

2023-24

Indigenous Student Handbook

Vancouver Island University
respects Indigenous ways
of knowing and being.

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, Xwkwa'luxwum and Tla'amin, on whose traditional lands we teach, learn, research, live and share knowledge.



Marcia Turner

Associate Vice President,
Office of Indigenous
Education & Engagement

Marcia.Turner@viu.ca
viu.ca/Indigenous

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

Amma Sah! Welcome to Vancouver Island University, located on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw, Snaw-naw-as, Quw'utsun, Tla'amin and Xwkwa'luxwum peoples. We are excited that you have joined VIU for your learning journey and we are here to walk with you as you take steps towards your goals, dreams and aspirations. VIU is proud to have among the highest percentage of Indigenous students of all post-secondary institutions in BC. It is our hope you will feel a sense of belonging on campus, no matter which program you choose. VIU is a place where you matter, your contributions are valued, and our faculty and staff are here with you throughout your journey and beyond – including when you take your knowledge back to benefit your community. Please stop in to visit us in Shq'aphut or at the Office of Indigenous Education and Engagement. I am excited to meet you!

Welcome to VIU



As Métis, I understand the importance of studying at a place where you feel your history and traditions are acknowledged. VIU strives to be a place where Indigenous students, employees and communities feel they are honoured and belong and where Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing and being are incorporated into programming, events and all aspects of university life.

VIU offers a vibrant campus, dedicated faculty and staff, and many supports to help you achieve your goals. Every member of our faculty and staff is here to help you embrace your potential. We hope your time here will be successful, and the knowledge you gain will help you on your career journey and support your community.

Dr. Deborah Saucier, President and Vice-Chancellor



Welcome to VIU, located on the beautiful homelands of the Coast Salish peoples. I hope you will choose this great institution to pursue your educational goals and dreams – know that you can achieve them here. We welcome the gifts and talents you bring, which add to the richness of campus life.

University is about expanding your knowledge, learning new skills, creating lifelong relationships and meeting new challenges with enthusiasm. Globally, we are going through so many changes in every aspect of our lives, and innovation is required to make the positive changes that are needed today and for future generations. I look forward to meeting you and hearing about your journey here at VIU.

Cloy-e-iis, Dr. Judith Sayers, Chancellor

VIU Indigenous Student Quick Facts

1384

Indigenous
students
on campus

121

community
research
projects

97%

of Indigenous
apprenticeship
graduates are
employed full-time

8

Elders

5 Nanaimo
2 Cowichan
1 tiwšəməwtx^w

12%

VIU student
population



indigenous.viu.ca



Shq'apthut

A Gathering Place

 facebook.com/viu.shqapthut

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, Nuuchah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Métis Nations of Vancouver Island.



Services for Aboriginal Students

sas@viu.ca

Nanaimo Campus

250.740.6510

Cowichan Campus

250.746.3509

tiwš'emawtx[™] Campus

604.485.2878



Scan to learn more

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



Randy Fred
Nuu-chah-nulth

Cowichan Campus



Marlene Rice
(Hwiem')
Cowichan Tribes



Florence James
(Thiyaas)
Puneluxutth'



Eugene Louie
Tla'amin
tiwšɛmawtxʷ

tiwšɛmawtxʷ Campus

To connect with an Elder, contact:

Nanaimo Campus

Sylvia Scow

250.740.6305

Sylvia.Scow@viu.ca

Cowichan Campus

Nancy Hamilton

250.746.3573

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

 communitycousins@viu.ca

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

Applications
open **October 1**

1

Choose a program and review all admission requirements and deadlines.

2

Submit an application through Education Planner BC.
Opens **Oct. 1**.

3

Read and act on all communications from Admissions including supporting documents to complete your application.

4

Wait to receive an admission decision and details on your next steps, including how to accept your offer and when to pay your tuition deposit.

5

Pay tuition deposit.

6

Register for courses on the registration date provided.

First day of classes
on **September 6**

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.

Aboriginal 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

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.

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

viu.ca/sas

Cowichan Campus, Student Affairs

250.746.3509

cowichan.viu.ca/support-services

tiwš'emawtxw Campus, Advising

604.485.2878

pr.viu.ca/student-services/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 you find funding and 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 help you in your educational journey. Please note that our scholarship funding through EleV learning is temporarily paused and in transition until the fall of 2023. Please check back with us in the fall of 2023.

eleinfo@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:

Cheryl Stone at
250.740.6190
Cheryl.Stone@viu.ca

Or check our website:

[Indigenous.viu.ca/
training-available-in-communities](https://www.viu.ca/indigenous-education/training-available-in-communities)

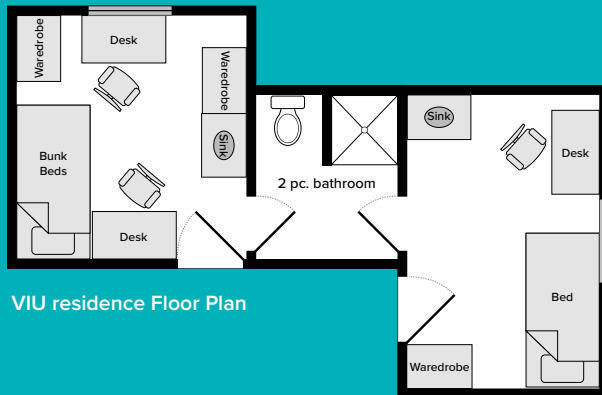
 [facebook.com/
VIUIndigenousEducation](https://facebook.com/VIUIndigenousEducation)

VIU Residences

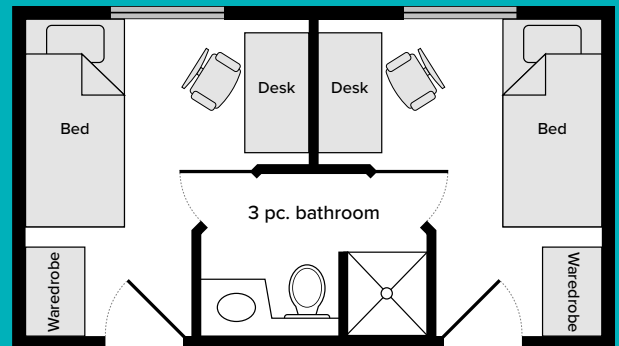
Your Home Away From Home

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



VIU residence Floor Plan



VIU residence Floor Plan



New for September 2023!

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

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

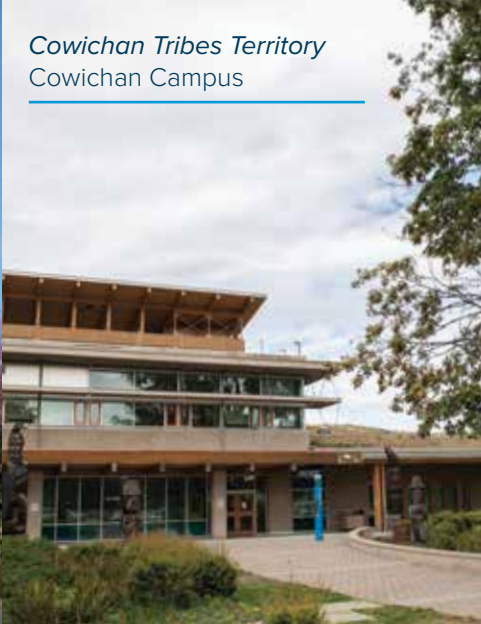
Snuneymuxw Territory
Nanaimo Campus



Tla'amin Territory
tiwšəməwtx^w



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 Education, Social Sciences
- 356 Classrooms
- 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

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
connect@viu.ca

Indigenous Education
and Engagement
viu.ca/Indigenous

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

tiwšemawtx[™] Campus
604.485.2878
7085 Nootka St #100,
Powell River, BC V8A 1K6



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