



Opportunities to Engage with UVic Students



There are many ways for students to contribute to your endeavours and for you to contribute to student learning. The University of Victoria has many Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) programs across all disciplines. See UVic's [Hands-On Learning Experiences](#) for more information and other examples of how students can participate in experiential learning. Over 700 opportunities across campus connect students with community partners. Below are some examples:

Co-operative Education and Work Experience

Cooperative Education (Co-op) involves students participating in alternating academic and paid work terms to gain employment experience in their field. As an employer, you would hire a student full-time on a short-term contract, typically for 4 months (one work term) or 8 months (two consecutive work terms). The student's position at your organization would typically be in an entry-level or assistant role. The student would be compensated with an appropriate hourly wage, covered by your workplace insurance, and be held to the same expectations as other employees. Students should have a designated supervisor at your organization who oversees their work, mentors them, and completes a final evaluation of their workplace performance.

Example: Co-op is required for students in the Faculty of Engineering. Over the course of their degree, students complete 4 paid work terms related to their field of study, alternating work terms with on-campus study terms. Through the Engineering Co-op program, students have worked in positions such as an Assistant with Ballard Power Systems, an Audio Software Engineer with Electronic Arts Canada, and a Design Student with Creo.

Contact: You can engage with Co-op and Work Experience by hiring a UVic student for a paid work term. To post a job opportunity, contact the Co-op and Career Services office by [email](#) or phone: 250-721-6616

Professional Practicum

As a preceptor for a practicum student, you would mentor a student who is studying to work in your specific field. During their practicum, the student would shadow the work that you're doing, and, with your mentorship, practice key skills that they are capable of (based on their level of experience). The length of time a practicum student would spend at your workplace could vary depending on the requirements of the program; it would typically be between 4 and 12 weeks. Students typically would not be paid for their work during a practicum placement, and preceptors may receive some additional remuneration.

Example: In the Teacher Education Program, teacher candidates complete two professional practicum placements – a 6-week practicum in their first year, and a 9-week practicum in their second year – to gain relevant hands-on experience in the classroom. During their practicum placements, teacher candidates practice teaching students in the grade level and subjects that they're studying, and are mentored by certified, practicing teachers. Practicums are a mandatory component of the Teacher Education program and teacher candidates receive course credit for completing them.

Contact: At UVic, practicum placements are built into the degree programs for Child and Youth Care, Social Work, Teaching, Health and Community Services, and Nursing. If you're interested in hosting a practicum student in one of these fields, please contact the respective department:

- [Child and Youth Care Practicum](#)
- [Social Work Practicum](#)
- [Teacher Education Practicum](#)
- [Health and Community Services Practicum](#)
- [Nursing Practicum](#)

Applied Projects or Research

Applied projects or research help students gain practical experience while assisting with meaningful work with community (groups, organizations, companies, government agencies, etc.). As a community partner, you would direct one or more students in completing a research, design, or consultation project that is relevant to your organization. Typically, you would meet with students to explain the project that you'd like them to complete, and provide them with access to necessary background information about your organization, the area of research, etc. so that they are well-equipped to complete the task. Ideally, you would also maintain contact with the students throughout the duration of the project to clarify questions that may come up, provide mentorship, and offer feedback. Your organization would have access to the final outputs of the project (such as a report, data set, systematic review, presentation or other deliverable).

Example: Through the LE, NONET research apprenticeship, undergraduates students in the Indigenous Studies program have the opportunity to complete 120 hours of self-directed research under the supervision of a university faculty member. Students submit a final project report based on their research, and receive course credit for completing the research project.

Contact: To find out more about how a UVic student could contribute to your work through an applied project or research, contact the [CEL Office](#) or visit our [Research Partnership webpage](#).

Service Learning

Students in service learning courses work with your organization in initiatives that align with course intended learning outcomes, typically for a pre-determined placement (such as 40 hours over the course of a 3-month period). In most cases, course instructors pair students with your organization according to their field of study, skill set, interests, etc. As a community partner, you would train students appropriately for the tasks that they're doing, provide them with adequate background information about your organization and the mission it serves, and support the student in contributing to your endeavours. This support involves designating tasks, providing mentorship and providing feedback throughout the duration of the placement.

Example: SOSC 300: Working in the Community is a course that focuses on the societal role of civic engagement and the non-profit sector. Students complete a semester-long 40-hour placement with local non-profits on projects of mutual interest, such as monitoring SeaBins for the Victoria Surfrider Foundation and collating databases for PEERS. While completing their practical community service work, students also learn reflect on these experiences in the classroom about civic and connect their experience with relevant literature and discussions.

Contact: To enquire about working with UVic students for a service learning opportunity, contact the [CEL Office](#).

Field Placement

Field placement opportunity for students can take on many different forms. At UVic, field courses (also known as field schools) are one of the most common forms – they are intensive, experiential courses where students learn through hands-on activities off campus. Often, field schools require community partners (whether non-profit organizations, individuals, First Nations, or others) who can help facilitate learning opportunities for students. Community partners may provide accommodation for students, involvethem in a service project, deliver workshops, give a guest lecture, or educate students on the history of the off-campus location where their field school is set. When appropriate, community partners may be compensated for their assistancein the delivery of field schools.

Example: During the Galiano Island field school, Environmental Studies students spend 10 days at the Galiano Island Conservancy where they learn about and practice ecological restoration in an immersive, community setting. The Galiano Island Conservancy provides students with accommodations and a classroom space, as well as access to their on-site demonstration gardens where students can see examples of ecological restoration and sustainable agriculture in practice. Staff at the Conservancy also assist in course instruction through the delivery of workshops or short lessons.

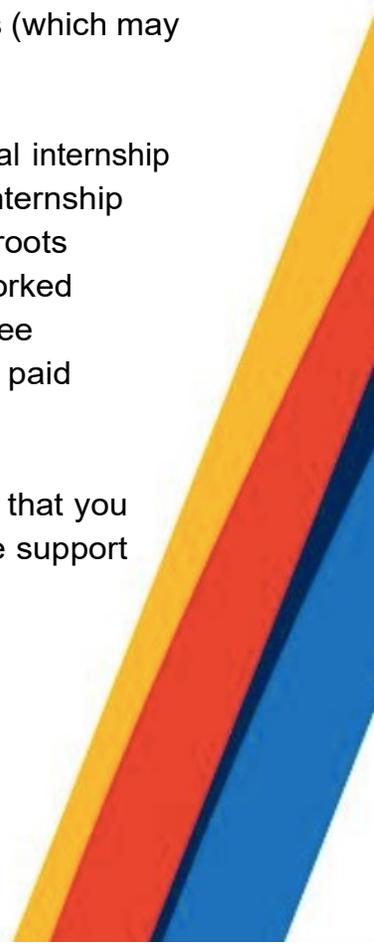
Contact: If you know the specific department that you would like to partner with to coordinate a field placement opportunity, you can contact that department directly. If you have an idea for a field placement but are unsure how it would best fit into UVic's programming, please contact the [CEL Office](#).

Internship

Internships are discipline-specific work placements that are structured and supervised, but are not part of the Co-op program. As an employer, you would hire an internship student on a temporary, full-time contract for a period of about 6-12 months. The student's position at your organization would typically be in an entry-level or assistant role, and in an area related to their field of study. The student would usually be compensated with an appropriate hourly wage, covered by your workplace insurance, and be held to the same expectations as other employees. Rarely, students are unpaid and receive academic credit for the completion of an internship. Ideally, students would have a designated supervisor at your organization who oversees their work, mentors them, and completes any necessary evaluations (which may vary based on the specific internship program).

Example: UVic's Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) offers an international internship program for undergraduate students from any discipline. Through the CAPI internship program, students spend 7-8 months working with regional, national or grassroots partner organizations in countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Students have worked on issues such as community development, refugee education, migrant/refugee rights, and human trafficking. CAPI internships are optional, and students are paid for their work.

Contact: To offer an internship opportunity, you can contact the department that you are interested in working with, or reach out to the [CEL Office](#) if you would like support in making connections.



Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship opportunities give students the opportunity to develop an early-stage business start-up that addresses real-world issues. Students typically receive academic credit for participating in entrepreneurship opportunities. As a mentor for student entrepreneurs, you would offer your expertise in the business or technology sectors to help guide students in their own business venture. At UVic, the primary avenue for entrepreneurship mentoring is through the Coast Capital Savings Innovation Centre (CCSIC). The CCSIC maintains a network of business and technology leaders who are looking to give back to their community by mentoring students. As a mentor, you must guarantee that you have no conflicts of interests with the students' venture, and that you will maintain their confidentiality.

Example: UVic's Co-op program offers an Entrepreneurial option, whereby students can take on their own new business venture for a 4-month period, earning wages and course credit at the same time, while being supported by UVic's on-campus Coast Capital Savings Innovation Centre (CCSIC). During an Entrepreneurial Co-op term, with the assistance of the CCSIC, two UVic students formed a company called Iota Enterprises and developed the TreeRover – a prototype for a tree-planting robot to assist with reforestation efforts.

Contact: To help mentor students through entrepreneurial ventures, contact the Coast Capital Savings Innovation Centre. Or, if you're specifically interested in being involved in UVic's Entrepreneurial Co-op program, contact the Co-op and Career Services Office by email or phone: 250-721-6616

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