



The University of Victoria has many Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) programs in place for students across all disciplines in most of the nine types of WIL.¹ Over 700 opportunities² across campus connect students with community partners. See UVic's [Hands-On Learning Experiences](#) for more information and other examples of how students can participate in experiential learning.

1. *Co-operative Education*

[Co-operative Education](#) (Co-op) involves students participating in alternating academic and paid work terms to gain employment experience in their field. Students generally complete 3-4 work terms during their program and graduate with a Co-op designation.

Examples of Co-operative Education at UVic:

- Co-op is mandatory in Business, Engineering, Health Information Science, Public Admin (graduate), Recreation and Health Education, and Coaching Studies
- Co-op is optional for students in Biochemistry and Microbiology, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth and Ocean Science, EPHE, Humanities, Fine Arts, Law, Math and Statistics, Physics and Astronomy, Social Sciences

2. *Internship*

Internships are discipline-specific placements which are structured and supervised, and typically run for 12-16 months. Students may be paid, unpaid (although this is unusual in Canada), or be given academic credit for an internship.

Examples of Internship programs at UVic:

- Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives [Internship Program](#)
- LE,NONET [Community internships](#) (Indigenous Studies 321)
- Water and Climate Impacts Research Centre [internships](#)
- Political Science: [BC Legislative and Parliamentary internship programs](#)
- Chemistry: [Internship](#) in Polymer Nanoparticles for drug delivery (PoND) research for graduate students
- Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions [internships](#)
- UVic-Mitacs [Accelerate](#) (graduate and post-doctoral) and [Elevate](#) (post-doctoral) internships

3. *Entrepreneurship*

Entrepreneurship opportunities allow students to work with a mentor from the community to leverage funding, resources, and/or space in order to develop an early-stage business start-up that addresses real-world issues, all for academic credit.

Examples of entrepreneurship at UVic:

- Entrepreneurship is currently embedded mostly within the [Gustavson School of Business](#), wherein students can [specialize in Entrepreneurship](#) within their Bachelor of Commerce degree

¹ The nine types of WIL have been identified and defined by CEWIL (Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning) Canada.

² Andrews & Ramji, 2020

- Entrepreneurial co-operative education [opportunity](#)
- [Coast Capital Innovation Centre](#), UVic's on-campus venture incubator
- [Entrepreneurship@UVic](#) (for Entrepreneurial Engineering graduate students)

4. *Service Learning*

Service Learning, or Community Service Learning, combines community service with academic learning to help students make connections between theory and practice. These experiences are typically embedded in courses and are enhanced through critical reflection. At UVic, Service Learning is coordinated within the [Community-Engaged Learning \(CEL\) Office](#). Not to be confused with volunteerism, Service Learning and CEL more broadly (which includes a whole spectrum of activities and types of relationships with community) are guided by principles of reciprocity and civic engagement.

Examples of Service Learning/Community Engaged Learning at UVic:

- [Social Sciences 300](#): Students work with local community groups, such as the Victoria Surfrider Foundation and LifeCycles Project Society, to complete a 40-hour placement while learning in the classroom about civic engagement, the role of non-profit organizations in society, and related theories.
- [Social Justice Studies 400B](#): Students practice social justice in the field by doing a practicum with a non-profit in Victoria. Practicum partners have included organizations like Together Against Poverty (TAPS) and the Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA).
- Watch [videos](#) about CEL experiences at UVic

5. *Applied Research*

Applied research projects help students gain research experience, often (but not always) in a workplace setting. These can occur as consulting projects, design projects, or as community-based research projects.

Examples of Applied Research opportunities at UVic:

- [Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards](#) offer students an opportunity to take on independent research projects in their discipline.
- Indigenous students can learn research skills through the [LE, NONET](#) Research Apprenticeship course (Indigenous Studies 320)
- Many courses across campus offer applied research opportunities. The Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) Office supports many students, instructors and community partners in creating mutually beneficial applied research class projects in response to community partner requests for support.
- Many departments offer undergraduate Honours programs, which may allow students to take on independent research projects of their choosing or support a faculty research project. In some cases, these research projects are also done in collaboration with community, similar to the note above.



6. *Mandatory Practicum/Clinical Placement*

Students in certain professions are obligated to participate in practica over the course of their training, in which they work under the supervision of an experienced licensed/registered professional in the field. Mandatory practica/clinical placements are typically unpaid and are built into a student's course load.

Examples of Mandatory Practicum/Clinical Placement at UVic:

- Mandatory practicum/clinical placement programs are included in [Nursing](#), [Child and Youth Care](#), [Education](#), and [Social Work](#).
- Continuing Studies offers a practicum experience as part of the [Intercultural Studies and Practice](#) diploma program.

7. *Field Placement*

Field placements—including field schools—allow students to gain hands-on experience in an intensive short-term placement. Field schools are often immersive experiences that occur away from the university campus.

Examples of Field Placements at UVic:

- [Anthropology field schools](#), such as the Barkley Sound Archaeology field school
- [Field schools in Geography](#), which feature destinations such as Tanzania and Clayoquot Sound
- [Environmental Studies field schools](#), including immersion in international locations such as Peru or local gems like Galiano Island
- [History field schools](#), such as the Colonial Legacies field school in South Africa

8. *Work Experience*

Work experience allows a student to gain workplace experience in a setting related to their discipline through one or two work terms throughout their program. At UVic, students who complete a work experience term (or two) have that noted on their transcript. Many work experience opportunities are available to undergraduate and graduate students, on- and off-campus.

The [Work Experience](#) program is available to students studying Computer Science, Fine Arts, Humanities, Mathematics and Statistics, and Science, and Social Sciences, as these programs do not have a mandatory co-op component.

9. *Apprenticeship*

An apprenticeship matches a person who wishes to learn a particular skill and an employer who needs skilled workers and is willing to provide paid hands-on experience to a student under the supervision of a certified journeyman. Apprenticeship pairs classroom theoretical learning (about 20% of the total program time) with practical on-site learning (about 80%).

As UVic does not currently run any professional/trades programs (for example: electrician, carpentry, or cook training), UVic does not currently offer any apprenticeship programs.

