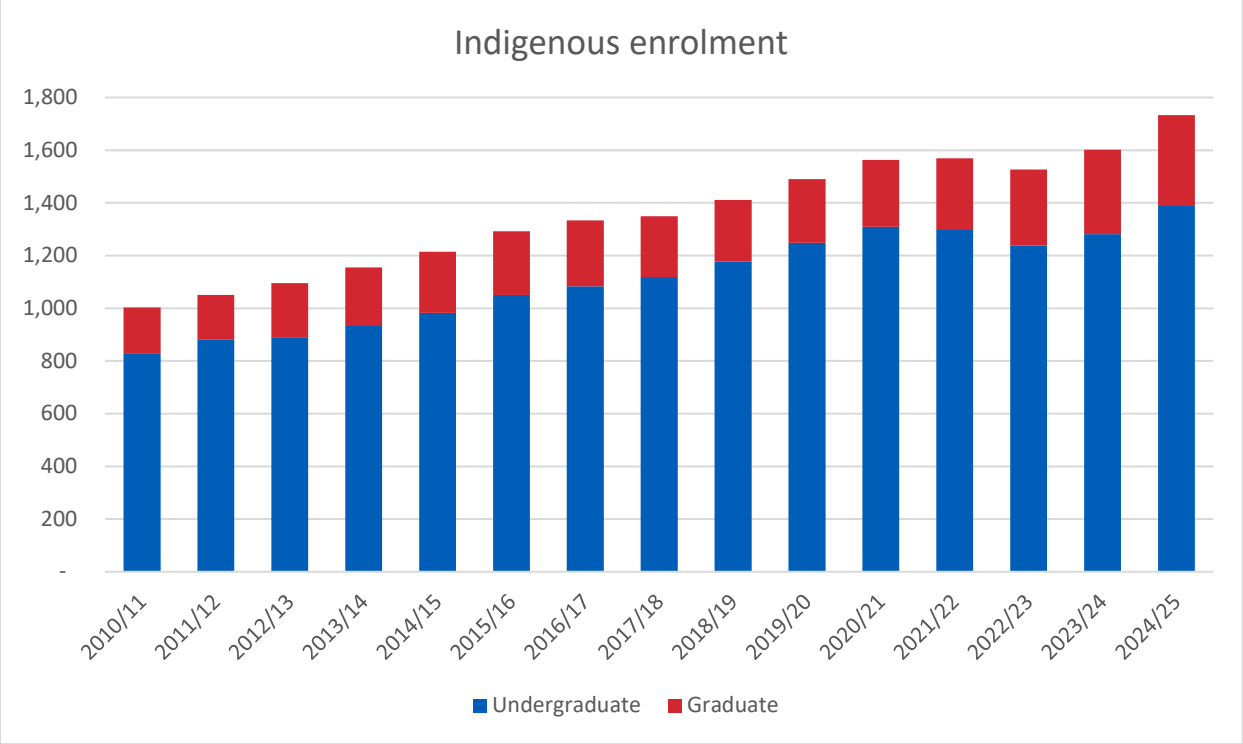

Figure 1: Currently, there are 1,388 Indigenous undergraduate and 345 Indigenous graduate students registered at UVic. The numbers reflect individual students, rather than FTEs, for the most recent full academic year.

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 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 SEM Plan 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

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	5-yr % chg
Total applicants	16,680	17,854	16,439	16,801	16,963	1.7%
Total admits	12,147	11,297	11,822	12,547	13,002	7.0%
Registrants						
Vancouver Island	1,387	1,319	1,232	1,457	1,555	12.1%
Lower Mainland	1,202	822	914	1,049	1,070	-11.0%
Rest Southern BC	525	419	436	448	482	-8.2%
Other BC	199	185	207	219	183	-8.0%
Rest of Canada	894	758	715	643	751	-16.0%
Outside Canada	611	591	585	538	616	0.8%
Total registrants	**4,818**	**4,094**	**4,089**	**4,321**	**4,657**	**-3.3%**

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

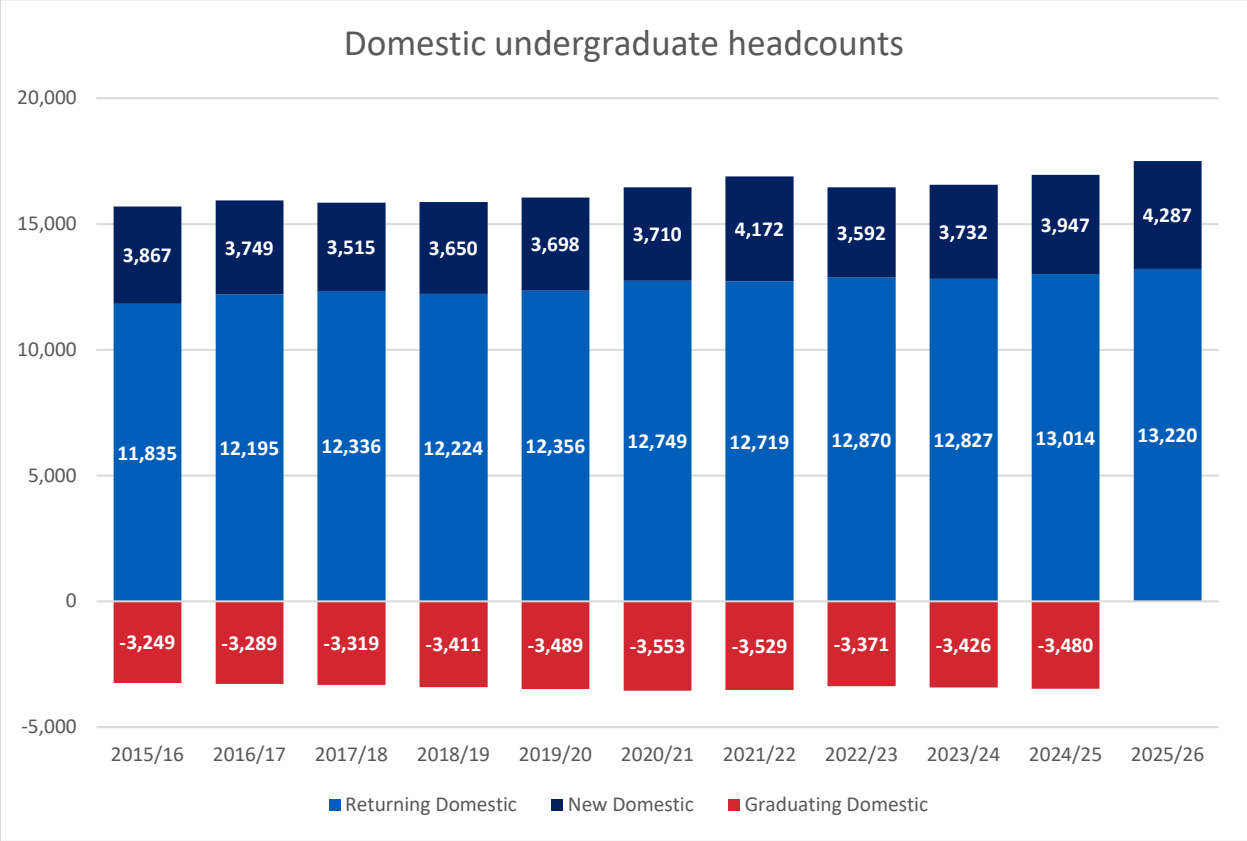

Figure 4: New intake targets consider the expected number of returning students and the expected number of graduating students each year.

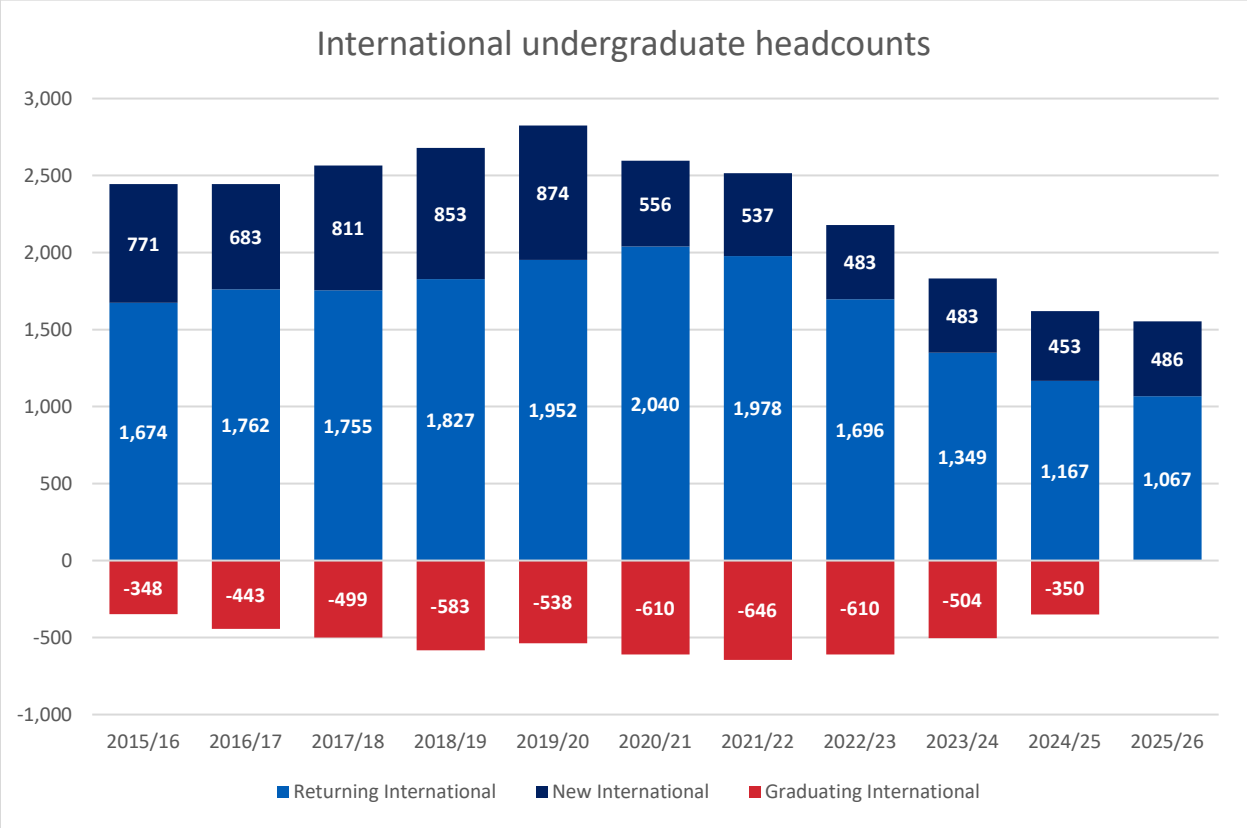

Figure 5: New intake targets consider the expected number of returning students and the expected number of graduating students. For international students, this includes degree-seeking students and excludes those on international exchange.

The largest group of new undergraduate students has historically been BC high school students, and this year 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

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	5-yr % chg
BC high schools	2,633	2,140	2,216	2,494	2,644	0.42%
BC colleges	503	438	400	451	484	-3.78%
Total BC	**3,136**	**2,578**	**2,616**	**2,945**	**3,128**	**-0.26%**
All high school	3,612	2,940	2,990	3,184	3,387	-6.23%
All post-secondary	1,201	1,147	1,099	1,137	1,270	5.75%
Total registrants	4,813	4,087	4,089	4,321	4,657	-3.24%

Table 4: Most UVic students enter UVic 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 19% 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.

International headcounts by country (fall 2025)

Country	Graduate		Undergraduate		Total	
	Headcount	Percent	Headcount	Percent	Headcount	Percent
People's Republic of China	289	23%	346	16%	635	19%
USA	128	10%	273	13%	401	12%
India	122	10%	274	13%	396	12%
Iran	180	14%	56	3%	236	7%
Nigeria	44	3%	59	3%	103	3%
Mexico	24	2%	76	4%	100	3%
United Kingdom	19	2%	68	3%	87	3%
Vietnam	20	2%	64	3%	84	2%
Republic of Korea	14	1%	63	3%	77	2%
Germany	19	2%	54	3%	73	2%
Other	406	32%	826	38%	1,232	36%
Total	**1,265**		**2,159**		**3,424**	

Table 5: Most international students at UVic are from China, the USA, India and Iran.

We continue diversifying the international student population by country and implement several international recruitment strategies, including the strengthening of our recruitment network.

This year, our partnership with Kaplan has been responsible for 39 new registrants, including from China, Vietnam, India, Turkey, South Korea and Brazil.

Challenges, strategies and new initiatives

As our overall domestic enrolments are strong, our focus going forward will be on international undergraduate recruitment and further diversification, guided by our SEM 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 recruitment and marketing efforts through Student Affairs, as well as 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 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 as well as through targeted health programs. The recent establishment of the Faculty of Health will further strengthen our ability to attract new learners to our health-related programs.

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. There continue to be opportunities through the John Hogran Campus in the West Shore—a partnership between UVic, Camosun College and Royal Roads University.

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 financial supports, 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

UVic remains a sought-after university, and our domestic enrolment is very strong. 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 SEM Plan. With respect to international enrolment, we continue to plan prudently within the context of our evolving post-secondary environment, set realistic undergraduate targets, and focus on international recruitment and progression efforts to meet those targets and SEM Plan goals.

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.