



Get engaged.
It's the experience of a life time.



University
of Victoria

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the University of Victoria is our commitment to experiential learning. For over 30 years, UVic has been a leader in providing students with relevant, engaging and practical learning experiences beyond the classroom. This is manifested in many ways, including co-operative education, practica, service learning, internships, clinical programs, performance, laboratory and field work opportunities. These opportunities are available in every faculty and department at UVic.

Experiential learning has been shown to be a powerful way to engage students in their studies by providing them with opportunities to put theory into practice, make connections with professionals in the field and develop career related skills and competencies. Through experiential learning students gain a deeper understanding of their discipline, of their community and of their future prospects. At the University of Victoria we believe in graduating students who are well grounded in their studies and able to make a contribution in our society. Experiential learning opportunities at UVic are an important means to this end.

UVic is proud to be home to one of Canada's largest and most diverse co-operative education programs. One in four UVic students take part in co-op, alternating academic terms with terms at work in paid, relevant positions with real-world employers. By gaining valuable work experience and networking with employers, our students become equipped to enter the workforce with confidence. Research indicates that co-op work placements support the development of job-related competencies such as communication and teamwork skills, supporting the idea that experiential learning is one of the most powerful ways for adults to learn.

You will see in this brochure that UVic's commitment to experiential learning extends from a well established co-operative education program to offering engagement opportunities through classroom activities and laboratory work to field schools and international experience.



Jamie Cassels,
Vice President Academic and Provost



Norah McRae,
Executive Director, Co-operative Education
Program and Career Services



Experiential Learning at UVic

Each year thousands of students take part in experiential learning through practica, performance, internships, exchanges, research centres, laboratory and field work, volunteering in the community and participation in the co-operative education program. Through the many and varied experiences, students apply and expand their academic knowledge in real-world environments.

In our Strategic Plan: *A Vision for the Future*, UVic commits to expanding student opportunities for experiential learning and community engagement by way of the following strategies:

- continuously examining new forms of experiential learning that meet the needs of our students and complement established opportunities
- increasing the availability of experiential learning offerings for students in all programs, on and off campus, and minimizing the barriers to student participation
- expanding regional, national, and international co-op opportunities
- encouraging all students to participate in at least one experiential learning opportunity
- providing financial assistance to increase experiential and service learning opportunities

Different ways to become engaged in your program of study

Co-op

the corner stone of experiential learning at UVic – co-operative studies is an integrated approach to higher education that enables you to alternate academic terms with paid, relevant work experience in your chosen field.

www.mycoop.coop.uvic.ca

Courses

many UVic courses offer a form of experiential learning within a course where you apply classroom theory to work outside the classroom. You may be offered the opportunity to work together with classmates and meet people in the community.

Field School

UVic courses that take the form of instructor or staff supervised extended field trips, group study tours or study in off-campus locations

International Exchange

an opportunity to study with one of UVic's partner institutions (mostly international) – you would normally take two to five courses for credit. The exchange offers you first-hand experience of a foreign country and culture.

www.iess.uvic.ca

Internship

a more intense and imbedded experience (involving full or near full-time work) and often a capstone type experience at the end of an undergraduate program or part of a graduate program. Internships may provide an opportunity for you to work abroad to gain international experience. Internships are often funded by government agencies or public sector agency, sometimes in collaboration with the academic unit.

Laboratory work

many UVic courses include a laboratory component where you are able to test theories and apply skills in your area of study. UVic is also home to many fascinating research laboratories that hire both undergraduate and graduate students.

Practica

applied experiences that occur fairly early in a training program and begin to introduce you to particular aspects of work in your chosen field

Research Centres

UVic has a wide array of research centres that hire work/study, co-op and research students
www.uvic.ca/research/researchcentres.htm

Volunteering

Expand your university experience by contributing in your free time. It's a great opportunity to try on something new, get involved, help out a community, or support a cause.

www.stas.uvic.ca/volunteering.html

Work Study

a program funded by the UVic Student Awards and Financial Aid department to provide additional financial assistance through on-campus part-time employment opportunities for those who have documented financial need. The Work Study Program runs from September to April of each academic year.

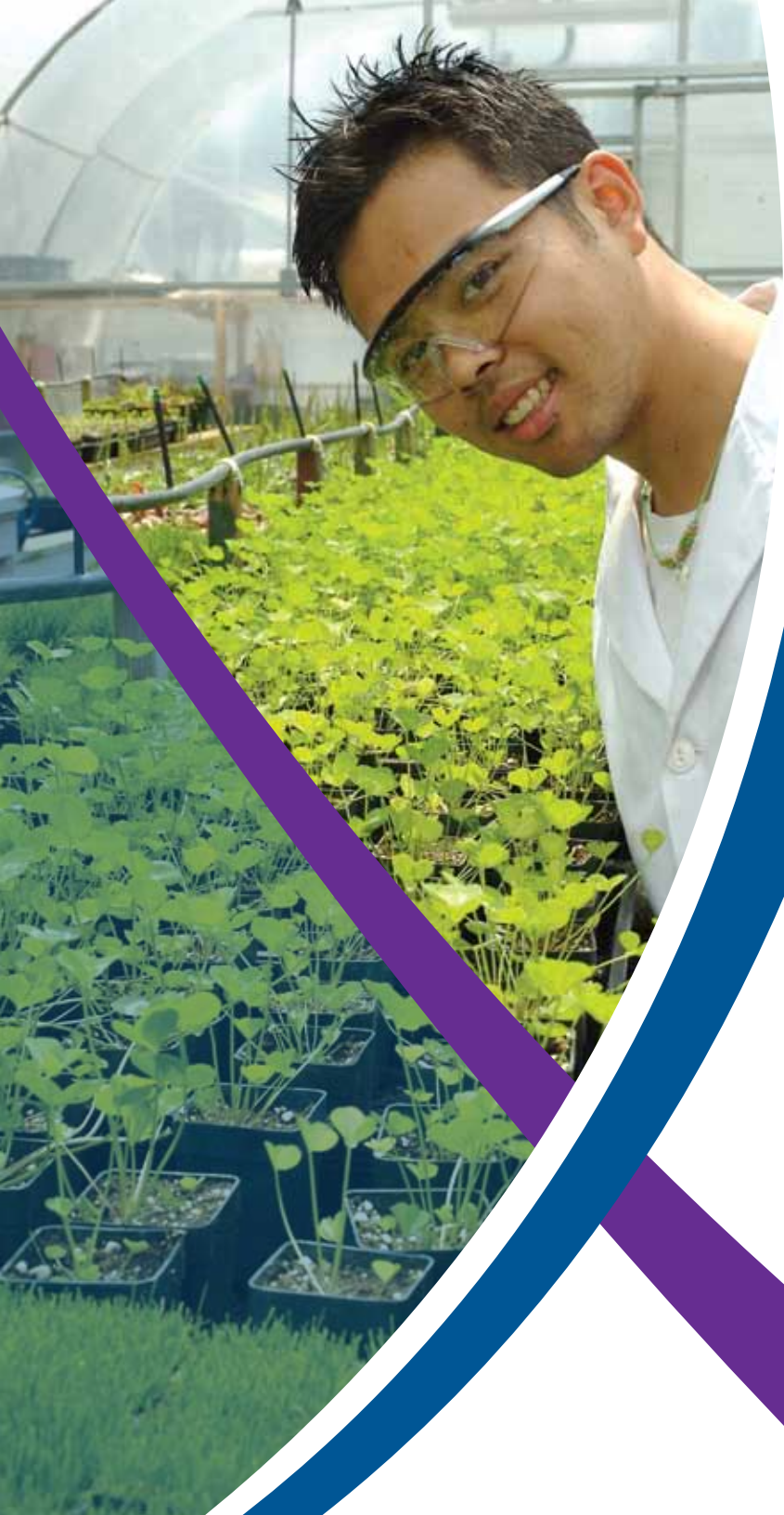
www.registrar.uvic.ca/safa/index.html



Michelle Stephenson (electrical engineering) spent a co-op work term at Marine Access Solutions, where she participated in the design of a wheelchair lift system that will give people with disabilities independent access to wharves and docks.



Universiti Sains Malaysia welcomes UVic biology students Erika Dort, Mellisa Doran and Josh Silberg



Co-operative Education Program and Career Services

You may choose to complement your academic studies with work experience and find support through UVic's Co-op and Career office.

About the UVic Co-op program

As one of Canada's largest co-operative education programs, UVic Co-op is available to students in more than 45 academic disciplines. By becoming a co-op student you can:

- alternate terms in school with terms at work in jobs that relate to your degree
- try several different positions and discover what's right for you
- develop an impressive résumé and network before you graduate
- receive a salary while you work to help pay for tuition and other expenses
- expand your horizons by working for employers in Canada and around the world

Access support and guidance

As a co-op student, you will work closely with a co-op coordinator to identify your goals and consider work opportunities that can help you explore your career pathway. You'll apply for jobs that are posted on our web-based posting board and receive training to help you fine-tune your résumé and cover letters as well as your interview skills.

Develop core competencies

In addition to applying your academic skills in the work place, you will also develop the following core competencies through reflective sessions with your co-op coordinator as well as your employers. These competencies will prepare you for success as a professional:

- Personal management
- Research and problem solving
- Communication
- Managing information
- Project and task management
- Teamwork
- Commitment to quality
- Workplace behaviour
- Social responsibility
- Continuous Learning

Who can participate in co-op?

Co-op participation can be optional or mandatory depending on the department or program. For those program areas where co-op is optional, students must complete an application. Co-op opportunities are also available for graduate students.

FACULTY OF BUSINESS

Commerce*
www.uvic.ca/coop/buscoop

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Recreation and Health Education*,
Kinesiology
www.uvic.ca/coop/phedcoop

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Computer Engineering*, Electrical
Engineering*, Mechanical Engineering*,
Software Engineering*, Computer Science
www.uvic.ca/coop/engrcoop

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

History in Art, Music, Theatre,
Visual Arts, Writing
www.uvic.ca/coop/hfpwcoop

FACULTY OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Health Information Science*
www.uvic.ca/coop/hinfcoop

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

English, French, Germanic and Slavic Studies,
Greek and Roman Studies, Hispanic and
Italian Studies, History, Linguistics, Medieval
Studies, Pacific and Asian Studies, Philosophy,
Professional Writing Minor, Women's Studies
www.uvic.ca/coop/hfpwcoop

FACULTY OF LAW

www.uvic.ca/coop/lawcoop

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Anthropology, Economics, Environmental
Studies, Geography, Political Science,
Psychology, Sociology
www.uvic.ca/coop/sscoop

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Biochemistry/Microbiology
www.uvic.ca/coop/bioccoop
Biology
www.uvic.ca/coop/biocoop
Chemistry
www.uvic.ca/coop/chemcoop
Earth and Ocean Sciences
www.uvic.ca/coop/eoscoop
Mathematics and Statistics
www.uvic.ca/coop/engrcoop
Physics and Astronomy
www.uvic.ca/coop/physcoop

** denotes mandatory co-op*



Erin Latham, during her biology co-op work term for the Nature Conservancy of Canada, conducted field surveys and gathered baseline data on properties on Vancouver Island and the Southern Coast Islands.

? DID YOU KNOW

- The UVic Co-op Program is one of the largest and most diverse co-op programs in Canada
- UVic co-op students have completed more than 56,000 work term placements with employers in Canada and around the globe
- One in four full-time students is enrolled in a co-op program
- More than 30,000 students have participated in co-op since 1975

“ Every day I created or learned something new. ”

- Alwyn Crocker

Service-Learning opportunities through the Co-op Program

Service-learning is comprised of three essential elements: experiential learning, action in the form of service to the community, and reflection that integrates student learning with academic understanding. Service-learning also involves a collaborative relationship between all the groups involved, including students, employers and the institution. Since 2002, UVic Co-op and Career's Service-Learning Internship Program (SLIP) has supported co-op positions in community-based organizations working collaboratively with UVic on joint

research-related projects. Funding supports the hiring of co-op students in work that provides an excellent learning opportunity for the student, while supporting local community needs. Ninety-one community organizations have received SLIP funding, including the New Marine Centre Society, the Burnside Gorge Community Association and the International Institute for Child Rights and Development in 2009.



Matthew Gauk (professional writing) traveled to Comox to work as a reporter for the Comox Valley Record. He covered the military beat, which led to this ride-along helicopter training flight with CFB Esquimalt.



Janice Arnot (history in art) spent a work term as production assistant at Intrepid Theatre, where she assisted the artistic director and the general manager to keep things running smoothly.



History in art and environmental studies student **Alwyn Crocker** was so inspired by her experience as research assistant and writer with the Victoria International Development Association (VIDEA) that she decided to continue volunteering with VIDEA after she finished her work term. Crocker was hired to create an integrated learning resource that will help high school students learn about international migration. Crocker's work term was partly funded by UVic Co-op's Service Learning Internship Program.

Looking for work or experience or service learning outside of traditional co-op?

Co-op and Career Services can assist with:

- part-time, summer or casual work
- volunteer opportunities and internships
- skills for seeking a full-time job after graduation

Co-op and Career events

A wide range of workshops, career fairs and employer information sessions take place on campus each year. Workshop topics include career development, résumé writing, networking skills and more, while career fairs range from general fairs to discipline and theme-based fairs. Visit www.uvic.ca/coop/events for details about upcoming events.

“It’s really important to pursue the broadest types of experiences over the course of your work terms to get a taste of different jobs. I couldn’t pass this up.”

- Erin Love



Erin Love (biochemistry and microbiology) spent a work term in South Africa studying meerkat behaviour. She worked at the Cambridge University-owned Kalahari Meerkat Project in the Kuruman River Reserve.



Jessica Bekker (electrical engineering) spent a co-op work term with the T’Sou-ke Nation. She worked with community members to set up solar panels on the Nation’s Canoe Shed. “I feel very fortunate to be working within the T’Sou-ke Nation community on their Photovoltaic project. It’s a great opportunity to learn how cultural values are expressed through renewable technology.”

CONTACT CO-OP AND CAREER

Stop by room 110 in the Campus Services Building and staff to find out more about Co-op and Career, or visit us online at www.uvic.ca/coop and www.careerservices.uvic.ca. Phone: 250-721-7628.

Practica

In some disciplines, practica are an integrated part of the program.

Bachelor of Education Program (elementary or secondary)

If you are interested in becoming a teacher, there are a number of ways you can accomplish this in the Faculty of Education at UVic. Whether you enter the program after the first two years of post secondary study or after completing an undergraduate degree, the BEd program includes practica which puts you right into the classroom, here in the city, in our province or abroad.

www.educ.uvic.ca/become/index.php



“ The experience in Ghana will affect me as a teacher for the rest of my life - all children have a curious joy for learning. ”

- Susan Boudreau

Susan Boudreau completed her undergraduate degree in geography but she knew early on that she wanted to teach. As part of her two-year Post-Degree Professional Program, Susan had to complete two practica. She chose Ghana for her first classroom experience because she wanted to experience teaching in its “purest form without all the stuff” like equipment, supplies, computers etc. While the school Susan taught at was extremely poor, she said she experienced wealth beyond anything she had ever seen in terms of spirit, hope and community. Susan learned that teaching is truly universal – that learning happens everywhere and not just in traditional classrooms. Because of her international experience she will now take more of a “global” feel into her future classrooms. Susan is currently completing her second and final practica at Braefoot Elementary School in Victoria, BC.

Child and Youth Care

You can also make a difference in the lives of children, youth, families and communities with a bachelor, masters, or doctorate degree from our Child and Youth Care Program in the Faculty of Human and Social Development. Our masters and doctorate graduates take leadership roles at provincial, national, and international levels in the broad field of child and youth care.

www.cyc.uvic.ca

Prepare yourself for a variety of exciting settings and roles:

- Child and Youth Care Counsellor
- Child Welfare & Child Protection
- School-based Youth & Family Counsellors
- Community-based Child & Youth Development Programs
- Parent Education & Training, Family Support
- Infant Development, Early Childhood Care & Education
- Pediatric Health Care & Child Life Programs in Hospitals
- Community Mental Health Group Homes & Psychiatric Centres
- Residential Day Centres & Residential Treatment
- Recreation & Outward Bound Programs
- Developmental, Disability, Rehabilitation Programs
- Juvenile Justice Programs
- ... and many more



“ One of the most important things gained from my practica was the opportunity to practice from a critical perspective, applying theory to practice. ”

- Jenny Thomson

Jenny Thomson always wanted to work with youth and families in some capacity. When researching for a college paper, she was drawn to the work of Sybille Artz, a UVic professor in the department of Child and Youth Care (CYC). Jenny discovered that CYC's program values were aligned with her own and that the school offered diverse opportunities in a range of areas relating to Child and Youth care practice. As part of her program, Jenny completed two practica – the first with the Vancouver Island Health Authority, Youth and Family Addiction Services and the second at the Ministry of Children and Families in child protection as part of an under 13 protection team. Jenny graduated from the School of Child and Youth Care November 2009 and as a result of her practicum work she secured employment and now has a solid foundation to continue her work in the Child and Youth Care profession.

Courses

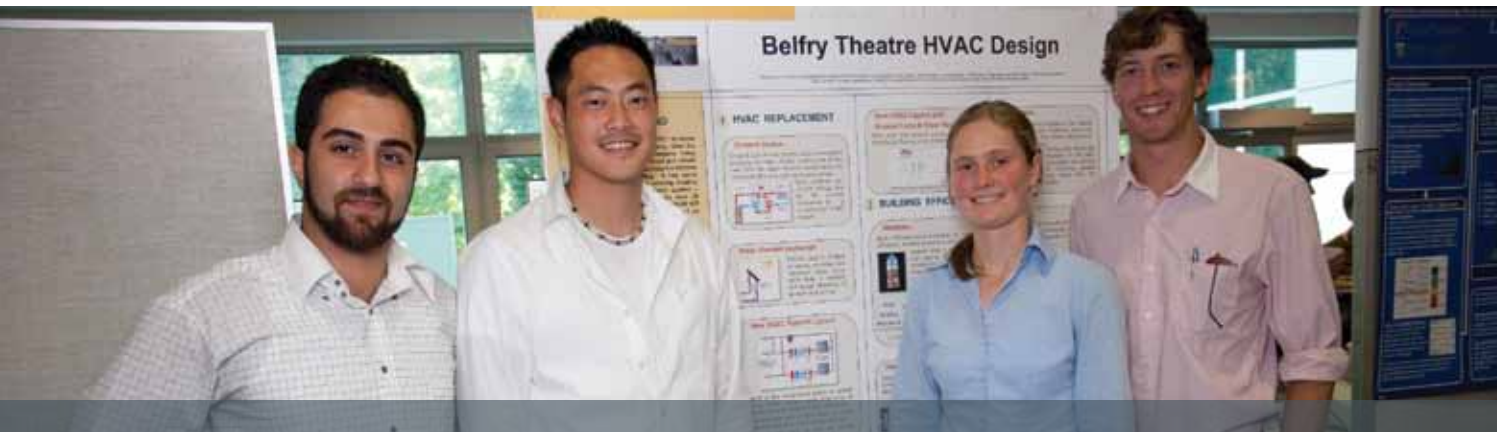
At UVic experiential learning is often offered as a component of a course.

ENGR 400: Sustainable Energy Systems Design Projects

In Engineering 400, Sustainable Energy Systems Design Projects, students in the final year of their undergraduate degree apply their technical, creative, communication and teamwork skills to an industry project. Students form multi-disciplinary teams have an opportunity to work closely with sponsoring firm representatives on projects that require the application of technical skills from more than one engineering discipline.

“ ENGR 400 is a great opportunity for students to experience the world of engineering design. They develop solutions for real industry based problems and must apply their design, project management and teamwork skills. While students benefit from the mentorship of our industry partners, sponsoring firms explore ideas and solutions with our students. It's a win-win situation. ”

- Sean McConkey, Design Engineer, Faculty of Engineering



From left to right Ehsan Maleki, Tho Nguy, Sharon McGeorge and Tristan Gething

2009 Project Sponsors: The Belfry Theatre, Hydraft Development Services, BC Hydro/ Powertech Labs, Pacific Solar Smart Homes, Phillips Brewery, UVic Dept. of Chemistry (Dr. Brolo), and Victoria Spirits

Earth and Ocean Sciences

In the department of Earth and Ocean Sciences students taking EOS 240, Geochemistry and EOS 440, Hydrogeology, are able to apply theory to practical questions which take them outside the classroom and into the field where they can utilize techniques learned in class. Here students test the alkalinity of ground water from wells on campus. Drilling took place several years ago specifically to provide students with practical application opportunities.

Psychology 361

In the department of Psychology, there are many opportunities to gain firsthand experience within the context of a course. For example, in Psychology 361, Field Placement, students are given the opportunity to work with individuals who are challenged by physical, cognitive, emotional, and/or psychological disorders. In addition to class attendance and preparation of assignments, successful completion of the course requires approximately 55 hours of participation in a volunteer field placement with a community agency. The course instructor monitors the placement experience and engages the students in discussion about their learning through the placement experience.

“ In my placement, I performed community support work with survivors of brain injury. It provided me with an opportunity to gain experience relating to psychology, expanded my resume and led to my current involvement with crisis intervention work. It was a positive experience that complemented my other coursework. ”

- Psychology Honours Student Alyssa Louw



Sampling of agencies (right): Citizens Counselling; BC Schizophrenia Society; Youth Custody Centre; Victoria Riding for the Disabled; Women's Sexual Assault Centre; NEED Crisis Line



Field School

At UVic, we encourage international educational experiences because they not only benefit you, the student, but have a positive impact on the host community.

Biology 492, Tropical Field Ecology

An international field experience allows you to learn outside of familiar surroundings and perhaps outside of your own comfort zone. You can cap off your biology program with an incredible opportunity to study for six weeks in Malaysia. Biology 492, Tropical Field Ecology, is offered by the UVic Biology Department in partnership with faculty from the Universiti Sains Malaysia. Through a six week immersion in incredibly diverse tropical habitats, UVic students gain experience in the study of tropical biodiversity and field ecology as well as being exposed to Malaysian culture. Students are usually based in Penang, the field station at Muka Head and at various locations in peninsular Malaysia. In 2009 students were privileged to participate in a home-stay program in the remote village of Batu Ring accessible only by boat and to really understand life in rural Malaysia. During the program students examined rainforests at different elevations, mangrove, cave and coral reef ecosystems as well as explored issues surrounding agroecosystems and conservation.

Archeological Field School

Anthropology has a long and rich tradition of field study. Students are often found digging at archaeological sites, observing primates in the rainforest, or conducting cross-cultural health research. In anthropology field school you can learn important practical lessons of anthropological fieldwork as well as contribute to original research findings, and develop practical skills for finding employment in anthropological settings.

Field school students **Chantelle Coulson** and **Jumpei Monotoya** participate in the live capture of insectivorous bats for a biodiversity survey.



Students participating in archeological field work.



Internship and Exchange Programs

Why participate in an international internship or exchange program?

Whether for academic credit or simply an experience to enhance your education, participating in an exchange or internship will:

- Enhance your cross-cultural skills and develop basic proficiency in another language
- Provide an opportunity to apply and adapt your academic knowledge and skills within a professional context
- Establish concrete networks and personal and professional relationships
- Assist you in clarifying and expanding your ideas and aspirations
- Develop an appreciation for the complexities and challenges facing other countries and regions and learn to adapt strategies and solutions appropriately

Academic departments at UVic offer a range of international experiences. Here are some of the departmental opportunities available for UVic students interested in studying or working abroad.

- Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives (CAPI)
- Department of Pacific and Asian Studies
- Department of Biology
- Department of French
- Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies
- Department of Greek and Roman Studies
- Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies
- Faculty of Business
- Faculty of Law

www.iess.uvic.ca

BCom student **Robin Campbell** on a field trip to the Great Wall during his exchange to Singapore Management University.



Anne Mitaru is working as the Program Assistant with Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)/Women and Gender Institute (WAGI), Miriam College, in Quezon City, Philippines. This internship is part of CAPI's 2009-10 Students for Development Program, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).



Volunteering

There are many volunteer opportunities at UVic that students can access in order to supplement their academic experience. We encourage students to investigate opportunities within and outside of their disciplines to get involved. A good place to start is with student clubs and course unions.

www.uvss.uvic.ca

Community Mapping

Community Mapping is a graphic learning, development and participatory planning tool that connects people to one another and to places. The maps are the collective representations of geography and landscape. Community mapping at UVic developed from a collaboration between the department of Geography and the Common Ground Community Mapping Project. Since then, many community groups, such as the Sea Change Marine Conservation Society and Coastal and Oceans Resource Analysis Laboratory have benefited from the contributions of undergraduate student volunteers who get involved in community mapping. Students in the department of geography have also based class projects and research on the use of community mapping.

mapping.uvic.ca

Model UN Club

Last April the UVic Model UN Club flew to New York for a major "mock" conference replicating the actions of UN negotiators, and returned home with a number of awards including one for Distinguished Delegation. The team, who received assistance from three faculty advisors, represented the Chinese delegation. The UVic team placed in the top 15 per cent of participants, with approximately 2,400 university and college students from across North America, Europe and other regions in attendance.

web.uvic.ca/~unclub/home.html

Participants show some of the data collected at the Cowichan Valley Community Mapping Fair.



UVic students in New York for the mock conference.



CanAssist

CanAssist is a UVic program that focuses on increasing inclusion and accessibility in society of those with special needs by developing innovative technologies, programs and services that make life easier and more rewarding for those with disabilities. One of CanAssist's primary goals is to increase awareness of disability issues through inclusion and education. CanAssist provides students with outstanding experiential learning and other enriching opportunities.

For more information on how to get involved in CanAssist, see www.canassist.org

Many hundreds of students have taken part in CanAssist's activities. There are four main ways in which students can participate:

- **As co-op students** CanAssist regularly hires 10 to 15 co-op students each year to support our assistive technology research and development activities, along with other projects.
- **As graduate students** CanAssist is delighted to sponsor and support graduate students to work on their master's or doctoral degrees.
- **As volunteers** CanAssist welcomes student volunteers from all disciplines and offers roles for them in a variety of activities
- **As part of academic courses or student practica** Each year, CanAssist provides opportunities for students to work on disability-related technologies or issues as part of their academic program or course requirements.

Alistair uses the modified chisel on a new stone carving. CanAssist co-op student Rick, who designed and built the adaptation, looks on.



April Proudlove is volunteering to help evaluate software developed by the CanAssist team. CanAssist co-op student Ann Chou records feedback.



WEBSITES

Co-operative Education Program and Career Services

www.uvic.ca/coop

www.careerservices.uvic.ca

International Exchange Program

www.iess.uvic.ca

UVic Students Society

www.uvss.uvic.ca

Research at UVic

www.uvic.ca/research

Student Awards and Financial Aid

www.uvic.ca/safa

Study, work or research abroad

www.oia.uvic.ca/students/studentstudy.asp

Volunteering at UVic

www.stas.uvic.ca/volunteering.html



**University
of Victoria**

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