



**VANCOUVER ISLAND  
UNIVERSITY**

# **Indigenous Student Handbook**

Vancouver Island University respects  
Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

[viu.ca/Indigenous](http://viu.ca/Indigenous)

# 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, Qualicum First Nation and Tla'amin, on whose traditional lands we teach, learn, research, live and share knowledge.



## **Hay ch qa' sii'em siye'yu mukw mustimuxw.**

VIU is fortunate to host a large number of Indigenous 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 Indigenous Education & Engagement

**Sharon.Hobenshield@viu.ca**

**viu.ca/Indigenous**

# Welcome to VIU



Dr. Deborah Saucier is an accomplished neuroscientist and dedicated educator with a deep commitment to Indigenous education and reconciliation. Originally from Saskatoon, Deb is a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from the University of Victoria, and a PhD in psychology from the University of Western Ontario. She is committed to continuing VIU's innovative work in Indigenous education, access and community engagement.



Dr. Judith Sayers, a prominent Indigenous leader, sustainable development advocate and passionate educator is VIU's third chancellor. She is President of the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council and holds business and law degrees, and an honorary Doctor of Laws, from Queen's University. She practiced law for 18 years, working in international forums and lobbying governments and other agencies for the promotion and protection of First Nations rights and title.



# Indigenous Student Quick Facts

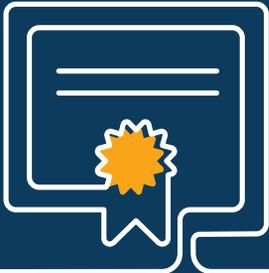
**1528**

Indigenous students on campus



**11%**

VIU's student population



**400**

credentials are awarded each year to Indigenous students

**97%**

97% of Indigenous apprenticeship graduates are employed full-time



**10 Elders**

**6** Nanaimo  
**3** Cowichan  
**1** Powell River

"The Aboriginal University Bridging Program presents students with a safe space to find their voice, understand who they are as a person and provides many opportunities to give back to their community while progressing in their education. As a mature student, I was unsure where to begin on my post-secondary education journey, enter my Aboriginal Student advisors who guided me through the process, transforming the experience into something I was not doing alone. Through the AUBP, I gained confidence, learned protocol, began acknowledging and thanking the land and its peoples, became a student representative for many committees and a member of the 'Su'luqw'a' Community Cousins. My journey has taken me from ABE to acceptance in the BSN program, all while hosting movie nights as a student representative for The Services for Aboriginal Students. My advice is to open as many doors as possible, the first one being an Aboriginal advisor's office at VIU."

**Ashley Wood**





# Shq'apthut

## A Gathering Place

### Visit Shq'apthut

Shq'apthut - A Gathering Place on the Nanaimo campus is the home of Services for Aboriginal Students (SAS), Elders-in-Residence and Indigenous Education Navigators. 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 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.

# Educational Advisors

SAS Educational Advisors provide culturally appropriate supports for Indigenous students.

Meet with us to:

- Explore and develop your educational and career goals in a supported environment.
- Change programs, courses, and get assistance with timetabling and registration.
- Find information about funding options for Status and Métis students, including Indigenous bursaries, scholarships, awards, and student loans.
- Access a range of academic workshops, tutoring, one-on-one writing and research opportunities.
- Get assistance with finding accommodations and day care.
- Get connected to other resources at VIU and in the community.
- Find out more about our events, including cultural presentations from the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Métis Nations of Vancouver Island.



## Services for Aboriginal Students

[sas@viu.ca](mailto: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



**Delores Louie**  
(Swustanulwut)  
Stz'uminus  
*Indigenous/Xwulmuxw  
Studies*

## Cowichan Campus



**Harold Joe**  
Puneluxuth'



**Marlene Rice**  
(Hwiem')  
Cowichan Tribes



**Florence James**  
(Thiyaas)  
Puneluxuth'



**Eugene Louie**  
Tla' Amin

## Powell River Campus

To connect with an Elder, contact:

### Nanaimo Campus

**Sylvia Scow**  
250.740.6502  
[Sylvia.Scow@viu.ca](mailto:Sylvia.Scow@viu.ca)

### Cowichan Campus

**Nancy Hamilton**  
250.746.3573  
[Nancy.Hamilton@viu.ca](mailto:Nancy.Hamilton@viu.ca)



# 'su'luqw'a'

## Community Cousins

Connect with a current Indigenous VIU student from 'Su'luqw'a' Community Cousins. They're a source of support and are here to help you navigate the campus, access resources or have a chat over coffee!

 /suluqwa

 @viucommunitycousins

 @viusuluqwa

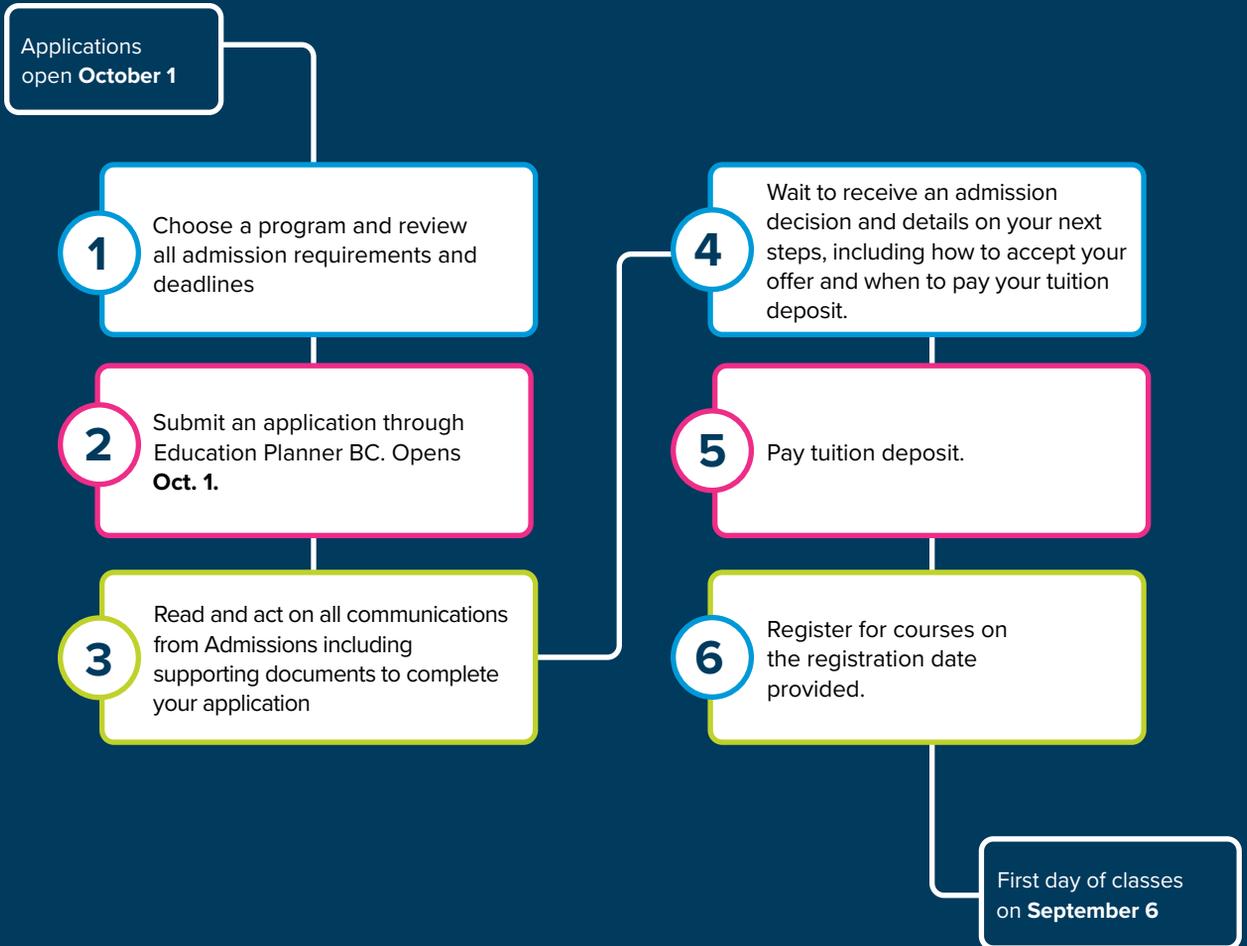
 communitycousins@viu.ca

[viu.ca/Indigenous](https://viu.ca/Indigenous)

"Originally from Manitoba, I joined the 'su'luqw'a' Community Cousins Aboriginal student membership mentorship program to find friends and a family structure, but I got even more out of it than I thought. A key part of the program is sharing your story with others, and inspiring others to do the same. There was no way I could've stood up in front of a crowd of people and talk before I joined the program, but now I'm quite comfortable with public speaking. I am also a little more comfortable about my past and who I am now."

**James Beardy**  
*RMOT Diploma Program*

# The steps to becoming a student



# Declare Your Ancestry

- We encourage you to declare your Indigenous ancestry when you apply to VIU.
- You'll help ensure that VIU continues to provide great resources for Indigenous 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.

## Indigenous 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**





# Access and Indigenous Focus Programs

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

## **Indigenous University Bridging Program**

8- to 10-Month Program

The Indigenous 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 Indigenous 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](mailto:Brian.Walker@viu.ca)

**Cowichan Campus**  
Nancy Hamilton at  
[Nancy.Hamilton@viu.ca](mailto: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.

## **Did you know that some programs offer Access Seats for Indigenous Students or that you can also take Indigenous-focused courses in various programs?**

- ENGL 117 (3): University Writing and Research: Indigenous Focus
- ENGL 127 (3): Literature and Culture: Indigenous Focus
- ILRP 100 (3): Indigenous Learning and Recognition Portfolio

## **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](mailto:sas@viu.ca)

[viu.ca/sas](http://viu.ca/sas)

### **Cowichan Campus, Student Affairs**

250.746.3509

[cowichan.viu.ca/support-services](http://cowichan.viu.ca/support-services)

### **Powell River Campus, Advising**

604.485.2878

[pr.viu.ca/studentsservices/advising.asp](http://pr.viu.ca/studentsservices/advising.asp)



"No words could express how thankful I am to have been selected and be sponsored by the EleV Scholarship program! My educational journey at Vancouver Island University has been met with immense support from my Indigenous Student Navigator, Elders, su'luqw'a' Community Cousins, and the leaders from the mentorship program. Being an Indigenous student has given me the privilege of having endless opportunities for personal and professional growth with the help of advocacy. They've helped me find connections with my cultural identity while teaching me to cultivate my inner strength. EleV has given me more pathways to fulfilling my educational dreams. "

Mahsi cho,

**Janelle Minoza**  
*4th-year Year BSW Student*

## Indigenous Education Navigators at VIU

Indigenous Education Navigators are here to help with possible funding through EleV Learning partnership for Indigenous youth, connect you to supports, help with course planning and provide advocacy and cultural connections. We also work with your Nation to build positive relationships that will enable you find success in your educational journey.

**elevinfo@viu.ca**  
**viu.ca\EleV**





# Indigenous Education and Engagement

The Office of Indigenous 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

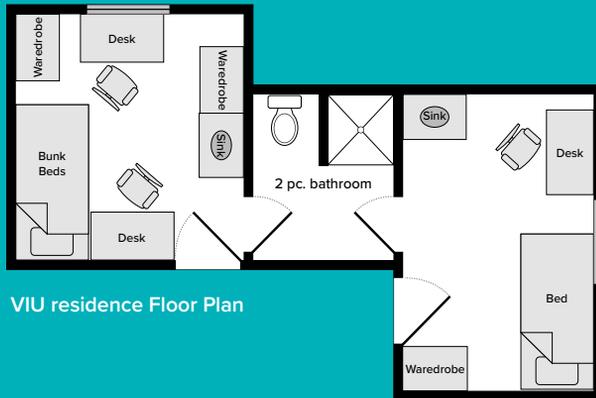
Or check our website:  
**[Indigenous.viu.ca/  
training-available-in-communities](http://Indigenous.viu.ca/training-available-in-communities)**

# VIU Residences

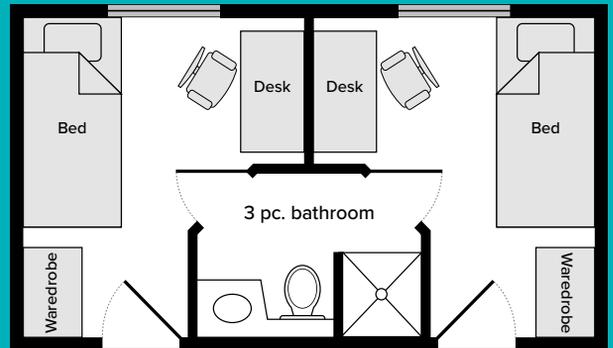
## Your Home Away From Home

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](http://viu.ca/residence)



VIU residence Floor Plan



VIU residence Floor Plan



## New for September 2021!

VIU Residences is so excited to offer the opportunity for students to apply for the Indigenous Living Learning Community.

All rooms in this community are together on the 2nd floor of a Townhouse and are Modern Single room styles. Each single room shares a bathroom with one other Modern Single room.

To learn more, email: [residence@viu.ca](mailto:residence@viu.ca)

*\*\*This community is an opportunity for Indigenous students to connect, share, and build a culturally rich community of respect, peer support and mentorship. Programming, events, and ceremony are designed with guidance and partnership from the Office for Indigenous Education and Engagement and Services for Aboriginal Students at VIU.\*\**

# Campus Locations

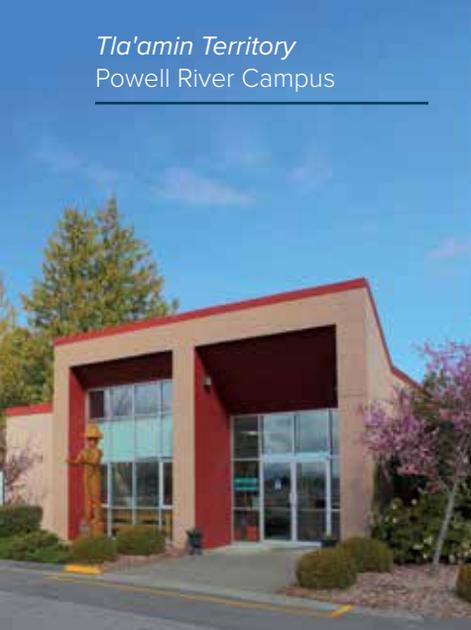
*Snuneymuxw Territory*  
Nanaimo Campus

---



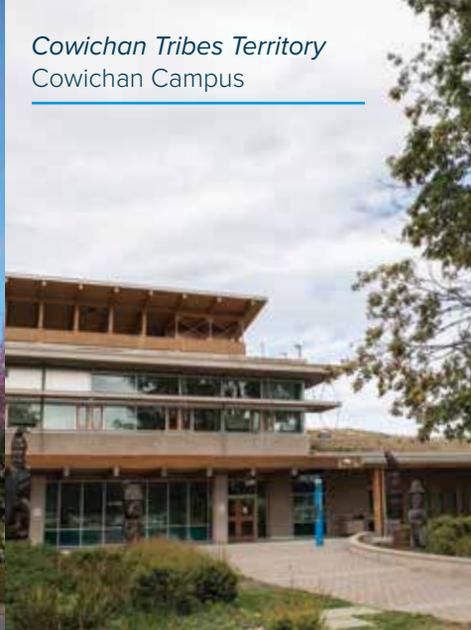
*Tla'amin Territory*  
Powell River Campus

---



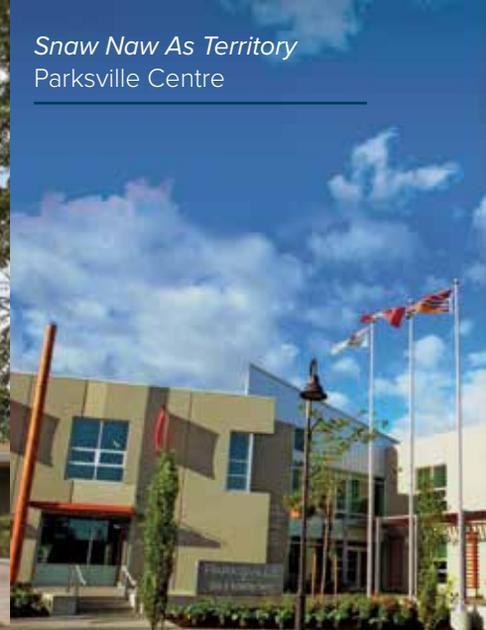
*Cowichan Tribes Territory*  
Cowichan Campus

---



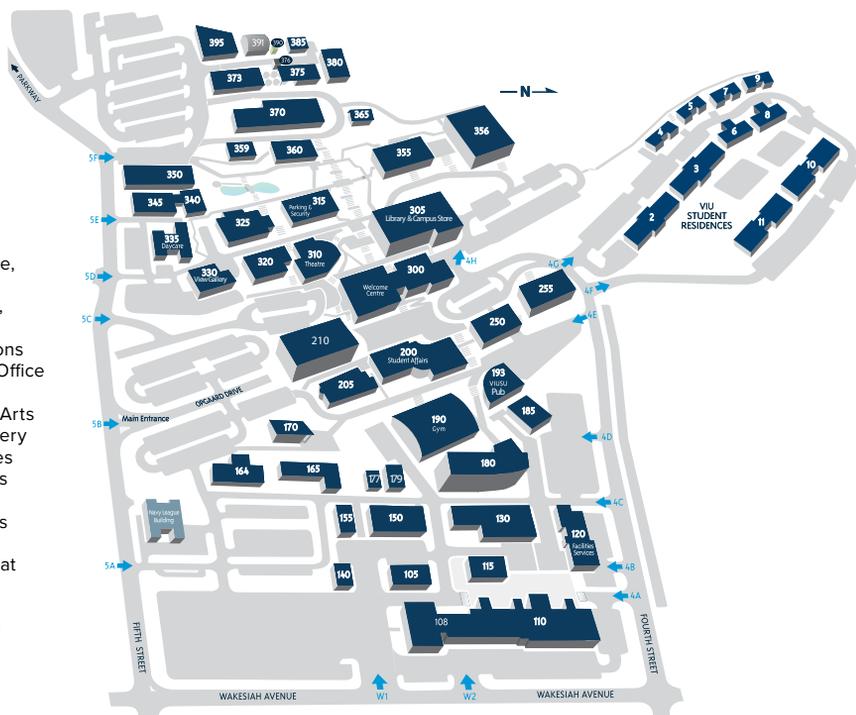
*Snaw Naw As Territory*  
Parksville Centre

---



# Nanaimo Campus Map

- 100 Offices
- 105 Equipment Storage
- 108 Trades Discovery Centre
- 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'aphut (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.
- 210 Health & Science Centre
- 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



## Campus Visits

Schedule tour of the Nanaimo campus at [viu.ca/visit-us](http://viu.ca/visit-us)

## 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



# VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

## INDIGENOUS STUDENT HANDBOOK

**Vancouver Island University**  
[viuconnect@viu.ca](mailto:viuconnect@viu.ca)

Indigenous Education  
and Engagement  
[viu.ca/Indigenous](http://viu.ca/Indigenous)

Services for Aboriginal Students  
[sas@viu.ca](mailto:sas@viu.ca)  
[viu.ca/sas](http://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



facebook  
**/VIUNIVERSITY**



instagram  
**@VIUNIVERSITY**



twitter  
**@VIUNIVERSITY**



youtube  
**@VIUCHANNEL**