VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

2024-25

VIU book

INSIDE

Life on the West Coast

Learn beyond the classroom

Program details

Do more at VIU

Explore your interests.

Discover your passions and develop them into a rewarding future.

We're here to support your success with:

- expert professors who care about your learning — and remember your name
- practical, hands-on experiences — in every program
- a community that values diversity — and celebrates differences

Real connections. Real community.

Small class sizes and community-based learning creates real connections — with other students, with faculty, the community and the land.

Hay ch qa’sii’em siy’yu mukw mustimuxw —

Thank you respected ones of this place.

The Vancouver Island University community
acknowledges and thanks
the Snuneymuxw, Quw’utsun’, Tla’amin,
Snaw-naw-as and Xwkwa’luxwum First Nations
on whose traditional lands
we teach, learn, research, live and share knowledge.

Vancouver Island

Study where the world comes to connect with nature.

"With over 2,000 miles (3,220 kilometers) of coastline, almost 10,000 lakes and acres of soaring mountains, Vancouver Island is like Canada in miniature." – *CNN Travel*

Breathtaking beauty

Vibrant arts and culture

Canada's mildest climate

West Coast adventure

Over the course of the year, the temperature on Vancouver Island typically varies from 2 C (36 F) to 23 C (73 F) and is rarely below -4 C (25 F) or above 26 C (79 F)

Scan to learn more about **Cowichan**

Scan to learn more about **Nanaimo**

Scan to learn more about **Powell River**

Quick facts

Student population

12,000+

students

11% Indigenous
11% international

121

research projects that involve community partners

273

work-op positions on campus

195

employers offering work-integrated-learning opportunities

120+

partner institutions

First in her family

Sarah McClelland, Bachelor of Education

Sarah McClelland is the first person in her family to go to university. She'd always wanted to go, but there were times when it seemed out of reach for her. In Grade 9, she dropped out of high school. "I thought that it was all over for me. I did not think that I had a future as a university student."

Sarah went back to high school and worked hard to graduate on time. She chose VIU because she'd heard good things about the education program.

Make the most of what you have and push yourself to follow your dreams.

Before she started at VIU she thought university would be a "hard ride." She expected her professors would be unfeeling and strict. While some of Sarah's classes are challenging, VIU is not the hard ride she thought it would be.

"There are so many supports and so many people that are there for you! So that you can succeed and be the best person you can be. There is not an expectation to be perfect, but one to be human, and that is more than I could ask for."

To anyone uncertain about whether they belong at a university, Sarah has this advice: "Don't think that the situation you are in now has any power over you or your future. Make the most of what you have and push yourself to follow your dreams, and do what you want to do because it is possible."

Get involved
Have fun
Make friends

Choose from more than 50 student clubs

Scan to learn more about VIU clubs

Attend an event

Scan for calendar of events

More than sports

As a VIU student, you're invited to take part in wellness and sport activities. You get a free gym pass, affordable fitness classes and free tickets to Mariners games.

The VIU Mariners varsity athletics program is one of the most decorated programs in the Canadian Collegiate Athletics Association (CCAA). Men's and women's varsity teams compete in soccer, basketball and volleyball.

Recent highlights include:

- national gold medal for women's basketball
- soccer, basketball and volleyball teams competed at CCAA national championships
- provincial titles for women's soccer and basketball, and men's soccer

Club teams

You can also get involved in club teams:

- men's hockey
- baseball
- spirit (dance/cheer)
- badminton

Scan to learn more

Get outside
Try something new

Are you up for a guided outdoor adventure?

Explore the Island and discover your new favourite activity with VIU Outdoor Recreation.

Scan to learn more

Ready for a road trip?

The Cultural Connections team takes students to popular Island destinations throughout the year.

Scan to learn more

Find inspiration for your future

Danielle Tom, Baking and Pastry Arts

When Danielle Tom joined us at VIU, she didn't know where she wanted her career to go. Today she's inspired to go all the way to the top of her field.

Danielle had four or five career options in mind when she started in the Aboriginal University Bridging program. This is a customizable program that prepares Indigenous students for post-secondary school. The program includes upgrading of pre-requisites and some first-year university courses.

The Aboriginal University Bridging program gave Danielle the tools to choose a career that's right for her.

Since childhood, Danielle had been fascinated by baking. She fondly remembers the time she spent beside her grandmother as she baked. She chose the Professional Baking and Pastry Arts program. "Now it's my turn to show my kids the stuff I learned to bake."

As Danielle finishes up her first year, she says "These 10 months have come and gone so fast, and our chefs were beyond amazingly helpful."

She plans to earn her Red Seal endorsement in baking so she can start a business. With Red Seal she can also earn higher pay working for other businesses as she works toward her dream.

Shq'apthut — A Gathering Place

All are welcome at Shq'apthut, a space for connection, support and celebration. You can stop in five days a week to chat with an Elder-in-Residence or get support from Services for Aboriginal Students (SAS) advisors. It's also a place to grab a snack, study or visit with other students.

VIU students are invited to many feasts, workshops and other community events at Shq'apthut throughout the year.

Elders-in-Residence

Elders are a key part of all we do at VIU. Their counselling, support and guidance is available for all students. They teach in our classrooms, they help us understand traditional protocols and language and promote cross-cultural sharing.

Scan to learn more about Services for Aboriginal Students

Travel, new perspectives and friendship

Jody Marshall, Bachelor of Business Administration

Jody Marshall decided to go to university in her early 40s. She wanted to advance her career, and her resumé was getting passed over because she lacked formal education.

"I was a little nervous about finding my place in classes, being older than most of my classmates," she says. But she discovered the age difference enriched classroom discussion. She connected with her fellow students and "formed a network of supportive friendships."

Jody initially applied to the computer science program and took business courses as electives.

Jody's time at VIU has given her "greater confidence in general and a great sense of achievement."

Through the business courses, she discovered a passion for HR and switched to a Bachelor of Business Administration.

In the business program, "the tumblers in the lock fell into place," for Jody. In the administrative jobs she'd held, Jody had followed many of the practices without fully understanding why they were necessary. "My education in the business program has filled in those blanks and more."

One of her professors encouraged her to apply for a travel opportunity for business students. He said he'd thought of Jody when he learned about the program. She applied and was chosen to attend the Venture Makers Global Conference: Nurturing a Global Entrepreneurship Mindset in Kobe, Japan. During the 12-day event, Jody visited businesses, attended presentations and presented her own start-up concept.

Jody's time at VIU has given her "greater confidence in general and a great sense of achievement." She also had "the opportunity to experience a diversity of perspectives with classmates and faculty."

Learn beyond the classroom

Study abroad

Learn about VIU opportunities in more than 25 countries.

Programs

Find your fit and start creating your future.

Academic and Career Preparation

Certificates

Aboriginal University Bridging 🍁
Adult Basic Education
Canadian University Foundation Year
(International students only)
Cooperative Entrepreneur Training Program 🍁
English as a Second Language
Foundations for Success
Workplace Essential Skills Training Program 🍁

Scan to learn more about Academic and Career Prep

LEGEND

🍁 – Available only to domestic students

Art, Design and Performing Arts

Degrees
Graphic Design
Interior Design
Visual Art

Diplomas
Technical Theatre
Theatre
Visual Art

Scan to learn more about Art, Design and Performing Arts

Business

Degrees
Bachelor of Business Administration
- Accounting
- Economics
- Financial Services
- Human Resources Management
- International Business Management
- Marketing

Certificates
Business Fundamentals for Indigenous Communities
Business Management
Event Management
Management Skills for Supervisors

Master's degree
Business Administration

Graduate diploma
Project Management

Graduate certificate
Business

Scan to learn more about Business

Education

Degrees
Education
Kinesiology

Post Baccalaureate Degrees
Education

Diploma
Physical Education

Master's degrees
Educational Leadership
Special Education

Graduate diplomas
Inclusive Education
Literacy, Language, and Learning
Online Learning and Teaching
Teacher Leadership

Scan to learn more about Education

Health Sciences

Degrees
Nursing

Diplomas
Dental Hygiene
Mental Health Care Assistant
(International students only)
Practical Nursing

Certificates
Activity Assistant
Animal Care Aide
Community Mental Health Worker
Dental Assistant
Health Care Assistant
Medical Device Reprocessing Technician
Medical Office Assistant
Nursing Unit Assistant

Graduate certificate
Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy

Scan to learn more about Health Sciences

Human Services

Degrees
Child and Youth Care
Social Work

Diplomas
Early Childhood Education and Care
Social Services

Certificates
Education Assistant & Community Support
Early Childhood Education and Care

Scan to learn more about Human Sciences

LEGEND
– Available only to domestic students

Humanities and Social Sciences

Degrees

Bachelor of Arts
- Anthropology
- Creative Writing
- Digital Media Studies
- Economics
- English
- Geography
- Global Studies
- History
- Indigenous Studies / Xwulmuxw Studies
- Journalism
- Liberal Studies
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Studies
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Studies in Women and Gender

Criminology

Diplomas

Jazz Studies

Criminology

Certificates

Arts One – First Nations

Legal Studies

Professional Indigenous Lands Management

Proficiency in Language and Culture

Master's degrees

Community Planning

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Applications

Post-degree diploma

Languages and Culture (Romance Languages)

Advanced diploma

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Applications

Advanced certificate

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area Planning

Scan to learn more about Humanities and Social Sciences

Science and Technology

Degrees

Bachelor of Science
- Aquaculture
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Science
- Geoscience
- Mathematics
- Psychology

Computer Science

Natural Resource Protection

Diplomas

Computer Science

Engineering Transfer

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Forest Resources Technology

Integrated Engineering Technologist

Resource Management Officer Technology

Certificates

Engineering Transfer

Post-degree diploma

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Natural Resource Law Enforcement

Scan to learn more about Science and Technology

LEGEND

– Available only to domestic students

Tourism, Recreation and Hospitality

Degrees
Hospitality Management
Tourism Management

Diplomas
Hospitality Management
Recreation and Sport Management
Tourism Studies

Certificates
Wine Business

Other
Culinary Arts Bridging

Master's degree
Sustainable Leisure Management

Graduate diploma
Sustainable Leisure Management

Scan to learn more Tourism, Recreation and Hospitality

Trades and Applied Technology

Applied Technology

Diplomas
Information Technology and Applied Systems
- Systems Administration and Networking
- Web and Mobile Development

Certificates
Office Administration

Trades

Diplomas
Baking and Pastry Arts Management
Culinary Management

Certificates
Automotive Service Technician ✹ A F 🍁
Carpentry ✹ A F 🍁
Culinary Arts ✹ A F
Electrician ✹ A F 🍁
Esthetics and Spa Therapy 🍁
First Nations Housing Manager 🍁
Fundamentals of Forest Harvesting Practices 🍁
Hairstylist ✹ A F 🍁
Heavy Equipment Operator ✹ A F 🍁
Heavy Mechanical Trades ✹ A F 🍁
Horticulture Technician ✹ A F 🍁
Motorcycle Mechanic and Marine Technician ✹ A F 🍁
Power Engineering / Process Operator 4th Class 🍁
Professional Baking and Pastry Arts ✹ A F
Refrigeration Air Conditioning Mechanic ✹ A 🍁
RV Service Technician ✹ A 🍁
Welding ✹ A F 🍁

Scan to see Trades and Applied Technology programs

LEGEND

✹ – Red Seal endorsement available for this trade
A – Apprenticeships available
F – Foundation programs available
🍁 – Available only to domestic students

Admission information

General admission requirements

- graduation from a BC secondary school or equivalent
- minimum “C” grade in English Studies 12 or English First Peoples 12

Scan to learn more about admission requirements.

Additional program requirements

Many programs have additional admission requirements. See the program pages online for details.

Mature students

If you’re 21 or older you can enroll in academic programs without high school completion. If you are 19 or older you can enroll in trades programs without high school completion. You may need to upgrade individual courses to meet program requirements.

Upgrading options

VIU’s Adult Basic Education department offers high school courses and assessment testing. We may offer conditional acceptance to students who need to upgrade math or other admission requirements.

Free upgrading support

The Pathways to Post-secondary program offers individualized learning plans, academic support and more.

Scan to learn more about Pathways

International students

If you’re an international student you must:

- hold a valid study permit
- submit a test score for an approved English language proficiency test or qualify for an exemption

Scan for full international student admission requirements, including list of approved tests

International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) program

- higher level IB courses with grades of 5 or better, and/or APP courses with grades of 4 or better, may be eligible for introductory-level university course credit
- a maximum of 30 credits will be awarded for IB/APP courses

Transfer students

If you have completed post-secondary courses at other institutions, you may be eligible for transfer credits. You’ll need to submit current official transcripts from all previous institutions you have attended. You may need to submit course outlines or syllabi for assessment.

Are you from another province?

Check how your classes and grades match up to BC courses.

Scan for provincial equivalencies

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– Available only to domestic students

Life on campus

Student housing

At VIU student housing, you'll find friendly study communities and lots of fun activities. If you need guidance or support, you can connect with a Community Leader.

First-year priority

VIU prioritizes space in student housing for all first-year, Indigenous, Tuition Waiver program, international and accessibility accommodation students. Apply by May 1 to qualify for priority.

Homestay

International students can stay in the homes of local families through the Canada Homestay Network.

Off-campus housing

VIU provides support in finding housing off-campus as well.

Scan to learn about housing options

Food on campus

Dine at two cafeterias on campus with fast and flexible choices. Meal plan options are available. The Nanaimo campus also has a Starbucks, a Subway and a Student Pub.

There's a free bus to the supermarket twice a week for students living on campus and the Campus Store sells some basic grocery items.

Sample layout of traditional single rooms

Sample layout of modern double (left) and modern single (right) rooms

What projects can you do at VIU?

VIU undergrads do a lot of cool research.

Music and the mind

Psychology student Mikaila Tombe has always been fascinated by people's responses to music. For her undergrad thesis, she looked at how different music genres impacted people's moods.

Climate change and honeybees

VIU Geography honours student Sierra De Buysscher-Nailor is an aspiring beekeeper. In her fourth year, she studied the impacts of climate change on the western honeybee. She presented her findings at the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers conference and VIU's CREATE student research conference.

Ocean plastics and harm reduction

Savannah Mercer's undergrad projects taught her how her studies could help solve real-world problems. She took part in two computational chemistry projects while working on her Bachelor of Science degree under the supervision of Dr. Heather Wiebe. One looked at how deep-sea organisms metabolize contaminants like plastics. For the second project, she worked with Dr. Chris Gill looking at the toxicity of opiod-like molecules in street drugs.

Gain hands-on experience

Most VIU programs offer practical work experience through internships, field schools, co-ops and practicums.

Scan to learn more about work-integrated learning

Where will your VIU studies take you?

Wherever you want to go.

From design students to directors

Amy Armstrong and Vanessa Young met in the Interior Design program. They graduated in 2015, and now they work together as senior co-directors of product design and development at Dvele, a home-building company in California.

Award-winning creator

Tchadas Leo was a Digital Media Studies student at VIU in 2009. Today he produces an award-winning podcast, Our Native Land, through CHEK TV. The podcast explores "all things Indigenous and First Nations."

From Liberal Studies to Law degree

Your needs and interests change over time. That can mean a career change, and VIU is here to support your journey. Just ask Trevor Ballantyne. He earned a Social Services diploma at VIU in 2015. After working in the social services field for several years, he realized his diploma had taken his career as far as it could go. Trevor returned to VIU. He earned a degree in Liberal Studies in 2022. "At every step of the way, I met diligent and qualified professors that encouraged my return and continued progress."

Today Trevor is on his way to becoming a lawyer. On the VIU Liberal Studies program, he says, "I cannot think of a better program to prepare a student both for the rigours of law school itself and to understand the more nuanced and important points of Canadian law."

More practical skills for your career

Matius Montol, Indonesia

Matius was working in the hospitality industry in Texas when he started to want something more. He wanted to grow in his career and gain skills that would help him with his goal of one day running his own hotel and restaurant.

Originally from Indonesia, he had a Bachelor of Business Administration in Hotel Management from Les Roches School of Hotel Management in Switzerland. He had experience with European and American approaches to hospitality, and he thought he might find a happy medium between the two in Canada.

Matius liked how the MBA program at VIU was structured, so he packed his bags and headed to the West Coast.

After graduating with an MBA, Matius got a job as marketing assistant at the Wedgewood Hotel in Vancouver. He moved up quickly, putting skills he'd gained at VIU into action. Today he is the sales and digital marketing manager.

"Courses like International Business Strategy that covered risks and how to manage them, Business Application of Game Theory in Economics, and Human Resource Management helped me shape my department; it all helped me in making the right decision in growing the business."

And that happy medium? Matius says "moving to Canada is definitely the right move and definitely the happy medium that I hoped for."

Steps to becoming a student

Step one

Choose a program and review all admission requirements.

Step two

Apply through Education Planner BC.

Step three

Watch for emails from VIU. We may need more information from you.

Step four

Receive your letter of acceptance. We'll let you know what your next steps are.

Step five

Pay tuition deposit.

Step six

Register for courses on your assigned date.

Optional steps

Apply for scholarships and student loans.

Apply for on-campus housing.

Meet with an Educational Advisor to talk about your education plan.

Apply for accessibility accommodations.

Apply now!

Scan to visit the application website

Invest in your future

Paying for school

Your education has lasting benefits

- higher earnings over your lifetime
- increased career options
- greater opportunities to make positive impact in your community

Domestic students

Student loans and grants

When you apply for a student loan, you're automatically considered for grants

Scholarships

VIU awards $4.3 million in entrance scholarships, awards and bursaries each year. And you can apply for all of them with one simple application.

Scan to learn about your options

International students

Scholarships

VIU offers a limited number of scholarships to international students, but we recommend international students secure funding in their home countries.

Build your budget

Scan to calculate your financial plan

The VIU community

Helping you is what we do.
We look forward to connecting with you!

Scan to learn more about VIU

Notes

Getting to campus

Airplane
20 minute flight from Vancouver

Ferries
There are three car/passenger ferry routes linking Vancouver to Nanaimo
Horseshoe Bay to Departure Bay (1.5 hours)
Tsawwassen to Duke Point (2 hours)
Vancouver Harbour to downtown Nanaimo (70 mins - foot passengers only)

Float plane
There are two float plane companies that link Vancouver to Nanaimo
Harbour Air (20 minutes)
Sea Air (20 minutes)

Vancouver Island University
900 Fifth Street
Nanaimo, BC
Canada, V9R 5S5

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Questions?

Domestic students

Contact a domestic Recruitment Officer
connect@viu.ca

Toll-free: 1.888.920.2221
Tel: 250.740.6672
viu.ca/future-students

Scan to connect with a domestic recruiter

VIUniversity

VIUChannel

International students

Contact International Education
worldviu@viu.ca

Phone: 1.250.740.6315
Canada/USA Toll-free: 1.888.920.2221
world.viu.ca

Scan to connect with an international recruiter

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