



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA  CANADA

We acknowledge and respect the
Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and X̱wsepsəm/Esquimalt)
Peoples on whose territory the university
stands, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and ƵSÁNEĆ
Peoples whose historical relationships with
the land continue to this day.

**INDIGENOUS
STUDENTS
VIEWBOOK**
2027-2028



UVic is committed to creating better opportunities for Indigenous students, strengthening respectful partnerships with Indigenous communities and encouraging everyone to be a part of a shared vision for the future as part of our ongoing commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Local First Nations communities have given us permission to use the following teachings and carry them with us in our work. We invite you to reflect on these teachings as you explore the next step of your educational journey.

Héʔəkʷ ʔə cə čəlénən łtə
HÁEQ ŁTE OL TFE CELÁÑEN ŁTE

Remember our ancestors and birthright

Nəcəmaat kʷəns čeʔi
ĆANEUEL OL

Work together

Nəwəs šxʷ cən ʔaʔ šqʷeləqʷən
ÁMEKT TFEN ÍY, ŚKÁLEÇEN

Bring in your good heart and mind

Leʔt šxʷ helə ʔə cə məkʷ sčəʔi səʔ
S,HOL ET MEQ EN ENÁ SE SCÁ

Be prepared for the work to come

Ləkʷəŋən – top
SENĆOTEN – middle
English – bottom

Cover photo: *First Peoples House*
Designed by Indigenous architect Alfred Waugh, the First Peoples House is located in the heart of campus and features house poles carved by Tsawout artist Doug LaFortune.

Artwork on this page: *Podium - S'YEWE Legend*
Artist: the late TEMOSEN-ʔET (Charles W. Elliott),
WJOŁŁP, Tsartlip First Nation

Feel at home here

At UVic, you'll be part of our welcoming community of students, staff and professors who come from diverse communities across Canada and from over 100 countries. Wherever you're from, you'll soon feel at home at UVic.

FIRST PEOPLES HOUSE

As an Indigenous student at UVic, you'll be welcomed into a supportive community at the heart of campus in the First Peoples House. Here you can take part in a First Year Seminar for Indigenous students, and events and programs throughout the year that strengthen community, connection and cultural ties. You'll have opportunities to connect with Elders in Residence, Campus Cousins, the Native Students Union and drop-in support from tutors, advisors, counsellors and other academic and personal supports. It all begins at the First Peoples House during our Week of Welcome, an inviting start to your journey, with opportunities to build relationships and belong from day one.

INDIGENOUS ART ON CAMPUS

Discover an inspiring collection of Indigenous art in buildings like the First Peoples House, Čeqwəŋín ʔéʔlən (Cheko'nien House), Sŋéqə ʔéʔlən (Sngequ House), Indigenous Law wing, the Cornett Building and throughout our outdoor spaces. Carved poles, woven blankets, welcome figures, prints, button blankets and sculptures are reminders that we live and work within Indigenous territories. Take a self-guided walking tour and discover the works of many prominent Indigenous artists. Learn more at uvic.ca/ovpi/indigenous-art.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT LOUNGE

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

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



Leo Dougan

CALGARY AND WINNIPEG

Civil Engineering

Leo Dougan's path into engineering is personal. He's Cree-Métis, Ojibwe and Saulteaux, from the Red River Métis Nation in Manitoba. Growing up, he saw how many Indigenous communities still don't have access to clean drinking water. That's what drives him.

At the University of Victoria, Leo studies civil engineering with a focus on water systems. Through co-op, he worked as a project engineer with Gwaii Engineering. He helped design projects, build maps and models, and connect with Indigenous communities.

"Knowing how much this work would mean back home keeps me going," he says. "I love being able to work with, engage and uplift other nations."

Leo also found strong support at UVic. An Indigenous co-op coordinator helped him land his placement and guided him through the process. "He truly cares about helping us succeed," Leo says.

Working alongside Indigenous engineers, Leo felt respected and part of something bigger. His goal is to bring his skills home and help ensure every Indigenous community has access to safe, clean water.

Your community

You'll be supported in ways that honour who you are, where you come from and the communities that shaped you. At UVic, you can transition into university life while carrying your identity, teachings, values and sense of belonging with you.

PEOPLE

Campus Cousins

Campus Cousins are friendly upper-level Indigenous students who will welcome you at exciting social, cultural and recreational activities on and off campus.

Native Students Union

The Native Students Union is an organization run for and by Indigenous students. You'll have the opportunity to form community, support each other, advocate for Indigenous rights and well-being, and just exist together at UVic.

Elders in Residence

Elders are the keepers of sacred stories, songs, languages, cultures and traditions. You can stop by and visit one of the Elders at the First Peoples House for a friendly chat or cultural guidance.

Indigenous counsellors

Indigenous counsellors are here to help you navigate your transition to university life and to support you throughout your journey. This free service is open to all Indigenous students.

SERVICES

Student Wellness Centre

Speak with a counsellor, doctor, nurse, spiritual care provider or other health and wellness practitioner. LGBTQIA2S+ students will find gender-affirming care and other supports at the centre. uvic.ca/student-wellness

Student supports

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

On-campus housing

You are guaranteed a place in residence if you

- graduate high school in 2027
- are coming straight from high school
- apply for admission by January 31
- apply for residence by February 15

If you are not eligible, please see uvic.ca/residence for other on-campus residence options.

You don't need an offer of admission in order to apply for on-campus housing. If you're not a current high school student, you may be eligible for a room under the Indigenous Housing program. These spaces are limited and eligible applicants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. This accommodation is available for single undergraduate and graduate students. To be eligible for the Indigenous Student Housing Program, you will need to complete the **Indigenous Citizenship Declaration** process. See page 8. There are also dedicated spaces in Family Housing for students and their families. For more information and residence application deadlines, visit uvic.ca/residence.

INDIGENOUS LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

Live alongside other Indigenous students in on-campus housing in the Indigenous Living Learning Community—a one-of-a-kind opportunity that's highly sought after for its supportive environment and unique structure. While living on campus, you'll be invited to take part in social and cultural activities that help build community and enrich your experience. Past activities have included beading, cooking, and health and wellness programs. If you're an undergraduate student who self-identifies as Indigenous, you're welcome to apply to live in the Indigenous Living Learning Community.

EVENTS

Indigenous Week of Welcome

At the start of the September and January terms, new and returning Indigenous students are invited to take part in the Week of Welcome. Join us for a welcome feast, connect with Elders in Residence, Indigenous staff and faculty, the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement, and the Native Students Union. It's a chance to build community, learn about supports and resources and begin the term in a good way.

Wellness events

Throughout the year you can take part in wellness activities at the First Peoples House to support your well-being and help manage the stress that can come with student life.

Cultural activities

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

75%
**OF STUDENTS ARE
FROM OUTSIDE THE
VICTORIA AREA**

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

Opportunities matter

Choose from **130 undergraduate academic programs** and **120 graduate programs**, some of which emphasize Indigenous languages and cultures, health and social welfare, and governance and leadership. UVic has an incredible community of **over 70 Indigenous professors** contributing their expertise and enriching our academic life.

- Certificate in Indigenous Language Proficiency
- Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Certificate in Foundations in Indigenous Fine Arts
- Diploma in Child and Youth Care in Indigenous Communities
- Diploma in Indigenous Community Development and Governance
- Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Language Proficiency
- Bachelor of Child and Youth Care (Indigenous Specialization)
- Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Education (Elementary)
- Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Bachelor of Social Work (Indigenous social work or Indigenous child welfare)
- Bachelor of Arts in Public Health (Indigenous Peoples' Health Specialization)
- Indigenous Post-Degree Professional Program
- Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Nationhood
- Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance
- Master of Arts in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Master of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization
- Master of Social Work (Indigenous Specialization)

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

In partnership with Indigenous communities, Indigenous Language Revitalization programming is currently offered in many languages including SENĆOŦEN, Hul'q'umi'num', nuučaanuḥ, Kwak'wala, Tāltān, ʔayʔaʔuθəm, and Inuktitut.





The new Indigenous Law wing is home to the first law program in the world to combine the study of Indigenous and non-Indigenous laws.

**THE WORLD’S FIRST JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM IN CANADIAN
COMMON LAW (JD) AND INDIGENOUS LEGAL ORDERS (JID)**

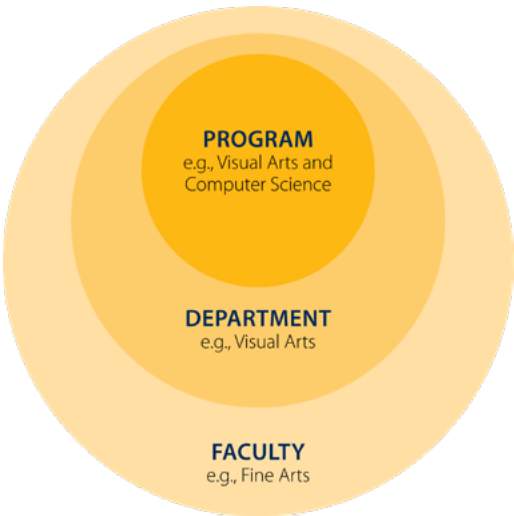
Combining intensive study of Canadian Common Law and deep engagement with the laws of Indigenous peoples, you'll develop the skills needed to practice within Canadian Common Law, within Indigenous Legal Orders and at the interface between them.

**WHAT IS A PROGRAM?
WHAT IS A FACULTY?**

Your **program** is a series of related courses you take to earn a degree.

Your **department** is the academic unit that offers your program.

Your **faculty** is a group of academic departments.



K'sana Wood Lynes-Ford

SALT SPRING ISLAND

Chemistry for the Medical Sciences

K'sana Wood Lynes-Ford is driven by two things: a love of science and a deep commitment to her communities. She is Gitksan, Tsimshian and 'Namgis—and she's using Indigenous and Western knowledge to improve health for her people.

At UVic, K'sana studies Chemistry for the Medical Sciences and works in hands-on research through co-op. In the lab, she studies a gene variant linked to serious heart and neurological conditions in the Gitksan Nation—conditions that can be even more dangerous in remote communities with limited access to care.

For K'sana, this work is about more than science. It's about respect, relationships and doing research in the right way.

“Indigenous knowledge has been here for a very long time,” she says. “When we bring it together with Western science, we can learn from each other and do better work.”

That approach—often called Two-Eyed Seeing—guides her path forward. She plans to become a physician and return to serve Indigenous communities, where patients are still too rarely treated by Indigenous doctors.

“I want to give back,” she says. “And help create better health outcomes for our people.”



Bring your learning into practice

Your experience matters. That's why UVic offers many opportunities to take what you learn in the classroom into real-life work and research environments through hands-on learning, co-op placements, internships, field schools, and cultural and academic exchanges.

LE,NONET

During your time at UVic, you can access academic and leadership programs and needs-based financial aid offered by LE,NONET. You can use LE,NONET courses towards an Indigenous Studies degree or as electives in any other program.

INDIGENOUS EXCHANGE IN AUSTRALIA

If living abroad for a term interests you, you can apply for a co-op work placement at a partner institution in Australia through the Indigenous International Work-Integrated Learning Exchange.

CO-OP FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Take a break from your studies and apply your skills in the community. Our paid co-op placements offer you culturally and professionally relevant work opportunities and the chance to work with employers related to your program. Employers include community organizations, Indigenous governments, Indigenous companies and government agencies. Learn about many other co-op opportunities at uvic.ca/coop. If you have a specific position in mind, you can work with the Indigenous co-op coordinator to organize your own unique placement.

SAMPLE UVIC CO-OP SCHEDULE

Alternate terms in school with terms in a job related to your program and get real-world experience as you learn.

YEAR	SEPT-DEC	JAN-APR	MAY-AUG
1	STUDY	STUDY	FREE SUMMER
2	STUDY	STUDY	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$15,668
3	STUDY	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$15,668	STUDY
4	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$15,668	STUDY	WORK 4 MONTHS EARN ≈ \$15,668
5	STUDY/GRADUATE		

Graduate with up to **16 months** of work experience and earn around **\$62,600** (on average) over the course of your degree.

Invest in your future

Your UVic education is a valuable investment that will reward you throughout your life. Finances should not be a barrier. No matter your financial situation, UVic offers opportunities to offset the cost of university through scholarships, awards, bursaries, co-op, work study and more.

To access awards and other financial opportunities created for Indigenous Peoples, you'll be asked to share a bit more about your connection to your community. You only need to share this information once, through a simple online process then you'll be set for all future opportunities. Your information is kept confidential and reviewed with care. Support is available if you need help or a different path to share your story. Whether or not you've completed an **Indigenous Citizenship Declaration**, if you self-identify as Indigenous, you are always welcome to access Indigenous spaces, wellness supports and community at UVic. Learn more at uvic.ca/ovpi/icd.

HOW WILL I FUND MY EDUCATION?

Scholarships, awards and bursaries

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit. Awards are assigned on the basis of specific criteria. Bursaries are awarded on the basis of financial need.

In-course scholarships

In-course scholarships become available once you have completed a full-time academic year.

Athletic awards

Varsity athletes may be eligible for athletic awards.

Scholarships, awards and bursaries for Indigenous students

UVic offers over 150 scholarships, awards and bursaries to First Nations (status/non-status), Inuit and Métis students.

External awards

To learn about bursaries and scholarships available to Indigenous students, such as Indspire awards, contact your Indigenous recruiter. Contact details are listed on the back of this viewbook.

Bursaries

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

Emergency funds

If you face unexpected financial hardships while attending UVic, you can meet with the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement to apply for emergency funding.

Nation or band funding

Some bands and nations have funding to support your education. Contact your band, Nation, Métis organization or your UVic Indigenous recruiter to learn more.

ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

If you're a high school student, or if you have graduated within the last two years, you may be eligible for entrance scholarships when you receive a conditional offer of admission based on your grades. Scholarships are available to students who meet a minimum admission average of 90%.

Special scholarships are available to

- Women and Indigenous Engineering and Computer Science students with a minimum admission average of 85%.
- Indigenous students with a minimum admission average of 85%.

If you meet more than one scholarship criteria, scholarships may be combined! UVic also offers many scholarships based on a combination of admission average and other criteria.

While you do not need to apply for entrance scholarships based on admission average only, you do need to apply for specific criteria scholarships.

Learn how and when to apply for scholarships at uvic.ca/entrancescholarships.

FORMER YOUTH IN CARE

If you have been a youth in care in BC, you may be eligible for financial assistance through the BC Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, the Youth in Care Tuition Award and the Learning for Future Grant. Contact Aly Landman at alandman@uvic.ca for details.

SAMPLE FIRST-YEAR COSTS*

FEE TYPE	DOLLAR AMOUNT
Domestic tuition for all programs except Engineering and Computer Science programs	\$6,544
Domestic tuition for Engineering programs	\$7,704
Domestic tuition for Computer Science programs	\$6,683
Student fees	\$918
Residence and meal plan	\$17,006
TOTAL	\$24,468 – \$25,628

*Tuition calculated on eight months of study (five courses per term except for Engineering). Residence and student fees are based on September 2026 to April 2027 rates. Final costs will be determined by the student's actual registration. All figures may be subject to change. All figures in Canadian dollars.

Plan your budget at uvic.ca/whatdoesitcost.

Learn about scholarships, awards and bursaries at uvic.ca/safa.

Contact your Indigenous recruiter to ask questions, discuss band funding and scholarships, and learn about admission requirements.

- ▶ If you're an Indigenous student from Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland or any region outside BC, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, contact Tanisha Nuttall.
tanishanuttall@uvic.ca | 250-472-4846
- ▶ If you're an Indigenous student from the Okanagan, Kootenays, Haida Gwaii, Northern BC, the Northwest Territories or the Yukon, contact Shane Hartman.
hartman@uvic.ca | 250-853-3729

Transferring from another post-secondary school?

UVic can help you get where you want to go. Contact your Indigenous recruiter to learn how you can finish your degree at UVic.

Visit UVic's campus



Find an event to learn about UVic



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, CANADA 

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