Vancouver Island University respects Aboriginal ways of knowing and being
In keeping with regional protocol, Vancouver Island University students, staff, faculty and administration would like to acknowledge and thank the Snuneymuxw First Nation, Tla’amin First Nation, Snaw-naw-as First Nation and the Cowichan Tribes for allowing students, staff, faculty and administration to teach, learn, live and share educational experiences on the traditional territories of these nations.

Hay ch qa’ sii’em siye’yu mukw mustimuxw.
Welcome to VIU

A Message from the President

We welcome all students and support each of them in their educational adventures. I wish you joy and success in your learning experiences at Vancouver Island University.

Ralph Nilson, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor
viu.ca/president

Hay ch qa’ sii’em siye’yu mukw mustimuxw.

VIU is fortunate to host a large number of Aboriginal students who are enrolled in a wide variety of programs and courses. We recognize that our students represent many different nations and cultures and come to our institution with a rich and unique traditional knowledge base. It is our hope to create a sense of belonging in post-secondary education for each and every one of you. VIU is a place where your history and traditions are acknowledged, a place where your contributions are valued and a place where your success is celebrated!

Sharon Hobenshield, EdD
Gitxsan First Nation
Director, Office of Aboriginal Education & Engagement
Sharon.Hobenshield@viu.ca
viu.ca/aboriginal
VIU Aboriginal Student Quick Facts

9 Elders-in-Residence

5 Nanaimo
3 Cowichan
1 Powell River

1,569 Aboriginal students on VIU campuses

45 Cultural and Social events on Nanaimo and Cowichan campuses each year

6 Full tuition awards for up to 5 years offered by VIU Chancellor’s Entrance Scholarships for Aboriginal students $135,000 value

3 Tribal Journeys participated in by VIU

viu.ca/aboriginal/elders-viu
Everyone here who has crossed my path isrooting for me, we are all cheering each other on and helping each other through the stressful times of midterms, finals, and planning for our futures. I really don’t think I would be finishing up my degree this year if I didn’t have the network of supporters I received here from the amazing staff at the gathering place, and all my other cousins within the program.”

– Lacey Perrault
Alert Bay, BC
Bachelor of Education
Visit Shq’apthut

Shq’apthut - A Gathering Place on the Nanaimo campus is the home of Services for Aboriginal Students (SAS). Everyone is welcome at Shq’apthut. It is a gathering place and home away from home for First Nations, Status, Non-Status, Métis, and Inuit students. Elders-in-Residence are available at Shq’apthut five days a week to assist you with matters that arise at each stage of your student experience. Shq’apthut is also a place where cultural, academic, recreational, and social activities are promoted and celebrated. There are numerous feasts, success workshops, and other community events that we encourage all students to participate in throughout the year.
Visit Services for Aboriginal Students to:

- Visit, seek spiritual/cultural guidance, or listen to the stories of our VIU Elders-in-Residence.
- Change programs, courses, and get assistance with timetabling and registration.
- Find information about funding options for Status and Métis students as well as Aboriginal bursaries, scholarships, awards, and student loans.
- Get help with finding accommodations and daycare.
- Access a range of academic workshops and one-on-one writing and research opportunities.
- Find opportunities to participate in and witness traditional cultural presentations from the four Vancouver Island Nations (Coast Salish, Nuu chah nulth, Kwak waka’wakw and Métis).

Lexis is a Registered Clinical Counselor who provides culturally relevant mental and emotional counselling to Aboriginal Students at VIU. Lexis also provides support with career directions, resolving academic issues, as well as course selection and planning.

Lexis.Linklater@viu.ca
Cowichan Campus
250.746.3509

Connect with Dale, Jennifer, or Sharon for any questions on the Nanaimo Campus.

Services for Aboriginal Students
Nanaimo Campus
250.740.6510
sas@viu.ca
VIU Elders-in-Residence

VIU Elders-in-Residence are an integral part of the Vancouver Island University community. They work closely with Shq’apthut, Arts-One First Nations program, BA First Nations Studies, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Health and Human Services, Aboriginal University Bridging Program, and Child and Youth Care First Nations diploma. They participate in all aspects of the academic community and offer support to faculty, staff and, most importantly, to students. You may hear the students referring to the Elders as “Auntie” or “Uncle” which is a sign of both affection and respect. Some of the Elders have shared their traditional names here in brackets.

Nanaimo Campus

Delores Louie (Swus-tanulwut) Chemainus

Geraldine Manson (C-tasi:a) Snuneymuxw

Stella Johnson Métis

Cowichan Campus

Gary Manson (Xul si malt) Snuneymuxw

Barney Williams Jr. (Klith-wii-taa) Tla-o-qui-aht

To connect with an Elder, contact:
Nanaimo Campus
Sylvia Scow
250.753.3245, local 2096
Sylvia.Scow@viu.ca
Cowichan Campus
Nancy Hamilton
250.746.3573
Nancy.Hamilton@viu.ca

Powell River Campus

Eugene Louie (Tla’ Amin)

Harold Joe (Puneluxutth’) Cowichan Tribes

Marlene Rice (Hwiem’) Cowichan Tribes

Florence James (Thiyaas) Penelakut
‘Su’luqwa’a’ Community Cousins

Connect with an Aboriginal student from ‘Su’luqwa’a’ Community Cousins to get help navigating the campus, accessing resources and support, or just to have coffee. Cousins are a source of support at the start of your time with VIU – when you need it most!

facebook.com/suluqwa
instagram.com/viucommunitycousins
twitter.com/viusuluqwa
community.cousins@viu.ca
viu.ca/aboriginal
• We encourage you to declare your Aboriginal ancestry when you apply to VIU.
• You’ll help ensure that VIU continues to provide great resources for Aboriginal students.
• No proof of ancestry is required and you can declare either at the time of application or after you’ve applied via your online student record.

Aboriginal Representation at the VIU Students’ Union

The Aboriginal representative at the VIU Students’ Union (VIUSU) ensures that the voice of Aboriginal students is heard in the Students’ Union and throughout the campus. The Aboriginal representative participates in decision-making at the Students’ Union and advocates for students on campus.

VIU Students’ Union

Building 193, Room 207
250.754.8866
abrep@viusu.ca
viusu.ca

“I love how VIU makes me feel like I can be myself as a Nuu-Chah-Nulth person. I learned that along our paths there will be obstacles and we can conquer them!”

– Vanessa Hamilton-George
Ahousaht/Tla-oq-ui-aht First Nations, with Kelsmaht, Ahoous, and Lilooet roots, Aboriginal University Bridging Program
Admission

THREE STEPS TO APPLYING

1. Start online at viu.ca/apply. You can apply online, in-person or by mail.

2. Submit your application and pay the application fee of $40.10

3. Submit your supporting documents

   BC high school students need to provide their Personal Education Number (PEN); out of province applicants will need to provide an official transcript. Some programs require an interim transcript, an assessment test, a personal profile, and/or a resume or letter of intent.

   Printed applications and all supporting documents can be sent to the Registration Centre at any VIU Campus.

An Educational Advisor can help:

- Explore career and post-secondary options
- Choose or change your program/courses
- Clarify your educational goals
- Develop your educational plans
- Explore the impact of dropping a course
- Make a switch to a new program
- Get connected with appropriate resources

Nanaimo Campus, Building 170
250.740.6510
1.888.920.2221, local 6510
sas@viu.ca
viu.ca/sas

Cowichan Campus, Student Affairs
250.746.3509
c.c.viu.ca/sa/aboriginal-support

Powell River Campus, Advising
604.485.2878
pr.viu.ca/studentservices/advising.asp
Access and Aboriginal Focus Programs

Aboriginal students are enrolled in a wide variety of programs at VIU. While many courses in different programs include some Aboriginal content, the following programs have an Aboriginal focus or provide access to university and trades programs.

Aboriginal Construction
10 Month Certificate Program

The Aboriginal Construction Program provides an opportunity to gain skills and knowledge that give a head start in the construction industry with the benefit of learning coastal First Nations construction history and methods. Developed in consultation with the coastal First Nation’s communities this program is designed for aboriginal learners with components that include recognition of cultural issues regarding education and traditional construction.

Aboriginal University Bridging Program
8 to 10 Month Program

The Aboriginal University Bridging Program (AUBP or UCEP) starts in September of each year and prepares students for entry into university or trades programs. The program is open to any Aboriginal student who is preparing for post-secondary education and needs to upgrade through Adult Basic Education. The AUBP has been recognized as meeting the requirements for UCEP funding.

For more information, email:
Nanaimo Campus
Janet Sinclair at Janet.Sinclair@viu.ca

Cowichan Campus
Nancy Hamilton at Nancy.Hamilton@viu.ca

The Bachelor of Arts, Major and Minor in First Nations Studies:

4-Year Degree Program
Exploration of contemporary First Nations issues in an integrated, multi-disciplinary manner that prepares students for living within First Nations societies and the larger world, and focuses on the physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of each student.
**Arts One—First Nations**  
1-Year University Program

This is a multi-disciplinary learning community for first-year university students. The program is intended for students who are interested in the intersection and interaction between First Nations and western cultures within a broad introduction to interdisciplinary study in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Enrolment in the program is managed to ensure that First Nations students comprise at least two-thirds of the class.

**First Nations Housing Manager**  
Online Certificate Program

The First Nations Housing Manager Certificate Program prepares housing managers to assist communities to benefit from affordable, healthy, high quality, and well-maintained housing. The program provides learners with the opportunity to develop management skills through a combination of theory and practical application. The interactive approach to learning new skills encourages participants to test new ideas, fine tune relevant skills and share experiences and expertise with other housing managers in a supportive learning environment.

“VIU hosts a number of Indigenous speakers, leaders, writers, and artists, all of whom have been happy to speak with students one on one. I recently met my favourite author, Eden Robinson, and with the networking skills I’ve learned here, I made a connection for my writing career.”

— Sheena Robinson  
Heiltsuk Nation,  
Bachelor of Arts, Major in First Nations Studies, Minor in Creative Writing
This academic setting is a lot different than any typical high school experience. You really connect with your professors and classmates and meet great people along the way.

– Sheldon Scow
Nanaimo
Bachelor of Arts,
Major in First Nations Studies
Indigenous Education Navigators at VIU

Indigenous Education Navigators are available to provide outreach to prospective and current students from regional Indigenous communities. Education Navigators provide holistic support and help students with all aspects of student and personal life. Connect with an Indigenous Education Navigator to learn more about supports available for communities, families, and prospective and current students.

**Nanaimo Campus**

Emmy Manson  
250.753.3245 local 2211  
Emmy.Manson@viu.ca

Robert Depriest  
250.753.3245 local 2089  
Robert.Depriest@viu.ca

**Cowichan Campus**

Tasha Brooks  
250.746.3523  
Tasha.Brooks@viu.ca

**Powell River Campus**

Sherry Mattice  
604.485.8050  
Sherry.Mattice@viu.ca
Welcome to VIU Student Residence! VIU Student Residence houses more than 500 students on VIU’s Nanaimo campus each year. Residents come to our community from across Canada and the world, each bringing different life experiences and perspectives to VIU. VIU is committed to ensuring everyone is able to study, live and work in an environment of mutual respect, free from harassment and discrimination. If you’re studying at VIU, join our fantastic residence community and take advantage of everything VIU has to offer.

viu.ca/residence
The Office of Aboriginal Education and Engagement delivers university courses/programs in First Nation communities on Vancouver Island and coastal BC.

Community-based programs recently offered include:

- Aboriginal Ecotourism
- Event Management
- Business Fundamentals for Aboriginal Communities
- Environmental Stewardship
- Indigenous Portfolio Workshops
- Life-Skills / Essential Skills
- Trades Exploration
- Carpentry Level 1
- Health Care Assistant
- Early Childhood Care & Education

For more information on any of these programs or on educational offerings that will support your community’s educational, social, cultural and economic goals, please contact:

Pam Botterill at 250.618.6548
Pam.Botterill@viu.ca

Or check our website: viu.ca/aboriginal-community-programs
Vancouver Island University is located in the mid-island region and on the Sunshine Coast. Our largest campus is located in Nanaimo. Other campus sites include Powell River, Duncan and a centre in Parksville/Qualicum. Research and other learning activities also take place at other sites including our Platinum LEED certified Deep Bay Marine Field Station located in Deep Bay.
Nanaimo Campus Map

100 Offices
105 Equipment Storage
110 Heavy Mechanical & Carpentry
115 Electrical
120 Facilities Services & Campus Dev.
130 Welding Shop
140 Storage
150 Automotive Shop
155 Power Sports & Marine
164 Hairdressing
165 Classrooms
170 Shq’apthut (Gathering Place)
178 Classrooms, Offices
180 Applied Studies Training & Educational Centre (ASTECC)
185 Bakery, Lower Cafeteria
190 Gym
193 VIUSU building
200 Student Affairs
205 Academic & Career Prep.
250 Faculty of Management
255 Richard W. Johnston Centre for International Education
300 Main Cafeteria, Administration, Welcome Centre
305 Library, Bookstore, Print Shop
310 Drama & Theatre, Career Centre, University Relations
315 Physics/Parking Office
320 Music
325 Visual & Applied Arts
330 Nanaimo Art Gallery
335 Child Care, Offices
340 Arts & Humanities Offices
345 Arts & Humanities Classrooms
350 The High School at VIU
355 Arts & Sciences
356 Education, Social Sciences
359 Offices
360 Math, Chemistry
365 Log Cabin
370 Environmental Sciences
373 Centre for Shellfish Research
375 Hatchery, Tank Farm
380 Fisheries & Aquaculture
385 Soils Lab
390 Header House
395 International Centre for Sturgeon Studies

DISTANCE FROM CAMPUS
Nanaimo Aquatic Centre 700 m
Nanaimo Ice Centre 700 m
Serauxmen Stadium 750 m
Mariner Field 1.6 km
University Village 1.6 km
Downtown & Harbour Front 2.4 km
Departure Bay Ferry Terminal 5.3 km

Campus Visits
Schedule tour of the Nanaimo campus at viu.ca/visit-us
ABORIGINAL STUDENT HANDBOOK

Vancouver Island University

Aboriginal Recruitment
viuconnect@viu.ca

Aboriginal Education and Engagement
viu.ca/aboriginal

Services for Aboriginal Students
sas@viu.ca
viu.ca/sas

Nanaimo Campus
250.740.6510
900 Fifth Street,
Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5S5

Cowichan Campus
250.746.3509
2011 University Way,
Duncan, BC V9L 0C7

Parksville/Qualicum Centre
250.248.2096
100 Jensen Ave E,
Parksville, BC V9P 2G3

Powell River Campus
604.485.2878
7085 Nootka St #100,
Powell River, BC V8A 1K6

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