First Nations Stewardship Technicians Training Program

Admission Requirements:
• Participants must have Grade 10 or higher, be 18 years or older, and be in good physical condition.
• Participant Eligibility:
  • Members of First Nations in the North Vancouver Island and Central Coast Region
  • Employees of First Nations in the North Vancouver Island and Central Coast Region
  • Working part time, less than 20 hours per week or requiring skills upgrades
  • Have a demonstrated interest in environmental research and stewardship practices.

Application Checklist:
To apply for the program, please submit the following:
☑ Nanwakolas Council Application Form
☑ VIU Application for Admission Form
☑ Resume and cover letter explaining why you are interested in the program
☑ Two reference letters

To Apply:
Fax or email your application with resume and references to the attention of Greg Johnson, Nanwakolas Council
Fax: 250-286-7222
or email gregjohnson@nanwakolas.com.

To obtain an application form, please contact Greg Johnson, Nanwakolas Council at 250-286-7200
or email gregjohnson@nanwakolas.com.

For more information:
Greg Johnson, 
Nanwakolas Council 
at 250-286-7200 or
gregjohnson@nanwakolas.com

Sheila Cooper, 
Vancouver Island University 
at 250-667-5333
sheila.cooper@viu.ca

The First Nations Stewardship Technicians program is a partnership between Vancouver Island University and Nanwakolas Council.

Vancouver Island University is a comprehensive postsecondary institution located on Vancouver Island. VIU’s main campus is located in Nanaimo, with regional campuses in Duncan and Powell River and a campus centre in Parksville. More than 18,000 full-time and part-time students are enrolled in adult basic education, career, technical, trade and academic programs leading to certificates, diplomas and baccalaureate and masters degrees. viu.ca

Nanwakolas Council is an alliance of six member First Nation: Mamalilikula Qwe’Qwa’Sot’Em First Nation, Tlowitsis Nation, Da’naxda’xw Awaetlala First Nation, Wei Wai Kum First Nation, Kwiakah First Nation, and K’ómoks First Nation.

The information contained in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. Vancouver Island University reserves the right to make such changes as necessary, including cancellation and adjustment of courses.
**First Nations Stewardship Technicians Training Program**

The First Nations Stewardship Technicians Training Program has been custom designed to give you the applied skills and knowledge required to work for your Nation in the growing field of resource stewardship or to broaden your skills and expertise in your current job as a Guardian. Potential employment opportunities include: Coastal Guardian Watchman, fisheries technician, heritage surveyor, or environmental monitor. This training provides university credits that can be applied toward further studies, as well as industry-recognized certificates applicable to many career paths.

**Learning Goals**

Develop certified field skills:

- Environmental monitoring: fish and fish habitat; electro-fishing; water; lands - soils, vegetation, wildlife; and construction sites (Environmental Technicians Certificate – VIU)
- Archeology and CMT inventory (RISC certification)
- BC Parks Administration certificate (BCIT exam required to work as BC Park Ranger)
- Develop knowledge and experience in: monitoring environmental compliance, protected area management, and small motor servicing and electrical systems
- Improve essential skills applied to the job (writing, reading and computer skills) through one-on-one mentorship/coaching
- Earn 11 credits toward VIU certificate and undergraduate programs in Natural Resource Management

**Program Delivery**

- Program is offered as two levels delivered in several one week sessions over two years: Level 1 (September 2016 to March 2017) and Level 2 (September 2017 to March 2018).
- Each course is 5 days of applied learning, full 7 hour days during the week days.
- Delivery will mainly be based out of Campbell River but Comox and Port Hardy may be used for specific training locations from time to time.
- Tuition fees and learning resources are fully covered, travel and accommodations will be supported during course delivery dates.

**Level 1 (2016 cohort) – 7 courses**

**Essential Field Skills (NREN 024)**

Learn and improve skills such as taking field notes, using key field equipment, following safety protocols, collecting data, reading maps, and navigating.

**Introduction to Indigenous Portfolio**

Assess prior learning experiences through the development of a personalized portfolio and resume that will be built on throughout the training program.

**Compliance Communications and Resource Monitoring (part 1 RMOT 165)**

Gain knowledge of environmental legislation, improve communication skills, and learn safety protocols for conducting field checks to monitor compliance.

**Archeology and Culturally Modified Tree Inventory**

Learn how to undertake archeological inventories that contribute to management plans for cultural and heritage protection.

**Small Motors Servicing and Electrical Systems (RMOT 151)**

Introduction to the operation and maintenance of small two and four-stroke engines. Includes troubleshooting and field repair.

**Fish and Fish Habitat Monitoring Skills (NREN 026)**

Includes fish identification, fish habitat assessments and field measurements, field hydrology, fish inventory methods, and biological sampling.

**Cultural Awareness**

Focusing on First Nations of the North Vancouver Island, learn about Indigenous laws, governance, understandings, and knowledge related to stewardship of the lands and seas. This course includes field days and local Elders.

**Level 2 – 7 courses & Portfolio**

**Compliance Communications and Resource Monitoring (part 2 RMOT 165)**

Advanced compliance monitoring skills – accurate note-taking, evidence gathering, and communication skills for dealing with non-compliance and potential conflict situations.

**Land Monitoring Skills (NREN 023)**

Standard vegetation, soil and wildlife sampling and monitoring field skills for forestry and other terrestrial applications.

**Construction Site Monitoring (NREN 022)**

Standard environmental monitoring for construction sites, including site planning, erosion control, in-water construction, and environmental project field skills.

**Intro to Land and Marine Stewardship Case Studies (RMOT 251)**

Intro to a range of First Nations resource management and protection topics from local experts, including marine and terrestrial wildlife habitat management and protection, ecosystem-based management, and marine plan implementation.

**Intro to Parks and Protected Area Management (RMOT 202)**

Examine park systems, management, facilities, and engagement of visitors and resource users. The module will include the BCIT Parks Administration course and exam.

**Interpersonal Communications and Leadership Skills Development**

Interpersonal communication and leadership skills for working well on field crews, including personality types and leadership styles, well-functioning teams, dealing with difficult people, and conflict resolution.

**Water Monitoring Skills (NREN 025)**

Water quality surveying and sediment and invertebrate sampling field procedures for both freshwater and marine sampling.

**Introduction to Indigenous Portfolio**

Participants will present their Indigenous Portfolio to the group.