



UBC Indigenous Undergraduate

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2027



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Vancouver Campus | Musqueam Traditional Territory



UBC Indigenous Student
Recruitment & Advising

Welcome to UBC Vancouver

MUSQUEAM POST

Installed at UBC in 2016, this carved cedar post by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow Jr. tells the Musqueam origin story of the double-headed serpent, *s7i:4qəy̓*. The Musqueam Post honours the university's relationship with the Musqueam people, on whose unceded territory the campus stands.

All individuals who appear in this publication are Indigenous students, faculty, staff, and alumni from the UBC community. All information is correct at time of publishing. Please visit you.ubc.ca for the latest information and updates.

Introduction

Choosing a university is about more than academics — it's about finding a place where you feel seen, supported, and inspired to grow. At the University of British Columbia's Vancouver campus, Indigenous students are part of a vibrant, connected community grounded in culture, knowledge, and belonging.

We respectfully acknowledge that the UBC Vancouver campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam) people.

About the graphic identity

Artists Diamond Point, a Musqueam artist, and Taylor Baptiste, a Syilx artist, were selected to collaborate to create an icon concept that represents both the Musqueam and Syilx Okanagan Nations where the UBC campuses are located.

The goal of the icon and visual identity is to create a feeling of warmth, belonging, and support for Indigenous students, staff members, and parents.





RECONCILIATION POLE

The 55-foot Reconciliation Pole by 7idansuu (Edenshaw), James Hart, Haida Hereditary Chief and Master Carver, tells the story of life before, during, and after the Indian residential school system. Thousands of copper nails honour Indigenous children who died in the schools, while the carvings move from salmon, bear, and raven below to an eagle taking flight above—symbolizing resilience and a future of hope.

Why choose UBC Vancouver

UBC Vancouver offers world-class academics alongside a strong and growing Indigenous student community. Here, your goals are supported through dedicated programs, cultural spaces, and advisors who understand your journey.

What you can expect when coming to UBC:

- A strong sense of Indigenous community
- Beautiful natural surroundings on the coast
- Access to leading research opportunities
- A friendly and diverse campus with many pathways to explore

UBC is a place where you can challenge yourself academically while staying connected to who you are and where you come from.

The Vancouver campus is on the Salish Sea, just 30 minutes from downtown Vancouver, a diverse city that offers an array of cultural, culinary, and artistic experiences.

Explore more
you.ubc.ca/vancouver

Community

A portrait of Logan W., a young woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a green and white striped sweater and a gold necklace. The background is a teal gradient with abstract shapes.

“ My time at UBC has helped shape my future goals of how I approach working within and for diverse communities. During my time, I had the opportunity through my studies and personal life to learn about the many diverse backgrounds and communities that UBC brings together. This influenced my future goals as I have always wanted to work for my nation, and I have now made numerous connections and have learnt from different view points and places in the world to grow my own perspective.”

LOGAN W.

We Wai Kai Nation (Cape Mudge Band), Haida (Skidegate Band)
BA, Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice

UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan

UBC is the first university in North America to commit to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan guides the Vancouver campus's ongoing commitment to Indigenous peoples, communities, and ways of knowing.

The 2020 Indigenous Strategic Plan builds on this important commitment, and represents UBC's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice. It's a living document, with opportunities to contribute to its evolution and implementation.

This work continues to shape programs, services, and the overall student experience.



“šxʷta:təxʷəm is a home away from home for Indigenous students. Although there are other spaces reserved for Indigenous students on campus, I remain partial to šxʷta:təxʷəm because of my time as an Indigenous Collegia Advisor. What began as a part-time job morphed into a very healing experience, one that I will never take for granted.”

KYLIE M.
Ojibwe
BA, Sociology





Contact us

Have questions? Indigenous recruiters are here to help you every step of the way — from exploring programs to preparing your application.

indigenous.recruitment@ubc.ca



Annelie Wells
Red River Métis, MNBC
Recruiter Admissions Advisor,
Indigenous Students



Chloe Badr
Red River Métis, MMF
Recruiter Advisor,
Indigenous Students



Devin Owpaluk
Inuk, ᓴᓕᓐᓴ/Salliᑦ
Recruiter-Advisor,
Indigenous Students



Kelsi Desjarlais
Cree, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
Community Liaison Manager,
Indigenous Students

At UBC, we use the term “Indigenous” to refer inclusively to status and non-status First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples of Canada, in accordance with the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). “Aboriginal” also appears in the names of existing UBC policies or programs, many of which are in the process of being changed to “Indigenous.”

UBC's Vancouver campus

What students value

UBC Vancouver offers the academic strength of a global university within a large, dynamic campus community. Located on the west coast and surrounded by ocean and forest, the campus connects students to world-class learning, vibrant city life, and a strong network of Indigenous spaces and supports.

Indigenous students who choose UBC Vancouver often value:

- A welcoming and inclusive, research-intensive learning environment
- A coastal campus surrounded by ocean, forest, and green space
- Extensive program options across many faculties and disciplines
- Established Indigenous spaces and community, including the First Nations Longhouse

Campus neighbourhoods

UBC Vancouver is a lively, vibrant campus that feels like a city all its own.

The campus includes:

ACADEMIC BUILDINGS

Lecture halls, libraries, and study spaces where most classes take place.

FIRST NATIONS LONGHOUSE

A cultural gathering place and hub for Indigenous student supports.

RESIDENCE NEIGHBOURHOODS

On-campus housing communities where many first-year students live.

MALLS AND CORRIDORS

Main walking and biking routes to connect you with different parts of the campus.

49,165 undergraduate students from 147 countries

1,410 Indigenous students

“

Between the old growth trees of Pacific Spirit Park, or the magic of the coast and the Pacific Ocean, I have been able to ground myself and find the familiar feeling of home through the parallels of nature. The land here has been a catalyst in my interest of study as well as my pastimes. Between busy schedules, courses, and studying, the natural surroundings have always had my back. ”

AVERY H.
Ojibwe from Temagami
First Nation, Oji-Cree
from Fishing Lake First Nation
situated in Treaty 4
BSc, Global Resource Systems





Community and culture

First Nations Longhouse

The First Nations Longhouse is the cultural heart of Indigenous student life at UBC Vancouver. More than a building, it is a “home away from home” for students and a unique gathering place where students are welcome to study, connect, attend events, and find support.

There, you'll find:

- Student study spaces
- Cultural and social opportunities
- Community events and celebrations

Indigenous academic programs

UBC offers a growing range of Indigenous-focused academic opportunities across faculties. Whether you want to centre Indigenous knowledge in your studies or complement another major, there are flexible pathways to explore.

Programs span areas such as:

- Indigenous studies
- Land and environment
- Health and wellness
- Language revitalization
- Education

Learning outside the classroom

Learning at UBC extends far beyond lecture halls. Indigenous students often participate in:

- Community-based research
- Land-based learning opportunities
- Cultural workshops and gatherings
- Co-op and hands-on learning

These experiences help connect academic learning with real-world impact.

“Having the Longhouse meant a lot to me and it was a comfort for me to go to, especially as a student coming from outside Vancouver. To go from studying with my friends there every day, to attending workshops, to having my graduation ceremony held there, [it] was so special.”



KATIE T.
Métis Nation British Columbia
BA, First Nations and
Indigenous Studies ('25)

Relationships

“Building relationships with other Indigenous students, staff, and faculty has been pivotal in my experience at UBC. You never know who you may meet or which person will help you unlock your potential. I have found that most connections that I have made happened when I decided to show up. It can be nerve-wracking to attend events, programming, or networking spaces but in my experience, showing up allows others to see you, learn your name, learn your story, and connect with you.”

AVERY H.
Ojibwe from Temagami First Nation, Oji-Cree
from Fishing Lake First Nation situated in Treaty 4
BSc, Global Resource Systems

Pathways to UBC Vancouver

UBC Vancouver’s community includes Indigenous students from across Canada who have arrived here in a variety of ways. Most Indigenous students are admitted based on their competitive average. However, UBC offers a number of pathways to a post-secondary degree.

Aboriginal Admission Policy

If you have satisfied UBC’s general admission and degree-specific requirements but have not met the competitive average for your degree of choice, UBC will consider your academic history, educational goals, and other achievements to find the best admission pathway for you.

UBC-Langara Indigenous Transfer Partnership

This collaboration between Langara College and UBC provides a supported pathway for Indigenous students to successfully transition from Langara College to UBC’s Vancouver campus. Students who complete the requirements are considered for admission into second- or third-year studies on the Vancouver campus. Advisors from both schools work closely with students to help plan a smooth transition.

Learn more about pathways to UBC
you.ubc.ca/indigenous-admissions



KENNESHA
MISWAGGON,
Women’s Ice Hockey
Bachelor of
Kinesiology (‘25)

Spaces and services

First Nations Longhouse and ʁxʷta:təxʷəm

These dedicated spaces support Indigenous students academically, culturally, and socially. Here you can study, prepare food, meet peers, access advising, or participate in community events.

Student clubs

There are many ways to get involved and build friendships. Indigenous-focused and allied student clubs offer opportunities to:

- Celebrate culture
- Advocate for community priorities
- Build leadership skills
- Meet students from across campus

Athletics and recreation

Whether you’re competitive or just looking to stay active, UBC Recreation offers:

- Intramural leagues
- Free tickets to most Varsity games
- Free access to the swim pool and drop in ice skating
- Fitness classes
- Outdoor recreation programs
- Women (Trans women welcome) & Two-Spirit, Trans, Non-Binary (2STNB) fitness hours

Varsity

With 209 national championship titles under our belt, UBC is a powerful contender in university athletics. Join the UBC Thunderbirds and you could be competing internationally with thousands of fans cheering you on.

WOMEN’S

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Golf
- Hockey
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Track & Field
- Volleyball

MEN’S

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Track & Field
- Volleyball

Academic supports

Easing your transition

Starting your journey at UBC means joining a community that is here to support you every step of the way. When you're applying, you can explore the campus through guided tours and connect with recruitment staff who can answer questions and help you navigate the process.

Faculty supports

Each faculty offers advising, mentoring, and academic supports to help you stay on track and plan your degree with confidence.



“ UBC is very special in that it puts a lot of time and effort into various components of the Indigenous student experience. You'll find your spot at UBC and your people, it'll just take a bit of time and exploring.”

KATIE T.

Métis Nation British Columbia
BA, First Nations and Indigenous Studies ('25)

Application supports

When you're applying

INDIGENOUS RECRUITMENT SUPPORT

Wherever you are in your application process, our recruitment staff are here to provide guidance, share resources, and support you as you take the next step in your educational journey.

APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Get the support you need to navigate the UBC application process with confidence.

Learn More

indigenous.recruitment@ubc.ca

After you've applied

CAMPUS TOURS

Book a guided tour of UBC and get a feel for student life. Can't make it in person? Watch our virtual campus tours.

FREE VIRTUAL MATH TUTORING PROGRAM

Students who need extra support in their Pre-Calculus 11 or 12 courses can access free online tutoring sessions. Reach out to our recruitment team to get connected with our tutor.

Watch our campus tour
you.ubc.ca/virtual-tour

After you've been admitted

DESTINATION UBC EVENTS

You may be eligible to visit us on campus for a weekend event to experience student life and discover if UBC is the right fit for you.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMS

Settle into UBC by connecting with fellow students, meeting professors, and familiarizing yourself with campus.

EARLY CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTS

Getting connected to resources early can help you make the most of your time at UBC.



**Academic and career resources
at the First Nations Longhouse**

The First Nations House of Learning team manages the Longhouse and the adjoining ʔxʷta:təxʷəṃ student space. Both equally serve First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. Here, you are encouraged to take part in various academic, social, and cultural activities, as well as take advantage of several support services, including professional development opportunities to further your educational and career goals.

Students can access:

- On-site tutoring
- Cultural workshops
- Weekly student lunches
- Student job opportunities
- Drop-in social activities
- Annual career fair

fnhl.ubc.ca



My biggest support at UBC was the Indigenous academic advisors within my faculty. During my first year I saw my academic advisor almost every other week for the entire two semesters and it was critical in shaping me as a student and supporting me throughout my academic journey. The support they gave me was something I've never experienced before and really made sure that I was thriving at UBC and not struggling. I'm incredibly grateful for everything that they were able to help me and guide me with to this day."

OCEANIA K.
Fort McMurray #468 First Nation,
BSc, Applied Biology ('24)
Master of Science,
Applied Biology

What happens from here

Your journey to UBC can begin whenever you're ready.

Next steps:

- Explore programs
- Connect with an Indigenous recruiter
- Book a campus tour
- Start your application

Contact us:
you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/indigenous-admissions

Where to live

Priority access

Indigenous students are eligible for priority housing consideration.

How to secure a spot in residence

Apply early and indicate your interest in residence when completing your application. Indigenous recruiters can help guide you through the process.

Off-campus living

Many upper-year students choose to live in nearby neighbourhoods. UBC provides tools and resources to help you find safe, affordable housing.

Explore More
vancouver.housing.ubc.ca

Alumni

Graduation ceremony

In conjunction with the University's bi-annual graduation events, Indigenous graduates are honoured at the Longhouse through a meaningful ceremony that recognizes both academic achievement and personal transformation.

Career outcomes

UBC's reputation for excellence opens doors for our students and alumni, creating a workforce that makes an impact across communities.



[My practicum] showed me the realities of the field [and] taught me that what I'm doing has an impact... [it] also showed me whether I'd want to work in more hands-on ways or if I would prefer to be doing research. [It] really opened my eyes to all the different options that are out there."

OCEANIA K.
Fort McMurray #468 First Nation,
BSc, Applied Biology ('24)
Master of Science,
Applied Biology



Applying to UBC

- 1 Choose your degree and campus**
When you complete your application, you may select up to two choices (first and second choice). For each choice, you will choose a degree and a campus. The degrees you choose can be in different faculties and on different campuses.
- 2 Review the requirements**
Make sure you meet UBC's general admission requirements and degree-specific requirements.
- 3 Complete your application and pay the fee**
Give yourself plenty of time to complete the personal profile section. It plays an important role in our admission and awards decisions. If finances are a barrier to submitting your application, contact us to discuss your options.
- 4 Apply for housing**
Applying as an Indigenous student gives you priority access to housing. Review timelines carefully when submitting your application.

you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/how-to-apply

Important dates

DEC. 1ST

Application deadline to be eligible for major **entrance awards**.

JAN. 15TH

Final application deadline.

MAY 1ST

Deadline to submit your **housing application** for **housing guarantee**.

Questions about the application process?
indigenous.recruitment@ubc.ca

Funding your education

UBC is committed to helping Indigenous students access financial support through:

- **Entrance awards**
- **Needs-based funding**
- **Band sponsorship coordination**
- **Emergency funding supports**
- **Financial advising and support for planning, budgeting, and loan applications**

Online cost estimator
you.ubc.ca/financial-planning/cost

Learn more
students.ubc.ca/finances/financial-support-options/financial-support-indigenous/

Scholarships and awards

Applying early and completing your awards profile increases your opportunities.

Entrance awards

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students at UBC are eligible for dedicated awards for Indigenous students and general entrance scholarship funding totalling over \$3.2 million.

UBC CENTENNIAL SCHOLARS ENTRANCE AWARDS

UBC Centennial Scholars Entrance Awards assist students who are transitioning to UBC from secondary school or another post-secondary institution, and demonstrate financial need. A separate award application is required. Your award application is due by December 1 to be considered.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AWARDS

UBC has over \$400,000 in Presidential Scholars Awards for Indigenous secondary school students across both campuses, including renewable and one-time scholarships. Your UBC application is due by December 1 to be considered.

UBC Indigenous Awards Program

UBC's Indigenous Awards Program includes bursaries, scholarships, and awards and is open to Canadian Indigenous students across years of study and faculties. The value, criteria, and deadlines vary by award and campus.

Indigenous awards
you.ubc.ca/indigenous-awards

All scholarships and awards
you.ubc.ca/canadian-awards

“

I was scared to go to university because I had no experience with it, but so much good has come from facing my fears, and nothing I have accomplished or experienced so far would have been possible unless I applied. I find it very empowering to study in my Nation’s territory because my family is never far away, and our land and the water are always supportive. ”

MEADOW A. S.
Upper Similkameen
Indian Band, Syilx
Okanagan Nation
BA, Indigenous
Studies ('26),
MA, Interdisciplinary
Studies in Indigenous
Knowledges



Budgeting for first year

\$6,200+

TUITION

depending on your area of study



\$16,000+

LIVING COSTS

including rent or on-campus housing, utilities, cell phone, laptop, meals, health insurance, personal care, etc.



\$3,580+

OTHER
EDUCATIONAL COSTS

including books, supplies, student fees, etc.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT
AND RESOURCES

including 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 2026/27 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. 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, and some programs have different tuition rates after first year.

”

UBC was my first choice for university. I couldn’t imagine going anywhere else for my undergrad.”

KYLIE M.
Ojibwe
BA, Sociology



Programs

Browse all of our undergraduate programs using the online search tool.

Explore Programs
you.ubc.ca/programs