ABORIGINAL STUDENT HANDBOOK

Vancouver Island University respects Aboriginal ways of knowing and being

aboriginal.viu.ca

Sara Daigle-Stevens,
Kootenays, Cape Mudge, and Haida Gwaii
Aboriginal University Bridging Program.
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.
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  
aboriginal.viu.ca
VIU ABORIGINAL STUDENT STATS AT A GLANCE

11
Elders-in-Residence

7 Nanaimo
3 Cowichan
1 Powell River

1,419
Aboriginal students on VIU campuses

70
students supported in the youth-in-care tuition waiver program in 2016/2017

26
Cultural and Social events at Shq’apthut 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
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
BA First Nations Studies
VISIT SHQ’APTHUT

Shq’apthut - A Gathering Place on the Nanaimo campus is the home of Services for Aboriginal Students (SAS). All campus community members are 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.

SERVICES FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS (SAS)

• Explore and develop your educational and career goals in a supported environment.
• The Elders’ office is located here so come visit, seek spiritual/cultural guidance, and listen to them share their stories.
• 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.
• Assistance finding accommodations and daycare.
• Access to a range of academic workshops and one-on-one writing and research opportunities.
• 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).

Shq’apthut A Gathering Place
Services for Aboriginal Students
Nanaimo Campus 250.740.6510
sas@viu.ca

Student Service Centres at other VIU campuses
Cowichan Campus 250.746.3509
Parksville/Qualicum Centre 250.248.2096
Powell River Campus 604.485.2878
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, 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 below in brackets.

Nanaimo Campus

Ray Peter (Qwulshemut) Cowichan Tribes
Delores Louie (Swus-tanulwut) Chemainus
Geraldine Manson (C-tasi:a) Snuneymuxw
Stella Johnson Métis
Gary Manson (Xul si malt) Snuneymuxw

Cowichan Campus

Harold Joe (Puneluxutth’) Snuneymuxw
Marlene Rice (Hwiem’) Snuneymuxw
Florence James (Thiyaas) Snuneymuxw

Powell River Campus

Eugene Louie (Tla’ Amin) Snuneymuxw

To connect with an Elder on campus, contact:
Sylvia Scow
250.753.3245, loc 2096
Sylvia.Scow@viu.ca
Connect with an Aboriginal student from ‘Su’luqw’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: /suluqwa
Instagram: @viucommunitycousins
Twitter: @viusuluqwa
Email: community.cousins@viu.ca
Website: aboriginal.viu.ca/community-cousins
• 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
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 $39.30*

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 should be sent to:
   Registration Centre
   Vancouver Island University
   900 Fifth Street
   Nanaimo, BC V9R 5S5

Visit Shq’apthut where 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
Phone: 250.740.6510
Toll-free: 1.888.920.2221, local 6510
Email: sas@viu.ca
Website: viu.ca/sas
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.

**ACCESS AND ABORIGINAL FOCUS PROGRAMS**

**Community Health Promotion for Aboriginal Communities**

The Community Health Promotion for Aboriginal Communities graduate will be able to assess community health needs, client health education needs, and will work with the community towards improving health and well-being through health promotion activities.

**Aboriginal University Bridging Program**

10-Month Certificate Program

The Aboriginal University Bridging Program (AUBP) 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.

Applications for admission are accepted at any time. Applicants are encouraged to apply for the program by April 30.

For more information, email Janet Sinclair at janet.sinclair@viu.ca. The office is in building 205.

**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.

Find out more about First Nations programs at VIU at programs.viu.ca/first-nations.
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
2 Week Certificate Program

The First Nations Housing Manager Certificate Program will train 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 who 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, BA major, First Nations Studies, Minor Creative Writing.
Mary Martha Drake,
Pehdzech Ki First Nation.
Bachelor of Arts (first year)
What are your career or personal goals?
I want to share a smile with new people every day, in hopes that this simple gesture will brighten their day no matter what they are dealing with personally.

My career goal is to get my degree in biology, then going beyond to specialize in Endocrinology.

What are some of your proudest moments as a student at VIU?
One of my proudest moments at VIU would be when I took my first look at the staircases ahead of me and thinking to myself, “this is so much work”, then taking a moment to realize that I don’t have to look at the entire staircase. Instead, just look at the first step, then the next, and eventually I would reach the top.

This taught me to keep focused on what is directly ahead of me, and eventually I will reach the top.

What inspires you to keep going when things get tough?
Curiosity...
The rest of my life and the experiences yet to come motivates me to continue pushing when something tough seems impossible to overcome.

Anything else?
I admire my parents for their continuous efforts towards raising successful children who don’t settle for anything less than the best. My parents always remind me to reach for the stars, and to not forget that my happiness is important. They inspire me in all aspects of life.

NEW AT VIU
INDIGENOUS NAVIGATORS
Indigenous Education Navigators are new positions developed to provide outreach to prospective and current students from the regional Indigenous communities and will provide ongoing support to the students as they move through their programs to completion.

Contact Sylvia.Scow@viu.ca to discuss ways your students can be supported.
Having my support network is inspiring. I’m grateful I have friends who care about me and remind me I’m doing well when I can’t see it. And knowing that in a small way, I’m making positive changes within the Indigenous community is a great inspiration. Because through my actions, I’m bettering my life, but also having a positive effect on my communities, just by doing this... creating a small ripple of positivity outwards.

– Sara Daigle-Stevens, Kootenays, Cape Mudge, and Haida Gwaii, Aboriginal University Bridging Program.
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

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: aboriginal.viu.ca/projects-process
Vancouver Island University can be found all through 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 (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 House
395 International Centre for Sturgeon Studies

VIRTUAL CAMPUS TOURS
You can take a virtual tour of the Nanaimo campus at viu.ca/visit

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