Vancouver Island University respects Aboriginal ways of knowing and being.

viu.ca/aboriginal
Hay ch qa’ sii’em siye’yu mukw mustimuxw.

In keeping with regional protocol, the Vancouver Island University community acknowledges and thanks the Snuneymuxw, Quw’utsun, Snaw Naw As, and Tla’amin, on whose traditional lands we teach, learn, research, live and share knowledge.
Welcome to VIU

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. 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 Welcomes Dr. Deborah Saucier as the next president of Vancouver Island University.

Dr. Saucier is an accomplished neuroscientist and dedicated educator with a deep commitment to Indigenous education and reconciliation. Originally from Saskatoon with Métis heritage and connections to Vancouver Island through both her education and her family, Saucier comes to VIU from MacEwan University in Edmonton.
VIU Aboriginal Student Quick Facts

1,596
Aboriginal Students on campus

9
Elders-in-Residence
5 Nanaimo 3 Cowichan 1 Powell River

$60 Million
Investment in Nanaimo campus facilities serving students in health, science and trades programs

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

42
Indigenous communities on Vancouver Island
“I am grateful for being given another opportunity to seek higher education and to hold up, initialize, utilize and maximize Indigenous philosophies and cultural revitalization.”

Duane Hanson, Klahoose First Nation
Bachelor of Arts, Major in Indigenous/ Xwulmuxw Studies (Psychology minor)
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. Visit, seek spiritual/cultural guidance, or listen to the traditional stories from our Elders; who are referred to affectionately and respectfully as Auntie and Uncle. 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:

- 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).

Noelle Hanuse (Wuikinuxv)
“"I work holistically to help students strive for balance and reach their highest potential personally, spiritually, and academically. I am honored to have the opportunity to provide one-to-one, as well as group counselling support to Indigenous students.""

Noelle.Hanuse@viu.ca
Nanaimo Campus
Bldg. 200 Rm. 319
250-740-6416

Lexis Linklater
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
Bldg. 700 Rm. 156
250.746.3509

Services for Aboriginal Students
sas@viu.ca
Nanaimo Campus
250.740.6510
Cowichan Campus
250.746.3509
Powell River Campus
604.485.2878
VIU Elders-in-Residence

VIU Elders-in-Residence are an integral part of the Vancouver Island University. You may hear students referring to the Elders as “Auntie” or “Uncle,” which is a sign of both affection and respect.

Nanaimo Campus

Geraldine Manson
(C-tasi:a)
Snuneymuxw

Stella Johnson
Métis

Maxine Matilpi
(Lakwa)
Kwakiutl/Ma'amtigilia

Gary Manson
(Xul si malt)
Snuneymuxw

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

Cowichan Campus

Harold Joe
Puneluxutth’

Marlene Rice
(Hwiem’)
Cowichan Tribes

Florence James
(Thiyaas)
Puneluxutth’

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
‘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!
• 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 just want to show myself and those who believe in me that I can do this, and show my sons that they can do it too - we can take that step forward to get ahead.”

– Mandii Hopkins, Mowachaht Muchalaht Nation BA, Criminology
Steps to becoming a student

1. Choose a program and review the requirements and deadlines

2. Submit your application
   - You can expect a response letter within two weeks
   - The response letter will assign you a student number and detail any supporting documents required to complete your application

3. Submit the required documents to complete your application

4. Apply for Student Housing if you’d like to live on campus

5. Wait to receive an Admissions decision
   - We’ll notify you no matter what the decision is
   - If you receive an Offer of Admission, you will be notified on how to accept your offer and when to pay the tuition deposit

6. You will be notified of your Registration Date. Anytime on or after your Registration Date, log into your student record and register for your classes
   - Sooner is better as more options may be available

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
cc.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
Brian Walker at Brian.Walker@viu.ca
Cowichan Campus
Nancy Hamilton at Nancy.Hamilton@viu.ca
The Bachelor of Arts, Major and Minor in First Nations Studies (Indigenous/Xwulmuxw Studies)

4-Year Degree Program

Exploration of contemporary First Nations (Indigenous/Xwulmuxw Studies) 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.

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.

“Being sponsored by EleV means the world to me and has created the situation for me to take my first steps into higher education. My navigator is an excellent resource in guiding me through both the school system and helping me guide the EleV program. On top of that the friendship they have provided makes it a pleasure to go to school.”

– Greg Moynan, Whitefish River, BBA
Vancouver Island University (VIU) is excited to welcome students living outside Canada with an ancestral connection to Canadian Indigenous groups to study at the lower domestic tuition rate.

VIU’s Board of Governors has recently approved this initiative as a commitment to fulfill the recommendations of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It also supports the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Jay Treaty of 1795. This treaty secured the rights of Indigenous peoples to freely cross the US-Canada border, by land or water, in order to carry on trade or commerce with each other as they had done before the border was established.

We look forward to working with our communities and welcoming students under this program and to continuing to support initiatives that invest in and actively support reconciliation with Canada’s Indigenous nations.

For more information, please contact registration@viu.ca.
Indigenous Education Navigators at VIU

Indigenous Education Navigators provide outreach and holistic support to prospective and current VIU students from regional Indigenous communities. Please connect with an Indigenous Education Navigator for support applying for funding to your Nation and if you under the age of 35 and self-identify as an Indigenous, Métis, Inuit, or First Nations. You may be eligible to apply for an EleV scholarship.

**Nanaimo Campus**
- Robert Mahikwa  
  Phone: 250.753.3245  
  Local 2211  
  Robert.Mahikwa@viu.ca

- Sherry Mattice  
  Cell: 250.618.1773

- Emmy Manson  
  (Saletunat)  
  Cell 250.667.3641  
  Emmy.Manson@viu.ca

**Cowichan Campus**
- Tasha Brooks  
  Text: 250.618.3225  
  Tasha.Brooks@viu.ca

“Assistance from the EleV program to finish my education and Emmy Manson and Tasha Brooks played a big role in my success to graduate. When entering University remember that our education system does not prepare us for all that is expected. Never give up! We need more of our people to help our youth and children in care, in the prisons or in education.”

– Cynthia Johnny, Snuneymuxw BA Criminology
VIU Residences
Your Home Away From Home

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
Campus Locations

Snuneymuxw Territory
Nanaimo Campus

Cowichan Tribes Territory
Cowichan Campus

Tla’amin Territory
Powell River Campus

Snaw Naw As Territory
Parksville Centre
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 (ASTEC)
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 Lab
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
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