A place to grow

At UBC, you’ll be inspired by stunning landscapes from the Salish Sea to Syilx Territory. You’ll be welcomed into a supportive community, distinguished by its diversity and spirit of inclusion. You’ll have opportunities to explore vibrant cities and modern campuses, and take part in experiences that open up new paths in your life’s journey. Students from across Canada and around the world choose to study at UBC, and you could be next. We can’t wait to meet you.
A welcoming community

At UBC, you’ll be part of a diverse and dynamic community of students, faculty, researchers, alumni, and staff from across the country and around the world. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students come to UBC to share their perspectives, open their minds, and learn through new experiences. Whatever you’re hoping to learn, whatever your passions are, you’ll find a community to support and nurture you in your journey.

1,731 Aboriginal students from more than 120 communities
64,798 students across two campuses

“When I first came to UBC I felt a little out of place. Having a space to see and meet other Indigenous students, as well to practice my culture, made my transition a lot easier.”

MEMEGWANS JOHNSON-OWL
SAGAANOK ANISHNABEWIK AND MONTREAL LAKE CREE NATION FROM REGINA, SK FIRST NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES

“Aboriginal ambassador with UBC Recruitment, a Work Learn position, where she helps run events that bring Indigenous youth to UBC. Mentors students transitioning to UBC through the UBC-Langara Aboriginal Transfer Partnership. Member of the Indigenous Leadership Collective. Volunteer for the Writers’ Exchange, which provides literacy programs to youth in Vancouver. Mentor through Alberta Future Leaders Program, providing summer programs for Indigenous youth. Gives tours of UBC to Indigenous groups. "I love working with Indigenous communities and youth, and being able to do so on campus allows me to work around my class schedule, balancing my work and student life.”

MORE ABOUT MEMEGWANS

You.UBC.ca/Aboriginal

3
OKANAGAN CAMPUS

A close-knit community

UBC’s Okanagan campus is located in the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation. The Okanagan Nation Alliance officially welcomed UBC to the territory in 2005 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The campus is located just 20 minutes from downtown Kelowna, a vibrant and welcoming community with many opportunities for outdoor recreation, arts, culture, and more.

you.ubc.ca/okanagan

UBC’s Okanagan campus has many resources providing community and culturally appropriate support to Aboriginal students.

SPACES & SERVICES

ABORIGINAL CENTRE
This is the heart of the Indigenous community on campus. Stop by the Aboriginal Centre for academic advising or administrative assistance, connect with an Aboriginal peer mentor or tutor, or simply spend some time with the community.

CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS MEDIA ARTS
The Centre works collaboratively with artists and communities to explore media, technology, and contemporary Indigenous art.

INDIGENOUS LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY
Live in a close-knit student housing community with peers who share similar interests and values. The LLC is supported by its own faculty or staff member who creates tailored extra-curricular programs and educational opportunities.

EVENTS

DESTINATION UBC
Visit campus in advance, pick up insider tips from current students in your faculty or program, and get important advice about transitioning to university life.

INDIGENOUS WELCOME
Take part in a special day of programming during Destination UBC, designed to share information and connect you with other Indigenous students, staff, and advisors.

ABORIGINAL STUDENT ORIENTATION
Connect with other First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and members of the UBC community, and get to know your new campus.

COMMUNITIES

INDIGENOUS STUDENT COUNCIL
A student-run organization that represents Aboriginal students on campus and hosts cultural and social events.

The flag of the Okanagan Nation Alliance was permanently installed on campus in 2018.

The background design on this page features the totems of the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

Dancers at the annual welcome back dinner.

Students pose representing the seven member communities of the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

The flag of the Okanagan Nation Alliance was permanently installed on campus in 2018.

The flag of the Okanagan Nation Alliance was permanently installed on campus in 2018.
An ocean of opportunities

UBC’s Vancouver campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam Indian Band. The Musqueam people and the University of British Columbia have a long history of partnership, strengthened in December 2006 with the signing of a historic Memorandum of Affiliation. Located by the Pacific Ocean, the Vancouver campus is just 30 minutes from downtown Vancouver, which offers an impressive array of cuisines, cultures, and activities to explore.

you.ubc.ca/vancouver

UBC’s Vancouver campus includes many services, events and activities that help create an inclusive and inviting community for Aboriginal students.

SPACES & SERVICES

FIRST NATIONS LONGHOUSE AND HOUSE OF LEARNING
The Longhouse is a magnificent Coast Salish-style building that provides a place to study or relax between classes, take part in cultural events, and access services. The Indigenous Collegium at the Longhouse provides all Indigenous students with access to a comfortable and convenient place to connect with the community and access peer support and other programming.

MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY
Situated on the shoreline of the Salish Sea, the Museum of Anthropology is home to one of the world’s finest collections of Northwest Coast First Nations artifacts.

xʷc̓ičəsəm HEALTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GARDEN
Located at UBC Farm, the xʷc̓ičəsəm Garden supports land-based teaching, research, and community engagement on food security and traditional plant knowledge.

xw77w7 Library
The only Aboriginal branch of a university library system in the country, xw77w7 Library is a centre for Indigenous scholarship, with more than 12,000 books, videos, and other resources.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL HISTORY AND DIALOGUE CENTRE
The Centre provides access to residential school records and information that supports engagement with the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada.

EVENTS

DESTINATION UBC ABORIGINAL STUDENT WELCOME
A weekend-long event for students admitted to UBC that offers a chance to visit the Vancouver campus in advance of the start of classes and get to know the Aboriginal community. You’ll find information on transitioning to university life and have the opportunity to connect with current students in your faculty or degree who can share helpful tips.

COMMUNITIES

FIRST NATIONS STUDIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION
Encourage community-building and engagement with Indigenous topics and issues. Members of the club come from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, reflecting many different backgrounds and experiences.

AMS INDIGENOUS COMMITTEE
Take part in addressing Indigenous student issues and representation on campus.

FACULTY-BASED COMMUNITIES
Some faculties have Indigenous student groups that come together to nurture their leadership abilities, make friends, and create community through various events and activities. Examples include the Indigenous Leadership Collective for Arts students, the Canadian Indigenous Science and Engineering Society, and the Indigenous Business Association.
What to study

UBC offers degrees in every major field of study and many ways to enhance your education through research, place-based learning, volunteering, co-op, and on-campus work opportunities. You’ll have access to top Indigenous scholars, programs, and courses, plus unique opportunities to learn from and contribute to Indigenous communities, no matter which subject you choose.

FEATURED PROGRAMS

FORESTRY
Earn a bachelor’s degree through one of six programs offered by the Faculty of Forestry on UBC’s Vancouver campus. Choose to specialize in Community and Aboriginal Forestry in the Forest Resources Management program, or obtain a Registered Professional Forester or Registered Professional Biologist certification.

INDIGENOUS STUDIES
Earn a degree in Indigenous Studies on UBC’s Okanagan campus, or pursue First Nations and Indigenous Studies or First Nations and Endangered Languages through the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies on UBC’s Vancouver campus.

NITEP
Earn a Bachelor of Education through the Indigenous Teacher Education Program in the Faculty of Education on UBC’s Vancouver campus and at regional field centres throughout B.C. Join the growing number of Indigenous leaders in education who are transforming schools, organizations, and communities through Indigenous ways of knowing.

NURSING
Earn a Bachelor of Nursing through the direct-entry Nursing program on UBC’s Okanagan campus. The curriculum incorporates Aboriginal-specific modules developed with community elders and co-taught with Aboriginal knowledge keepers from the local community.

INDIGENOUS LEGAL STUDIES
Earn a law degree and specialize in Aboriginal law from UBC’s Allard School of Law, which has the highest enrollment of Indigenous law students in Canada. Choose from a comprehensive course selection and take part in experiential learning opportunities focusing on Indigenous peoples and issues.

INDIGENOUS RESIDENCY PROGRAM
Gain skills and experience as a medical resident while working with and for Indigenous communities. You’ll acquire unique advocacy skills to help address the effects of historical, geographic, and political factors that impact the health of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

FEATURED OPPORTUNITIES

PLACE-BASED LEARNING
Immerse yourself in another Indigenous culture or community with place-based learning and leadership opportunities at Dechinta in the Northwest Territories, Haida Gwaii, Australia, and London, England.

LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION
Learn local Indigenous languages, including mysticen (the language of the Siksika Nation), herx rpm (the Mainyapam language), and Kwa’kala (the language of the Kwa’kalala First Nations).

INDIGENOUS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORSHIP
Gain research or lab experience in an area that interests you as you learn from a faculty member or postdoctoral research fellow.

you.ubc.ca/programs
Aboriginal academic advising on the Okanagan campus
students.ok.ubc.ca/academic-success/
academic-advising/aboriginal-student-advising
Aboriginal academic advising on the Vancouver campus
aboriginal.ubc.ca/students/academic-advising

“Reconnecting to my Indigenous roots was and is a huge aspect of what drew me to Indigenous Studies. Growing up, I hadn’t been connected to my Indigenous ancestry and I’ve always wondered why—that’s something I can learn through Indigenous Studies.”

HANNA PAUL
NÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA AND BEAVER CREE FIRST NATION
FROM FORT MCMURRAY, AB
ANTHROPOLOGY, INDIGENOUS STUDIES

“The Longhouse and its related programming have allowed me to meet Indigenous people from communities across Canada, and have helped me stay connected to programming for Indigenous students.”

SILA ROGAN
INUIT
FROM WINNIPEG, MB
INTEGRATED SCIENCES

“Can thrive at UBC because I know I do not need to compromise my Indigenous identity in pursuit of a world-class education.”

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How to apply

If UBC feels like the right fit for you, it’s time to apply. Follow the steps below and, before long, you could be part of a diverse and welcoming community at one of the top universities in the world.

1. CHOOSE YOUR DEGREE AND CAMPUS
   When you complete your application, you’ll have the opportunity to select your first and second choice of degree. The degrees you choose can be in different faculties and on different campuses.

2. REVIEW THE REQUIREMENTS
   All applicants must meet UBC’s general admission requirements and degree-specific requirements.

3. COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION AND PAY THE FEE
   Create or log in to your UBC account to complete the online application and pay the fee. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to complete the Personal Profile section – it plays an important role in the University’s admission decisions.

Is there an opportunity to self-identify as an Aboriginal person in my application?
Yes, in your application you can self-identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit. It’s voluntary, and if you choose to self-identify, UBC can provide you with useful information on Aboriginal orientation, programs, scholarships and bursaries, housing, and services. Plus, your admission deposit will be deferred until September and you’ll receive an invite to Destination UBC.

What is the Personal Profile section of the application?
The Personal Profile is a crucial part of your application. It’s your chance to tell us about the things that are important to you, like your community, your cultural identity, and your achievements. Do you volunteer? Excel at a sport? Hold a part-time job? Where you’re from, the communities you’re a part of, what you’ve learned from your experiences, and the strides you’ve made are all important chapters of your personal story. We want to hear about your life and accomplishments, and what they have taught you about yourself and the world around you.

What if I don’t meet my degree’s cut-off?
If you self-identified as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit, UBC will take a second look at your application using the Aboriginal Admission Policy. Factors such as your history, cultural knowledge, work experience, educational goals, and other achievements may be considered. That’s another reason why the Personal Profile section of your application is so important.

Are there pathways to UBC if I don’t meet the general admission requirements?
Consider applying to the Aboriginal Access Studies program on UBC’s Okanagan campus. You’ll complete a full-time schedule of university courses, tutorials, workshops, and non-academic activities to help you transition to your degree of choice. Or, consider starting your studies at another college or university and transferring to UBC. One option is the UBC-Langara Aboriginal Transfer Partnership, which lets you begin your studies at Langara College, guarantees admission to certain degrees on UBC’s Vancouver campus, and offers scholarships and awards.

Want tips for writing your Personal Profile?
you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/how-to-apply/personal-profile

Questions about the application process? Contact our team of dedicated Aboriginal advisors at any point in your journey.
aboriginal.recruitment@ubc.ca
you.ubc.ca/aboriginal-students-ubc/contact

If you would like to be considered for entrance scholarships or a first-round offer of admission, your application is due by December 1.
The final application deadline is on or around January 15 each year. See you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/dates-deadlines to confirm deadlines.
Funding opportunities

UBC is committed to ensuring that no eligible student is prevented from attending UBC based on financial reasons. An advisor will work with you to develop a financial plan and access the financial assistance you need to bring a university education within reach. A UBC education is an investment that will open doors and provide rewards throughout your lifetime – here are some ways to help you achieve your goals.

Band sponsorship

You may be able to pay for some or all of your educational expenses with funding from an Aboriginal organization or community. One common type of sponsorship is third-party billing, where your Band office pays your tuition and fees directly to UBC through Enrolment Services. Contact your Band office or community directly to learn more about funding opportunities. Students who receive Band sponsorship are still eligible for entrance awards and scholarships.

Part-time employment, co-op placements, and internships

Most degrees have paid co-op placements or internships, and programs like Work Learn and Work Study can help you find a job on campus. Part-time employment is not only a way to help finance your university education, but also a chance to gain experience and skills, and see how you might make a difference after graduation.

Financial planning services

UBC’s online cost calculator can help you and your family or financial supporters understand the financial commitment required. Dedicated advisors are also available to answer your questions and help you plan your finances. Contact Aboriginal Programs and Services on UBC’s Okanagan campus or an Enrolment Services Advisor on UBC’s Vancouver campus.

ABORIGINAL AWARDS

UBC has a dedicated Aboriginal awards program, which includes 25 awards totaling approximately $35,000 in bursaries, scholarships, and awards for Canadian Aboriginal students across years and faculties. You can apply for Aboriginal scholarships and bursaries by submitting an Aboriginal Awards application form.

ABORIGINAL AWARDS WORTH $20,000 EACH

2 RENEWABLE AWARDS

2 RENEWABLE AWARDS FOR 10 STUDENTS

7 ONE-TIME AWARDS WORTH $6,000 EACH

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STUDENT STORY

GENNA MOYER

METIS
FROM LILLOOET, BC

INDIGENOUS STUDIES

Coordinator and camp leader for UBC Okanagan campus’ Indigenous Summer Camps

Aboriginal peer mentor through Aboriginal Programs and Services, which she considers a home away from home

Youth representative with the St-Louis-No Friendship Society

Chose to major in Indigenous Studies to learn about her ancestry and gain a new perspective she can apply to a future career as a teacher

Credits the Writing and Research Centre in helping to develop her essay-writing skills

“I was amazed at the wide range of opportunities UBC’s Okanagan campus offered and I knew right away this was exactly where I was meant to be.”

BUDGETING FOR FIRST YEAR*

$5,399+ DOMESTIC TUITION

Depending on your area of study

$15,000+ LIVING COSTS

Including rent or on-campus housing, utilities, cellphone, laptop, meals, health

$3,100+ OTHER EDUCATIONAL COSTS

Including books, supplies, and student fees

Financial support and resources

Includes scholarships, awards, bursaries, student loans, sponsorship funding, and family and community support

*All figures are estimated in Canadian dollars and based on a full first-year course load in the 2019/20 academic year. Living costs cover an eight-month period and are based on a typical student’s experience in residence. Goods and services are subject to inflation, which has remained relatively stable at between 1% and 3% in recent years. Tuition fees are reviewed annually by the Board of Governors, in consultation with students. Most UBC bachelor’s degrees take four years of full-time study to complete.
SECURING A SPOT IN RESIDENCE
If you are a newly admitted student who has self-identified as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit, your residence room is guaranteed. To secure your spot, simply submit your residence application and all supporting documents to UBC Student Housing by the housing application deadline (on or around May 1), and accept UBC’s offer of admission by the date indicated in your letter of admission.

YEAR-ROUND HOUSING
Residence assignments typically run from September to April. If you require year-round housing beginning May 1, submit your residence application and all supporting documents to UBC Student Housing by the priority access deadline indicated online.

HOUSING FOR FAMILIES
On UBC’s Vancouver campus, Acadia Park offers family-friendly accommodations for single parents and couples with or without children, providing easy access to community activities, green spaces, and schools. Childcare for infants and children up to five years of age, as well as occasional and out-of-school care, is available on both UBC campuses. Aboriginal students have priority access to childcare, but spaces fill up quickly, so it’s best to apply as soon as possible – even before you receive your letter of admission.

LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY
Students on UBC’s Okanagan campus have the opportunity to live in the Indigenous Living Learning Community, connecting you with peers who share your interest in Indigenous cultures. The LLC is supported by its own faculty or staff member, who provides tailored extra-curricular programs and educational opportunities. If you are interested in this housing experience, please indicate so on your residence application.

SUPPORT FOR OFF-CAMPUS LIVING
Students who choose to live off-campus can connect with other Aboriginal students at the First Nations Longhouse (Vancouver campus) or Aboriginal Programs and Services (Okanagan campus). You’ll also find a home away from home at UBC Collegia – dedicated spaces on both campuses where you can socialize, study, and heat up your lunch.

Where to live
As an Aboriginal student, you qualify for priority access to on-campus housing. Living in residence puts you close to classes and resources like Aboriginal Programs and Services and the First Nations Longhouse. If you choose to live off-campus, you’ll still have access to many handy resources, services, and communities.
What’s next?

If you have questions about the application process, finances, degree requirements, housing, or something else entirely, our caring and welcoming network of staff is here to help. Or access our online resources to find answers to common questions.


UBC Okanagan Aboriginal Student Advisors
students.ok.ubc.ca/academic-success/academic-advising/aboriginal-student-advising

UBC Vancouver Aboriginal Student Enrolment Services Advisors
aboriginal.ubc.ca/students/prospective

C A M P U S  T O U R S

Free tours of both UBC campuses
aboriginal.tours@ubc.ca

O N L I N E  R E S O U R C E S

UBC Okanagan Aboriginal Programs and Services
students.ok.ubc.ca/aboriginal-students

UBC Vancouver Aboriginal Portal
aboriginal.ubc.ca

S N A P  U S

Take a peek into real student life, catch student takeovers, and explore campus buildings and spaces.

Add us on Snapchat at youbcmaps

“..."I chose UBC because I wanted to challenge myself. It’s one of the best universities in the world and I wanted to know if I had what it takes to succeed there.”

NOAH CHENOWETH

UPPER NICOLA, SYILX OKANAGAN NATION
FROM MERRITT, BC

INDIGENOUS STUDIES

Joined UBC via the Aboriginal Access Studies program, which helps Aboriginal students transition to degree programs at UBC through academic and non-academic activities

Aboriginal peer mentor for first-year Indigenous students at UBC’s Okanagan campus

Coordinator of Indigenous Summer Leadership Camp

Took part in the Australia Leadership Program, an Indigenous cultural exchange in which he traveled to Australia and hosted Australian students

“I would not be so successful at UBC were it not for the support I receive from the Aboriginal Centre. They’re not just friends, they’re family – it truly feels like we’re all part of one big community.”

JOHN CHENOWETH

Bachelor of Education (NITEP), 1994, PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies, 2017

UPPER NICOLA, SYILX OKANAGAN NATION
FROM KAMLOOPS, BC

ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Past president of the Aboriginal Students Association

Former member of UBC Old Boys Ravens Rugby Club

Credits the support of Aboriginal Programs and Services both as an undergrad and PhD student

“My time in NITEP provided me with the first opportunity to be openly proud to be an Indigenous person. We formed a pretty tight network that’s still strong today after some 25 years.”

“All of my studies have cumulated to being professionally and personally prepared to fulfill my responsibility to work towards balance in Indigenous communities.”

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John and Noah Chenoweth

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Ready to get started?
you.ubc.ca/aboriginal

UBC’s Okanagan campus is located in the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation.

UBC’s Vancouver campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

CONTACT US
aboriginal.recruitment@ubc.ca
you.ubc.ca/contact-us

FIND ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS
you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/blog

CONNECT WITH AN ADVISOR THROUGH DIRECT MESSAGE
m.me/youbc
twitter.com/youbc

GET A GLIMPSE OF UBC LIFE
instagram.com/youbcpic
youbcsnaps
facebook.com/youbc
youtube.com/youbcvideo