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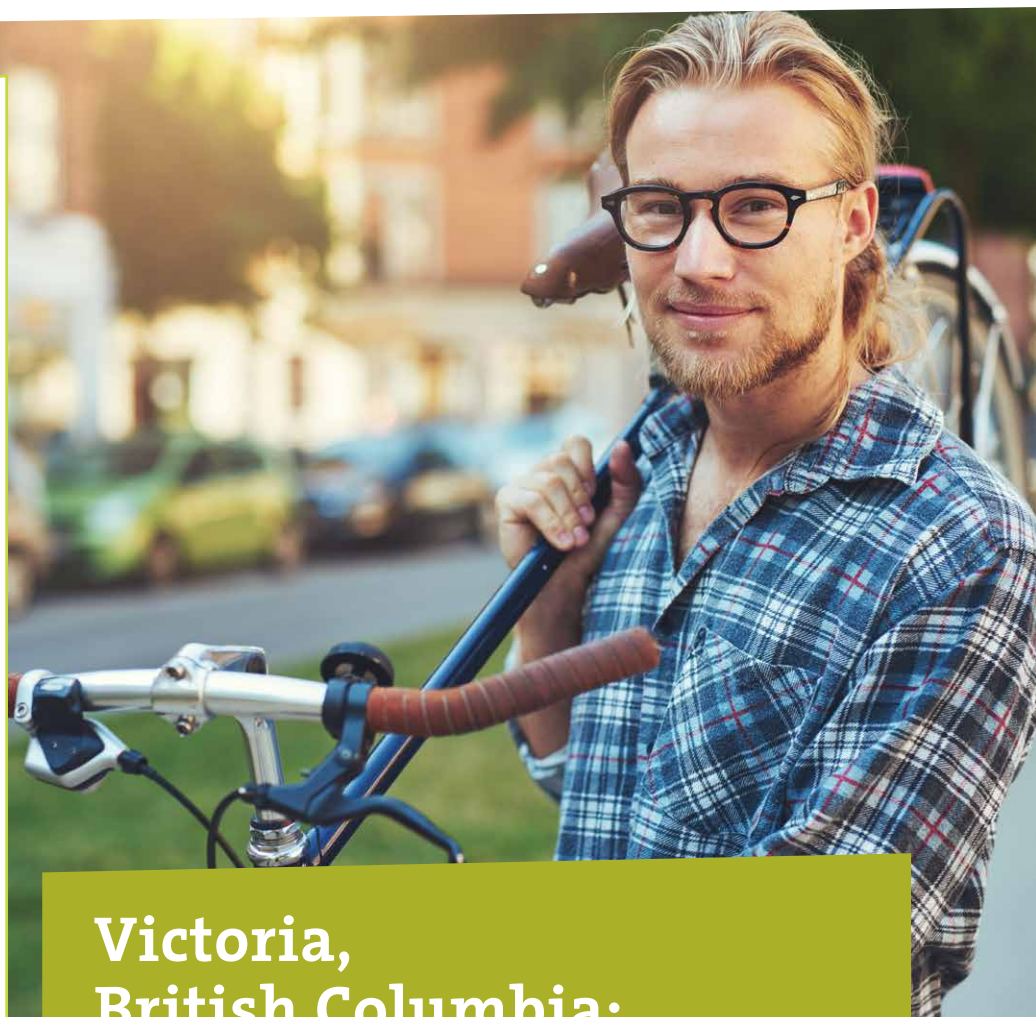
Located in one of Canada's National Historic Sites, Royal Roads University merges rich academic history and innovative programs with an unparalleled educational environment. Whether you're learning to be a more effective entrepreneur, leader, educator, or communicator, Royal Roads brings out your best, while delivering content that's immediately relevant in the workplace. Find out why an experience at Royal Roads University is anything but ordinary.

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Victoria, British Columbia: *The Ultimate Place to Live and Learn*

OFFERING AN UNSURPASSED QUALITY of life, Victoria is rated as *Canada's Smartest City* ([Maclean's Magazine](#)). Greater Victoria is second only to Vancouver as British Columbia's largest metropolitan area and home to some of the world's best educators, brightest minds and top research facilities.

With a population of 360,000, Victoria may be small on a global measuring stick, but it offers everything international students need to adapt and succeed in their new environment. It welcomes close to 10,000 international students each year, with friendly people, safe communities, a mild climate, a vibrant social and cultural

scene with great shopping, music, theatre, restaurants, festivals, outdoor activities, and so much more.

ABOUT VICTORIA

Victoria is the capital of Canada's Province of British Columbia, located on the southern tip of beautiful Vancouver Island in the heart of the Pacific Northwest. It offers a majestic natural environment and serves as the gateway to global business markets. Vancouver, Whistler, Seattle, Portland, Las Vegas and San Francisco are just short hops away by either ferry or plane.

The region is a thriving hub for innovation. Technology in particular,

"I started my English education in Vancouver but I moved to Victoria and the Hospitality program at Camosun. I really like the size of the city, much easier to slow down and get to know people, the culture, the language."

Maria-Jose Casab, Mexico



Victoria's largest industry sector, creates excellent opportunities for students whose programs include co-operative employment opportunities.

"Today the city has about 900 tech companies and counting—it's becoming known as Tectoria—and lots of gorgeous old brick warehouses, which now house stylish indie boutiques stocked full of local designs along with great bars, bakeries, and restaurants." Vogue Magazine, April 2016

RICH WITH HERITAGE

Victoria is one of the Pacific Northwest's oldest cities. Established in 1843 as a British settlement, the city is known for its many historic buildings, the two most famous being its iconic Legislative Buildings completed in 1897, and the Empress Hotel which first opened its doors in 1908. Victoria's Chinatown is the oldest in Canada and second oldest in North America after San Francisco. The region continues to have a sizeable First Nations population, and the Coast Salish Peoples have had established communities in the area for several thousand years, long before non-native settlements.

CANADA'S MILDEST CLIMATE

Victoria's climate is classified as Sub-Mediterranean, offering the mildest weather in all of Canada. With almost 2,200 hours of sunshine each year, Victoria is one of the sunniest cities west of the Rockies. The city is green year round, and whenever snow does fall, people tend to enjoy it since it is so rare and lasts only briefly.

Winters are so mild, many people confide they are most comfortable wearing just rain gear with a scarf, gloves, and an extra sweater or hoodie to keep warm during the October to March fall/winter season.

FRIENDLY, SAFE AND CLEAN

Voted *Canada's Friendliest City* ([Condé Nast Traveler](#)), people in Victoria are known for being friendly, laid back and approachable. New international students are often surprised by how they are made to feel welcome from the time they arrive and as they explore the city while they try out their new English-language skills.

Victoria prides itself on being a community that embraces diversity of all types. Regardless of race, nationality, religion, LGBTQ+ or disability, everyone is welcome here!

TOP 5 REASONS LOCALS LOVE LIVING IN GREATER VICTORIA

1. The natural environment with a mild climate, clean water and air quality
2. Community safety
3. Parks and walkability
4. Festivals, events and recreational activities
5. Locally grown food

Source: [2015 Victoria Vital Signs Report](#)

GETTING HERE

Victoria International Airport is served by major airlines, with direct flights from major hubs like San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto and Vancouver. You can also travel to the island from Vancouver via BC Ferries, one of the largest fleets of coastal transportation networks in the world. Travel from Seattle is just a short flight or high-speed ferry to downtown Victoria.

GETTING AROUND VICTORIA

Victoria's compact size makes getting around easy. In fact, Victorians enjoy some of the shortest commuting times in Canada, with the vast majority of travellers

"It is impossible to not fall in love with Victoria. My experience was amazing. I met great people from all around the world, and I learned much more than English. The city is beautiful and the people are lovely."

Gabriela, Brazil/UVic ELC student

arriving at their work/school destinations in less than 22 minutes (Source: Statistics Canada).

"In Victoria I could meet awesome people. I was surprised that they were so kind and friendly. When I met people they always greeted with smiles. It made me happy. I'm sure that Victoria has the kindest and friendliest culture in the world!"

Aki Matsubara, Japan/UVic ELC student

Public transit is a clean, convenient and affordable way to get around. Buses run regularly on reliable schedules that are posted right on the bus stops and are also available with the Victoria Regional Transit app.

Walkscore.com calls Victoria a walker's paradise, with a rating of 99/100 for walkability to dining, shopping, parks, schools and entertainment.

"We were so surprised about being able to walk everywhere, we especially loved the beautiful inner harbour area—we felt so safe and it was such a relaxing way to explore the city."

Hildebrando and Londoia,
Brazil/Stewart College students



Whether cycling is your primary form of transportation, a leisure activity or an athletic pursuit, Victoria is a joy to explore by bicycle. Getting around is easy with the hundreds of kilometres of cycling paths, lanes and routes throughout the region.

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO IN VICTORIA

Theatre, music, art, sporting events, cultural festivals, dining out—there is always something fun to do in Victoria's vibrant and diverse social scene with its cool urban flair.

"(Victoria) is drawing a younger crowd keen on the quality of life, great outdoors and emerging cool," according to The Toronto Star.

FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

Victoria is a food lover's paradise. Whether you're seeking the ultimate breakfast, a quick lunch, a gourmet dinner, a light bite, or farm-fresh ingredients to make a meal at home, there are plenty of wonderful and tasty options.

Victoria's restaurants offer a fusion of cuisines from around the world: Asian, Middle Eastern, Latino, British, European, Caribbean, Cajun and much more. Food-truck cuisine is an exciting new trend for people looking for a bite on the go.

Did you know that Victoria has the highest number of restaurants per capita in all of Canada, and the second highest number in North America, next to San Francisco?

Delicious food and drink grow here! Whether it's seafood, fruits and vegetables, freshly roasted premium coffee, or award-winning craft brews, sodas or ice-cream, there is something for everyone, and much of it is available at farmers' markets almost every day of the week during the spring and summer months. Kiwis, melons, lemons and olives even grow in Victoria's mild climate!



PERFORMING ARTS, CULTURE, FESTIVALS

There is no better way to unwind than to explore [Victoria's arts, culture and festivals](#).

Visit the [Royal British Columbia Museum](#) or the many art galleries and landmarks throughout the city. [Craigdarroch](#) and [Hatley Castles](#) are definitely worth exploring. Hatley Castle served as *Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters* in the *X-Men* and *Deadpool* movies, and both castles were featured in the 2016 movie *The Boy*.

Victoria hosts approximately 1,200 live music shows annually, including festivals like [Rock the Shores](#), [Rifflandia](#) and the



[Victoria International Jazz Festival](#), headline bands, concerts of all genres, and free concerts.

There is no shortage of theatrical productions to enjoy in Victoria, including first-run shows like Cirque du Soleil, dynamic and inspiring dance productions, and community theatre, as well as numerous arts and entertainment festivals that happen year-round.

Greater Victoria also loves celebrating its diversity at cultural festivals such as the annual [Pride Parade and Festival](#), [Chinese New Year Parade](#) and [Dragon Boat Festival](#), [Celtic Highland Games](#), [Tango & Latin Music Festival](#), [Greekfest](#), [African & Caribbean Festival](#), and [French Fest](#).

NIGHTLIFE

Victoria offers a [vibrant nightlife](#), with a hip pub and club scene featuring all types of music genres, great bands, DJs, open mic and jam sessions, to complement delicious food, local wines, micro brews and signature cocktails.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Between the mild weather, clean air and its amazing natural setting, Victoria is an athlete's dream for rowing, golf, soccer, rugby, baseball, hockey, cycling, mountain biking, hiking, lacrosse, skateboarding and even the equestrian arts. One of the greatest parts of living in Victoria is that you can pursue your sporting passions virtually year-round.

In addition to many organized team sports, there are top-notch sports facilities like the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence ([piseworld.com](#)) and the Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities ([uvic.ca/carsa/](#)). Mountain bikers can seek



SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Greater Victoria offers great shopping with a combination of unique independent boutiques and familiar international brand name stores. Whether you're wandering the quaint streets of downtown or power shopping in the malls around the city, you'll be sure to find that something suits you perfectly.

YOUR EDUCATION ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

So there you have it! Victoria offers:

- World-class academic, elective options and co-op programs with more than 400 certificate, diploma and degree programs.
- A safe, friendly and stable environment.
- A place where diversity is not only accepted, it's embraced.
- Thriving technology, advanced manufacturing, tourism and marine sectors providing great internship and cooperative education opportunities.



- Canada's mildest climate with majestic and breathtaking natural settings with unforgettable scenic views.
- Fun and exciting activities to pursue for all kinds of different interests and passions.
- A vibrant arts, cultural and social scene with great dining, shopping, music, theatre, clubs and pubs.
- An unsurpassed quality of life dreamed of by many, but enjoyed by a smart few.

Come, start your adventure here. Once you do, you'll find out that it's not just the west coast, it's the best coast! Visit [LearnVictoria.ca](https://www.learnvictoria.ca) to explore your options.

Checklist for Choosing the Right School

As you work closely with your agent and/or schools representatives to choose the right school, there are plenty of questions you should ask to make your decision.

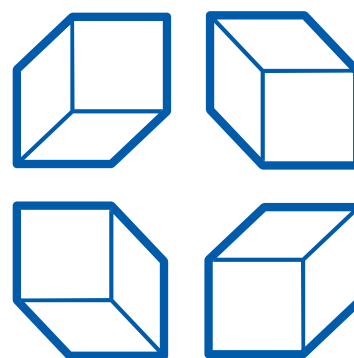
- Where can I find the program I am most interested in?
- Where will I live?
- Can I see myself living in this city? Will it satisfy my personal needs and interests?
- What are the unique features of the school I'm considering?
- Do I need to upgrade my academic credentials?
- Is the institution designated under British Columbia's Education Quality Assurance?
- How easily can I transfer credits between programs and institutions? ■

Resources:

Welcome BC: International Students
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-or-Study-in-B-C/Study-in-B-C/International-Students>

Private Training Institutions Branch: Be an Informed Student
<http://www.privatetraininginstitutions.gov.bc.ca/students/be-an-informed-student>

Ministry of Advanced Education Quality Assurance (EQA)
http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/education_quality_assurance/welcome.htm



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To find out how we can help you with your international student recruitment contact:

Educators & Providers: Sarah Mines
 +604 838 4042 • smines@icef.com

Agents: Tiffany Egler
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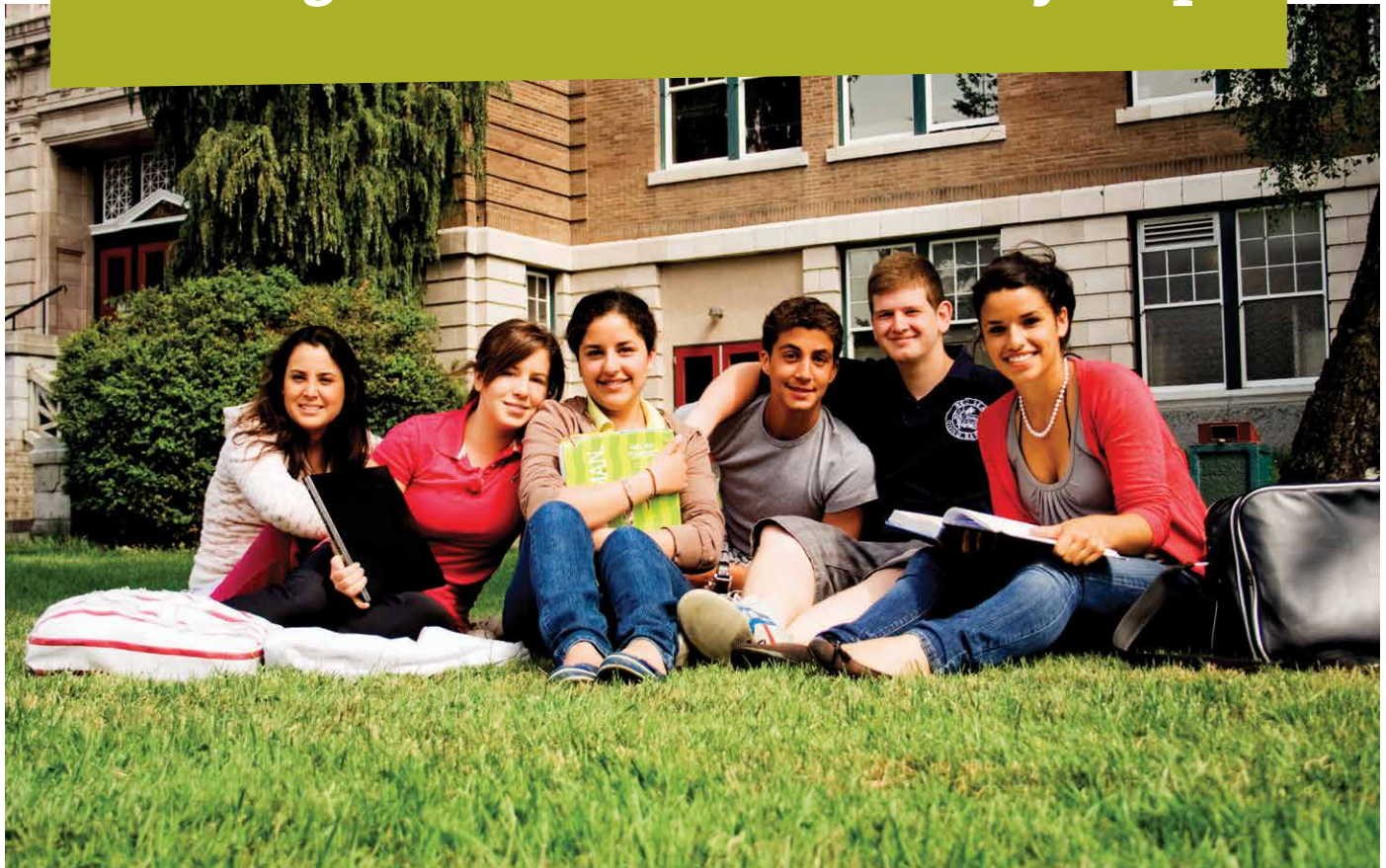
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PANDORA SHOP AT ANN-LOUISE JEWELLERS • GOODLIFE FITNESS

Taking the First Post-Secondary Step



A LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL education, British Columbia is the first province in Canada to offer students the additional safety of the globally recognized Education Quality Assurance (EQA) seal for post-secondary education. Students choosing an institution in Greater Victoria with the EQA seal can rest assured that the institution has met or exceeded the provincial government's quality assurance standards and that it offers consumer protection.

More than 400 certificate, diploma and degree programs are offered at Greater Victoria's post-secondary institutions, which means international students are sure to find the perfect solution for their educational and career goals. Students can choose from a broad range of courses for the following world-class educational credentials:

- **Foundation Trade Certificates:** Introduces students to a variety of trades-training opportunities and are typically 6 to 12 months long.
- **Citation:** Formally recognizes a specific area of study. Most academic citations are made up of at least four courses.
- **Certificate:** Normally involves up to one year of full-time study, although accelerated and fast-track programs are available. Academic certificates typically require 30 credits or about 10 courses.
- **Diploma:** Usually involves two years of full-time study. Academic diplomas are usually made up of 60 credits or about 20 courses.
- **Associate Degree:** Generally requires two years of university-transfer course work (60 credits) in Arts or Sciences. BC universities guarantee all credits will be accepted for transfer.
- **Post-Baccalaureate or Advanced Diploma:** Provides greater specialization and core skills in a field of study typically lasting eight months to two years. These diplomas are not considered at a graduate level.
- **Bachelor's Degree:** Normally requires four years of academic course work although accelerated programs are available. It is common to gain specialization in one subject area through a Major or Honours program.
- **Master's Degree:** Usually involves two years of full-time studies following completion of an undergraduate degree. Master's students enhance their knowledge and skills through a combination of course work and independent research under a faculty advisor, culminating in the presentation of a thesis.
- **Doctoral Degree:** This degree is the highest level of academic achievement available to learners. It involves at least two years of study beyond a master's degree, completion of oral and written exams, and a dissertation of original research.



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA (uvic.ca)

The 2016 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings places University of Victoria (UVic) among the top 250 universities around the world. UVic attracts nearly 3,400 international students from 109 countries. An international focus is an important part of the UVic experience, that is reflected by the wide range of international research and development projects and the international curriculum content. The UVic Global Community provides opportunities for students, faculty and staff to celebrate diversity, advance inter-cultural competency, and cultivate an inclusive and globally-minded campus.

ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY (royalroads.ca)

Located in one of Canada's most beautiful National Historic Sites, Royal Roads University (RRU) has a long history of excellence. RRU's award winning learning & teaching model delivers programs face-to-face, on-line or in the blended format, a combination of short on-campus residencies and on-line learning perfect for working professionals. Relevant and practical education gives students the tools, training and understanding required to be successful in the global marketplace. Each

year Royal Roads welcomes 4,000+ students from more than 60 countries with 70% of students studying at the graduate level, the highest percentage of any institution in Canada.

CAMOSUN COLLEGE (camosun.ca)

Camosun is a public college that serves 18,000 students a year, by delivering more than 150 certificate, diploma, bachelor's degree, post-graduate degree, and continuing education programs. Each year Camosun welcomes over 1,600 international students from more than 80 countries; it is committed to being an inclusive community where an awareness and understanding of culture are valued and respected.

CANADIAN COLLEGE OF THE PERFORMING ARTS (ccpacanada.com)

Creating future cultural and artistic leaders, Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA) is owned and operated by The Canadian Heritage Arts Society (CHAS), a non-profit society and registered charitable organization; it is accredited by Vancouver Island Private Accredited Colleges and Private Training Institution of British Columbia.

CCPA offers a two-year (September to April) Enriched Performing Arts diploma program and a 21-week Company C Studio Ensemble program, for students wanting the comprehensive skills required for a stage, screen or musical-theatre career as a singer, actor and/or dancer. ■

Visit learnvictoria.ca for a full list of accredited post-secondary institutions.



UVic's Top 10 Tips for Choosing Your University



THINKING OF GOING TO UNIVERSITY in another country and culture? With so many options, how will you choose which institution will give you the unforgettable university experience you want? (No pressure: this is only the most important decision you'll make in your life!) The good news is that deciding where to attend university is easier than you think.

1. Choose a university that offers an extraordinary environment in which to live and study. A campus surrounded by forest, beaches, ocean, mountains and city is an ideal backdrop for your undergraduate studies, and will inspire you to explore and discover.
2. Select a school that has a large international population. This is a good indication that the community has a welcoming and open culture where you'll easily fit in. What's more, since studying abroad is all about broadening your perspective, the more international the student body, the more prepared you'll be to take part in our increasingly global community.
3. Choose a university that will support your transition to life in your new country with dedicated staff and services. Being supported through this transition can make the difference between a great experience and a not-so-great one. If English isn't your first language, make sure the university you choose has language and study resources to help you excel in your academics.
4. At the same time, you should choose a university whose professors are committed to inspired teaching, research excellence, and civic engagement: this means you and your fellow students will learn from dedicated, smart and caring faculty who are leaders in their fields.
5. While attending university will be the next big step in your life, it's important to give some thought to what you want to do after you graduate and to make sure your university prepares you for what will follow. So make sure the university you select has opportunities to get real-world experience as you learn. Choose a university that offers opportunities for hands-on learning to prepare you for career success. Look for a school that offers extensive co-op programs, field schools and international exchange. These are the kinds of experiences that enhance your understanding of the world and employers look for.
6. If you're not sure what you want to study, don't worry: most students don't when they begin, and it's not unusual for students to change their programs mid-academic-career. When selecting a university, therefore, make sure it has plenty of programs to choose from so you have lots of options when you're ready to decide.
7. Choosing your own courses will help you get the most out of your education, but not all international universities allow students to choose electives. If you'd like to study what you want and choose the courses you take, select a university in a country where this is the norm.
8. If you're motivated to make a change in the world — to tackle matters essential to people, places and the planet — look for a university where you can make a vital impact from the moment you arrive on campus. Making an impact will look different to everyone. For some it means engaging with the neighbourhood. For others it involves making change abroad. Whether you seek humanitarian or technological solutions, a better society or new

knowledge, make sure you choose a university that is committed to supporting your vision.

9. Choose a university that consistently earns high rankings domestically and internationally. Reliable third-party rankings help you assess a university's overall reputation and, sometimes, about the reputation of certain programs.
10. Finally, choose a university that guarantees a residence room to all first-year students. Living in residence is a great way to integrate into the local community and having a residence guarantee takes the worry out of finding a place to live in your new city.

Think this is an impossible wish-list? Think again! You'll find all of these benefits at the University of Victoria. An Extraordinary environment. Dynamic learning. Opportunities to make a vital impact. Extensive supports. An education that will give you an edge. But don't take our word for it. Last year alone, over 3,300 international students from 109 countries were part of the student body at UVic, making the campus a lively cosmopolitan hub and welcoming place for scholars from around the world. With so much to offer, it's no wonder UVic has become a destination school for international students. ■

Thinking about studying abroad?
Apply to the University of Victoria. uvic.ca/future-students

Welcome to the UVic English Language Centre (ELC)

IMAGINE A PLACE WHERE students from all over the world study English, learn about other cultures and enjoy living in one of Canada's most beautiful cities. That's life at the ELC!

Over 2,500 students from 30 countries study English with us every year, in programs which feature:

- 20-30 class hours per week
- Academic and General classes
- Cultural Assistant support staff guiding activities on and off campus
- Free activities such as: sports, city tours, hikes and workshops
- Optional activities such as: Kayaking, Whale Watching and trips to Vancouver
- Homestay or dormitory accommodation with meals included
- Access to conditional admission to UVic degree programs

The UVic English Language Centre is one of the largest on-campus English schools in Canada. Being part of a friendly university community is one of the best parts about studying at UVic! Our students attend classes in a newly-expanded 7300m building and have unlimited access to all of UVic's academic and recreational facilities.

As experts in the field of language training, we are focused on student success and student support.



When you register for an ELC program, you know that we take care of every detail of your program: classes, activities, accommodation and meals are all coordinated directly by ELC staff. Our programs combine intensive English classes with activities so that our students can enjoy their experience living and studying in Victoria to the fullest.

We can't wait to welcome you! ■



[/EnglishLanguageCentre](https://www.facebook.com/EnglishLanguageCentre)



[@elc_uvic](https://www.instagram.com/elc_uvic)



[@elc_uvic](https://twitter.com/elc_uvic)



www.uvic.ca/elc

Royal Roads University: *A life-changing experience with global opportunities.*



AT ROYAL ROADS, we've created a transformative educational experience to fit your lifestyle. With more than 50 graduate, undergraduate and certificate programs, our courses are designed with you in mind, whether you're a new student, working professional or life-long learner.

Our programs are delivered online, full-time on campus or a blend of the two. The blended learning model of online study augmented with short, intensive on-campus residencies allows students to develop their professional capabilities without taking extensive time away from their careers or families.

"The best thing about Royal Roads is the support the school gives for international students," says Nicole Garafulic, a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Communication alumna from Brazil. "Royal Roads teachers show that they care about our professional future, helping us with the best opportunities. The staff here are very organized and also give me support for all my ideas, and encourage me to try new experiences and opportunities."

Royal Roads' collaborative cohort model features group-based course work both on campus and online providing a resource of like-minded peers for you to share,

challenge and grow with throughout your program. Even after graduation, this network will support your aspirations to ensure your life-changing experience has enabled not only a professional transformation, but a personal one as well.

"In my program, I am learning relevant business skills and adaptability techniques for successfully running a business on any continent of the globe," says Master of Global Management (MGM) student Jas Bharaj. "My MGM cohort is composed of individuals from several parts of the world, bringing together cultural experiences that impact and influence how we interact with international employers. This is unlike any other business master's degree."

Royal Roads' unique approach is matched only by our spectacular educational environment. As you explore the 565 acres of the Hatley Park National Historic Site — including Hatley Castle, our renowned gardens and lush parkland — you'll encounter a place that will no doubt enrich your learning experience. Victoria, a vibrant and welcoming city, is located just twenty minutes from campus.

A degree from Royal Roads University is more than a list of courses or subjects. It shows your commitment to your

The staff here are very organized and also give me support for all my ideas, and encourage me to try new experiences and opportunities.

professional and personal development. With these qualities you will be in the best position to decide whether to build your successful career at home, or in Canada.

Master of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Management alumnus Sam Jaroudi describes his program as both a collective and an individual experience.

"You establish life-long friendships that enhance your learning experience, and together create a support system to move the cohort forward," says Jaroudi. "Yet simultaneously, the program presents you with unlimited space for self-reflection and the development of critical thinking, self-awareness and the recognition and appreciation of different perspectives." ■

Are you ready for a life-changing experience? Email a Royal Roads University Enrolment Advisor **international@royalroads.ca** or visit **www.royalroads.ca**

Taking the Leap at Camosun College



WHEN YOU ASK CAMOSUN COLLEGE student Mohit Malhotra about the highlight of his summer co-op term, he answers immediately: skydiving.

There were other highlights, of course, while he was on assignment in Canmore, Alberta as a Seasonal Guest Services Agent at the Coast Canmore Hotel and Conference Centre. Mohit was named Employee of the Month after just five weeks in his position. He expanded the recycling program for hotel staff and guests. He also put into practice everything he had learned in Victoria while taking Camosun's Post-Degree Diploma (PDD) in Applied Tourism and Hospitality Management.

But free falling from a moving airplane at 10,000 feet above Canada's Rocky Mountains is a memory that will stay with him forever.

LEAPING INTO THE UNKNOWN

Jumping out of a plane is actually not too different from being an international student. You have to take a leap into the unknown. You jump in tandem with another person, so it's an exercise in teamwork and trust. And yes, it can be scary.

Mohit was in the first cohort of students in Camosun's new PDD in Applied Tourism and Hospitality Management, which

launched in the fall of 2015. He discovered it after finishing an undergraduate degree in hospitality from his home country of India. After he set his sights on living and studying in Canada, an education agent told him about Camosun and thought this program would help Mohit reach his career goals.

"The sustainability aspect of the program appealed to me," says Mohit, a 23-year-old from Mumbai, India. "The 'applied' aspect also appealed. I wanted to learn practical things about the hospitality industry, not just theory."

APPLIED LEARNING IN A REAL-WORLD SETTING

Hands-on learning is a key component of the program, featuring simulation classes in restaurant management, integrated events planning, and social responsibility. Students have the opportunity to run a hotel and learn the latest software used in the industry. Canadian colleges are well-known for producing skilled, "job ready" graduates.

"We really walk the walk on applied learning," says Carl Everitt, Chair of the Hospitality, Tourism and Golf Management department at Camosun. "The content of the program is driven by industry, and we worked with an advisory committee of professionals to help design the curriculum."

With 43 years of experience in hospitality education, the department also provides a support system for international students to be successful in the field. In addition to the simulation classes focused on the technical aspects of the industry, there is specific training in North American social cues, hospitality language, and business practices.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE, WORKPLACE SUCCESS

The program also includes a mandatory co-op (internship) term, allowing students to apply their classroom learning in a real-world setting. Co-op is beneficial for all students who are immersed in their studies and need practical experience in their

chosen field. But co-op is especially advantageous for international students in Victoria: they connect with local business people and gain a valuable introduction to Canadian work culture.

“Once I could put Canadian experience on my resume, I started applying to lots of places in Victoria,” says Mohit, who is back in the classroom finishing up the final semester of his 17-month program. “Before, people didn’t respond to my applications because I didn’t have experience. But now people want to meet with me.”

The PDD program doesn’t just require that students participate in co-op — there are also resources to help international students succeed. The college employs an International Employment Facilitator, Susan Brown, who provides specialized career education for students. She says:

“International students may have to adapt their previous experience and education. But they also bring different ways of thinking and problem-solving to the workplace. We teach students about what they have to offer.”

EDUCATION IN ACTION

After his successful summer in Canmore, Mohit learned three important things both on and off the job:

Cross-cultural communication: Mohit studied cross-cultural management skills in his Camosun courses, which prepared him to interact with people from different cultures and countries at the Coast Canmore hotel.

Be proactive: Going above and beyond the job description for his front desk position, Mohit identified and solved problems for his employer. He refined the recycling program and asked to attend managers’ meetings to get more insight into the hotel business.

Set goals: Camosun co-op requires that students set learning goals while on term, and Mohit also set personal goals for himself outside of work such as skydiving and hiking. “You have to have goals to keep you motivated,” he says. “You can’t just go to work, go home, sleep, and wake up again.”

Mohit took a bold leap into Canadian college life and a new career. We expect to see him soar into his future. ■

For more information about Camosun’s Post-Degree Diploma in Applied Tourism and Hospitality:

camosun.ca/learn/programs/applied-tourism-hospitality-management/

For more information about Camosun’s other programs for international students: camosun.ca/international

Canadian College of Performing Arts: Outstanding Performing Arts Training



THE CANADIAN COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS (CCPA) is located in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia and is owned and operated by The Canadian Heritage Arts Society (CHAS). CHAS is a non-profit society and registered charitable organization.

Due to its outstanding success in preparing young artists for careers in the performing arts, graduates of this program have starred on Broadway, in movies and TV and have been featured in major productions across the nation and around the world. Our alumni have been featured at Stratford Festival, and Charlottetown Festival. They’ve performed *Beauty and the Beast*, *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Misérables*, *Hairspray*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Lion King* and many more.

CREATING FUTURE CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC LEADERS

The Canadian College of Performing Arts offers a one-year certificate program for students with significant industry experience, a two-year (September – April) Enriched Performing Arts Diploma program and a “Year III”, Company C Studio Ensemble diploma program. Graduates of the Company C Studio Ensemble Diploma program can also apply for their Bachelor of Performing Arts through a university transfer program

Expert instruction is offered in the comprehensive skills required for a stage or screen career as a singer, actor, dancer and/or in musical theatre. The Canadian College of Performing Arts offers a broad scope of studies led by seasoned professional instructors which will prepare students for versatility and longevity in the entertainment industry. Students are given instruction at international performance standards in order to give them every advantage in seeking jobs in Canada or around the world. Classes are offered in an intensive program at post-secondary level. Instruction is tailored to meet the needs of high school, university or college graduates. Students are also given the support and mentorship they need to create their own work. The college is widely known as “a safe place to take risks”.

Since its inception in 1998, CCPA has welcomed many international students from Mexico, Columbia, Australia, South Korea, the United States, Brazil, Costa Rica, The United Kingdom, and more. While the college is a key supporter of Canadian emerging artists, it is also proud of the cultural and ethnic diversity it enjoys in welcoming international students to its programs. ■

Learn more at ccpacanada.com

Greater

VICTORIA

British Columbia

Canada's
BEST
Coast

• Vancouver

• Seattle

Hello!



360,000:
POPULATION of
Greater **Victoria**

BC's *second* largest
METROPOLITAN AREA

• San Francisco

A short **HOP** to:

- Vancouver
- Seattle
- San Francisco



Canada's
SMARTEST
CITY

Macleans Magazine



Next Generation Consulting

Canada's
Friendliest
CITY

Condé Nast Traveler

Best place
for
new
IMMIGRANTS
in Canada

MoneySense Magazine

Most active
COMMUTERS
(bike/walk)



→ to ←
WORK
in Canada



the most
RESTAURANTS
per
CAPITA

in Canada



MILDEST WEATHER IN CANADA

March 2016:

Flowers
counted in
VICTORIA



25,864,976,064

SNOW

that fell in
ONE DAY
in OTTAWA

• Canada's Capital •

51 centimetres

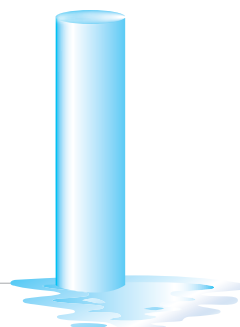


**TOTAL ANNUAL
PRECIPITATION**

Victoria vs *Vancouver*

883
millimetres

1,589
millimetres



February 13, 2016:

**HIGH
TEMPERATURES**
across
Canada

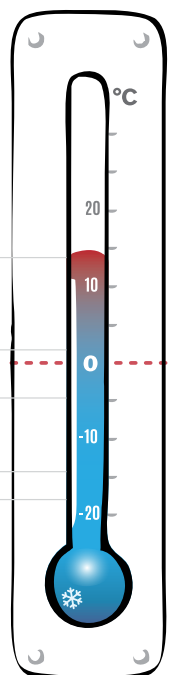
14°C VICTORIA

2°C Calgary

-4°C Halifax

-14°C Toronto

-17°C Ottawa

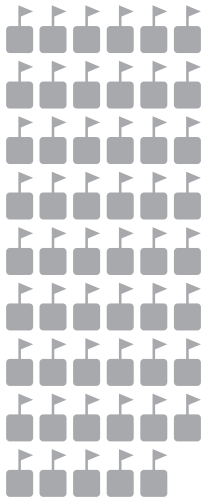




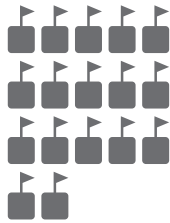
Number of **K-12 SCHOOLS**

(Victoria, Saanich and Sooke Districts)

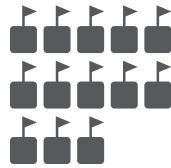
53
elementary



17
middle



13
secondary



+

28 ✓ **PRIVATE**
✓ **specialty**
✓ **language**
SCHOOLS



WORLD-CLASS
post-secondary
INSTITUTIONS

(2 universities and a college)

400 degree, diploma
AND certificate
PROGRAMS



9,200+
international
STUDENTS
enrolled in
VICTORIA AREA
SCHOOLS



CONSISTENTLY RANKED
in the TOP 3 **CANADIAN**
comprehensive
UNIVERSITIES
(Maclean's university rankings)



#1 **PUBLIC UNIVERSITY**
active and collaborative **LEVEL of**
LEARNING & **academic**
CHALLENGE
in *Canada*

TECHNOLOGY:
#1 **INDUSTRY**
sector
VICTORIA

with **GROWTH** in
Ocean Tech • CLEAN TECH
Software • Gaming
and other sectors



82% of **GRADUATES**
are **employed** within
6 MONTHS

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www.learnvictoria.ca

EDUCATION
VICTORIA
british columbia canada

Work While You Learn!



WORKING DURING OR AFTER STUDIES in Victoria can be the start of an incredible career journey. What better way to test a variety of jobs and industries than through a formal co-operative or internship program? All the post-secondary institutions in Victoria have programs that provide students with opportunities to test drive their future work.

RULES AND ELIGIBILITY TO WORK

In order to legally work in Canada, full-time students pursuing an academic, professional or vocational training program at a designated learning institution are:

- Eligible to work off campus without a work permit, where permission is granted on the student's study permit.
- Allowed to work off campus for up to 20 hours per week during a regular academic session, and may work full time during regularly scheduled breaks.
- Able to work off campus immediately.
- Required to obtain a Social Insurance Number (SIN) from Service Canada, and to get an SIN, they have to provide proof they are registered and enrolled at a designated learning institution.

International students studying at a high-school level or taking part-time

and short-term programs, such as an English Language Program, are generally not permitted to work while they attend school in Canada, unless they are eligible to apply for a work permit with a positive Labour Market Impact Assessment from Employment and Social Development Canada.

On-campus advisors and international student offices will be happy to help with completing the necessary paperwork to work in Canada.

CAREER SERVICES

[Camosun College](#), [Royal Roads University](#) and [University of Victoria](#) all provide resources to help students prepare for their job search. Services provided for students include:

- Assistance with résumé, cover letters and letters of support
- Job interview preparation
- Job-search strategies development
- Career-development workshops and seminars
- Job postings, career fairs and business-networking opportunities

Individual coaching services are also available to give students valuable support and advice in understanding and adapting to the Canadian workplace culture, so that they can be comfortable and successful in their new job.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION (CO-OP) AND INTERNSHIPS

Co-operative education connects classroom studies to the real world, by providing work experience related to a program of study. To work as part of a co-op/internship program, students need a co-op work permit separate from their study permit.

Co-op students work as short-term employees with an employer to learn current North American business culture and to build practical skills and knowledge that will prepare them for their long-term career goals. Students receive college credit for work terms and are required to submit assignments demonstrating their achievement of academic, professional and personal learning objectives. Although students pay a fee to participate in a co-op opportunity, they are paid fair compensation for their work, normally at standard market rates.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Iqbal Gill travelled from India to study mechanical engineering at Camosun College on the recommendation of her aunt in Canada. In addition to arranging a work term right away, Iqbal had a clear idea of the next steps in her education in Victoria: "I wanted to use my skills to build real world things. My experience in mechanical engineering at Camosun has been great."



Today I graduate, and my work term at Northern Steel begins! I am coming back to Camosun, to do the bridge program to get my degree from the University of Victoria.”

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a rewarding experience for many students. It is a great way to make a positive contribution to the local community, build relationships, and learn about Canadian culture and how non-profit and charitable organizations operate, while increasing their English-language skills.

Camosun College, Royal Roads University and University of Victoria all encourage students to participate in volunteer activities. Volunteer work is highly valued

by Canadian employers, often as much as paid work experience. Strategically aligning volunteer opportunities to the student’s course of study is an excellent way to enhance a résumé and may also lead to paid employment.

“People who use volunteering to gain experience often find a connection between their personal passions and the skills they require to further their careers,” reports Natasha Dilay, Manager of Work Related Learning at Royal Roads University. “Strategic volunteering is an opportunity to develop professional networks, find a mentor and add new skills and professional experiences to a resume, all while giving back to the community.”

Stewart College, one of Greater Victoria’s language schools, recently introduced a Global Citizen Certificate Program. In addition to their English studies, students in this program complete a fundraising project and participate in volunteer activities.

“My stay in Canada was a great experience. My volunteer work with seniors was great. I could talk so much with the elderly and learn about them.”

Jessica, Switzerland/Stewart College student ■

Finding the Best Pathway for Your Educational Goals



BRITISH COLUMBIA HAS ONE of the most respected educational systems in the world, and is recognized globally for its pathway programs that allows students to move easily from one qualification level. Post-secondary international students can transfer between programs of study and institutions without applying for changes to their study permits, giving them the flexibility to choose the study path best suited to their educational goals.

TYPES OF PATHWAY PROGRAMS

The three types of Pathway Programs are:

1. Language
2. Academic
3. Combination of language and academic

WHY YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER A PATHWAY PROGRAM

Pathway Programs are an ideal option for students who need to increase their English-language skills in order to meet

entrance requirements for specific courses of study at a college or university. These programs are increasing in popularity across Canada because they provide an attractive route for international students who do not want to take standardized language tests like International English Language Testing System ([IELTS](#)) or Test of English as a Foreign Language ([TOEFL](#)). International students who want to obtain a Canadian university degree may find themselves challenged by competitive admission processes and requirements for high English-language test scores. Pathway Program partnerships between Greater Victoria colleges, universities and language schools give students more flexibility in achieving their educational goals.

POST-SECONDARY PATHWAY PROGRAMS

University of Victoria Pathway Program

The UVic Pathway Program, run by its English Language Centre (ELC), allows students to complete first-year credit courses while they improve their English-language skills. Alternatively students may



satisfy UVic's language requirements by enrolling in the *University Admissions Program*, an intensive, four-week, summer program—this can be ideal for international students who want to make a successful cultural and academic transition into degree programs in September.

“At the ELC I learned not only English but I learned how to be responsible about a group of people, how to make decisions, and how to manage my time.”

Turki Alanazi, Saudi Arabia

Royal Roads University International Study Centre (ISC)

Royal Roads's ISC provides three areas of preparation or “bridging” that serve as Pathway Programs and are designed to prepare international students for degree admissions at Royal Roads. They include:

- English-preparation programs
- University-bridging programs
- Master's-preparation programs

Official IELTS or TOEFL scores are not required to gain entrance to the Pathway Programs. Instead, students can complete the Study Group English Language Test offered by the ISC. Royal Roads students can look forward to a unique campus environment that offers a team work approach to learning consisting of small groups or cohorts that learn together.

Camosun College Pathways Program to University

This is another very popular Pathway Program that deals with the transition from college to university. Students who prefer smaller classes and campus populations as they begin their education journey may prefer this option. Camosun is well known for their popular academic University Transfer Program that leads hundreds of students a year to UVic, Royal Roads and other universities across BC.

“I met a lot of great friends from all over the world and the teachers were so special, they always wanted to help all the students. The classes are small groups, in which students can interact more closely with others and teachers.” Magnolia Lozano, Mexico

Camosun College University Transfer (UT) Program

Camosun's UT program is a “secret back door” to a university education. Students who want to enroll in a bachelor-degree program but don't meet the direct admission requirements may apply for UT at Camosun and then transfer to a full bachelor program within the standard four-year timeframe.

Camosun students who plan to transfer to UVic are guaranteed admission to UVic's humanities, science or social sciences faculties if they:

- complete between 8 and 20 Camosun UT courses, and
- achieve a grade point average of at least 2.0 (“C”) on their 8 most-recent Camosun courses.

LANGUAGE SCHOOL PATHWAY PROGRAMS

Pathway Programs are also offered by private language schools in Greater Victoria, including:

- Global Village English Centre (gvenglish.com)
- inlingua Victoria Language School (inlinguavictoria.com)
- Stewart College (stewartcollege.com)
- GEOS Languages Plus (geos.net)
- King George International College Victoria (kgic.ca/locations/victoria) ■

For complete information about specific Pathway Programs and BC transfer credit options, visit BCtransferguide.ca and your preferred institution's website; you should also consult with an on-campus international student advisor.

K-12 Education in Greater Victoria



GETTING AN EDUCATION and graduating from high school in British Columbia opens doors for international students, making it easier for them to get into top universities and colleges both in Canada and around the world. According to the BC Ministry of Education, more and more international students are choosing to study in British Columbia over any other province in Canada. Curricula in K-12 public and private schools are approved and accredited by the BC Ministry of Education.

BC schools offer Kindergarten to Grade 12 for children between the ages of 5 and 18 years, with many learning options which, depending on the student's length of stay, may lead to high-school graduation. Programs include:

- BC Certificate of Graduation (or Dogwood Diploma)
- English as a Second Language / English Language Learner

- Various short and long-term programs

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The three public school districts in the Greater Victoria region all offer a high-quality academic education and a wide variety of elective courses that accommodate students' diverse interests, while giving students the experience of a lifetime.

GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (studyinvictoria.com)

Established in 1992, VIHSP offers international students the highest standards of academia, while providing them with invaluable life skills that enhance their long-term educational success. Overall, the district has 19,000 students, with about 900 students participating in VIHSP. Programs are open to students of varying

ages, with a focus on students aged 12 to 18 years. Academic program graduates are often accepted into top universities and colleges throughout Canada and around the world.

SOOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 62 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM (isp.web.sd62.bc.ca)

Sooke School District, located adjacent to Victoria, serves approximately 9,200 students from Sooke, Port Renfrew, the Highlands, Metchosin, Colwood and Langford. The Sooke ISP offers exceptional academic graduation programs with a wide variety of interesting courses, one-year and short-term English language development and cultural learning opportunities, and a summer camp program that welcomes groups of all ages. Sooke School District provides excellent support services as well as approachable staff and teachers who are committed to their students' success.

SAANICH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 63 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM (sisp.sd63.bc.ca)

Saanich School District, located near Victoria International Airport and Sidney, has 8 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 3 secondary schools, and proudly serves nearly 8,000 students. Students have access to a variety of challenging and exciting academic and elective courses that are guided by the *Principles of Learning* and the *Principles of Inclusive Schools*. The Saanich ISP offers a unique online learning option for international students to prepare them for attending high school in British Columbia.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

GLENLYON NORFOLK SCHOOL (mygns.ca)

- Co-ed independent day-school for students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- Boarding options available.

Yes, it *really* looks like this.



Surprised?
We guarantee you'll be delighted.

Discover carefree-elegance and uncommonly spacious suites at The Parkside Hotel & Spa.

All rooms feature kitchenettes or full kitchens, separate bedrooms, spa-inspired bathrooms and private balconies.



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ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL (stmarg.ca)

- Independent all-girls school for students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- On-site boarding available for students in Grades 7–12.

ST. MICHAELS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL (smus.ca)

- Co-ed independent day-school for students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- On-site boarding available for students in Grades 8–12.

ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (cisdv.bc.ca)

- Co-ed schooling with focus on students Grades 6–12; younger students are welcome if a parent resides with them.
- Offers Family Homestay Program.

PACIFIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (pacificchristian.ca)

- Co-ed with focus on students Grades 6–12; younger students are welcome if a parent resides with them.
- Offers Family Homestay Program. ■

Visit learnvictoria.ca for a full list of public, private and alternative Kindergarten to Grade 12 options.



Victoria International High School Programs: *Study Here. Succeed Anywhere.*



“..the teachers and staff are truly supportive.”

The Greater Victoria School District's **Victoria International High School Programs** has been delivering quality educational programs to international students since 1992. Students have a variety of options to choose from, ranging from graduation programs, to one semester and one-year English development programs, to short-term stays:

- **Academic High School Program** – In addition to required courses and English language learning, students in this program may choose from a wide variety of elective subjects to meet their individual interests and career goals, leading to high school graduation and university entrance.
- **Uplands Academic Transition Program** – This innovative academic program supports international students with their transition into the Canadian public school environment and offers course credits.
- **Short-Term High School Experience Program** – This program gives students the opportunity to experience high school classes with Canadian students for 2 or 3 months.
- **Camp Victoria Summer Program** – This 6-day a week program offers a fun, supportive environment for students to improve their English and enjoy exciting cultural activities.

The District's seven high schools and 10 middle schools offer comfortable, well-equipped learning facilities, science and computer labs equipped with the latest technology, large outdoor sports fields and many extracurricular activities.

The District also provides comprehensive support to international students, including an orientation, school-based international student advisors, dedicated homestay coordinators, optional student activities and professional, experienced program staff committed to each student's success.

LEARN HOW LAN, A STUDENT FROM VIETNAM, DECIDED TO STUDY IN THE GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Before coming here, my family and I had considered a lot on which country would be the best for me. Then my mom and I were invited to a study abroad event from Victoria School District and other universities of the [Vancouver] Island....[which] introduced to me about the benefits of starting my studying abroad journey with the school district in a peaceful and friendly place like Victoria. I like how they have different kinds of programs and many courses that can fit anyone's interests. Also, the teachers and staffs are truly helpful and supportive. Afterwards, I researched more about the programs and some of the schools; I can really feel the welcoming environment. So my family just finally decided that Victoria and the Greater Victoria School District is the best place for me and my pre-university life. ■

Start your own study-abroad journey. Visit www.studyinvictoria.com to find out more about Victoria International High School Programs and the Greater Victoria School District, and connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Sooke International Program:

World-class facilities in a world-class location!

THE SOOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT is a public education district located on Vancouver Island British Columbia, just 25 minutes west of downtown Victoria, one of Canada's most beautiful cities. Known as the Westshore, the communities of Colwood, Langford, Metchosin and Sooke are recognized for their welcoming families, warm weather, and the natural beauty of the environment.

The Sooke School District is home to three secondary schools. Edward Milne Community School is a small high school located in the seaside Village of Sooke. Additionally, in September 2015, we opened two multi-million dollar, world-class high school facilities in the Westshore. Royal Bay Secondary features ocean views, a roof-top basketball court, an artificial turf field and a 350-seat performance theatre. A two-story learning commons with lake views, the largest gym on Vancouver Island and state-of-the-art trades and technical training facilities are among the highlights of the newly replaced Belmont Secondary.

All three of our secondary schools offer excellent academic programs including Advanced Placement and university-level classes, leading to a British Columbia graduation certificate. Our specialized programs consist of French Immersion, the Global and Intercultural Focus Program, and the TASK Trades Training Program. In addition to academics our students choose elective courses, such as Musical Theatre, Fine Arts, Band, Woodworking, Auto Mechanics, Psychology, Marketing, Gastronomy/Chef Training, Computer Programming and Animation, Marine Biology, Environmental Studies and much more!

We provide a wide range of athletic and extracurricular opportunities for students. From Ice Hockey, Soccer, Dance, Lacrosse and Baseball Academies to extracurricular sports such as American football, swimming, cheerleading, basketball, volleyball. There are also a variety of clubs such as the Robotics Club, Environmental Club, and others.

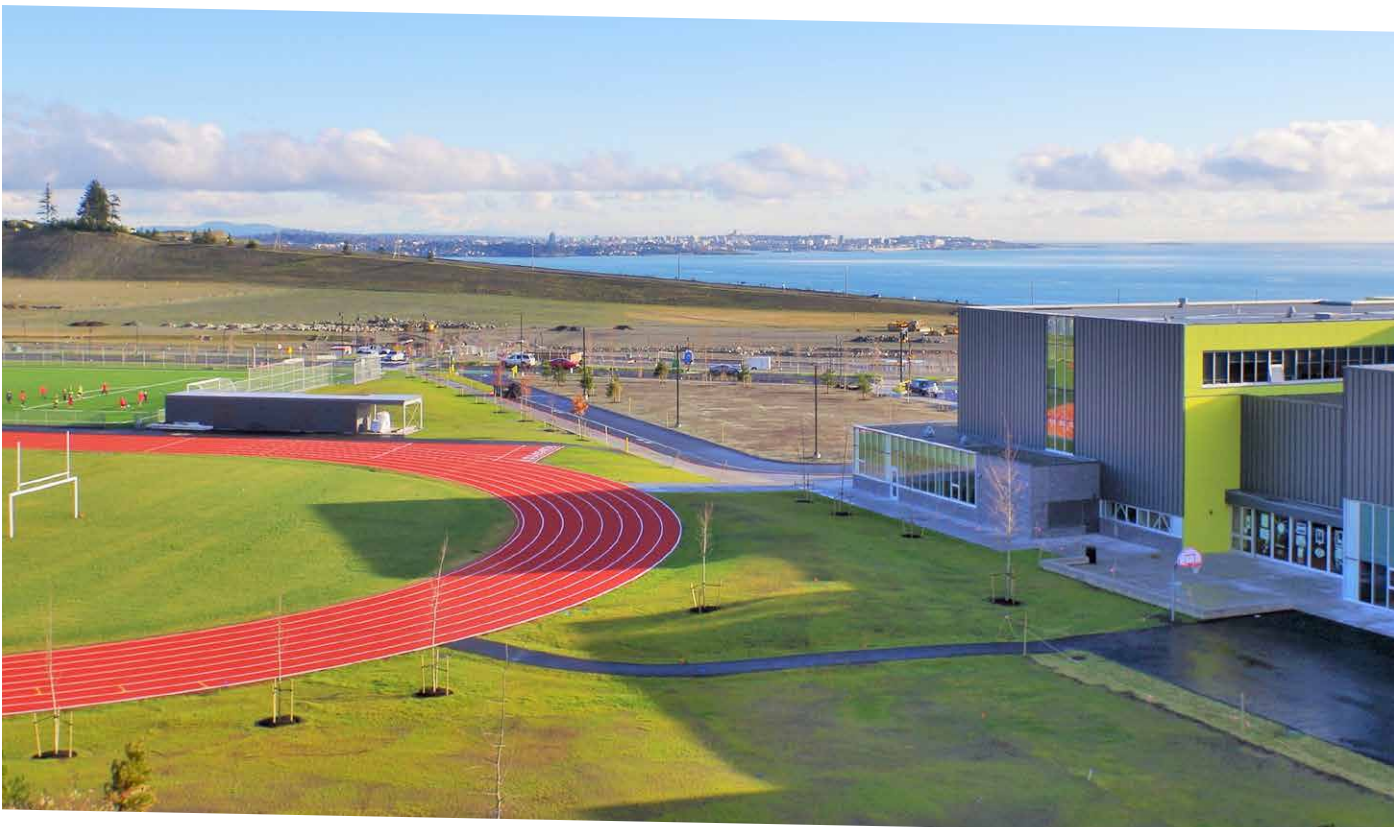
Our students live with homestay families that are carefully screened and selected by our program Homestay Manager. Our families have years of experience hosting international students and warmly welcome students into their homes and lives.

Our supervised Activities Program offers students the chance to experience Canadian cultural activities such as the Royal British Columbia Museum, galleries, festivals and sporting events like curling, surfing, skiing and snowboarding. Students may also choose to broaden their horizons through trips to Vancouver, Whistler, Mount Washington, Tofino and Seattle.

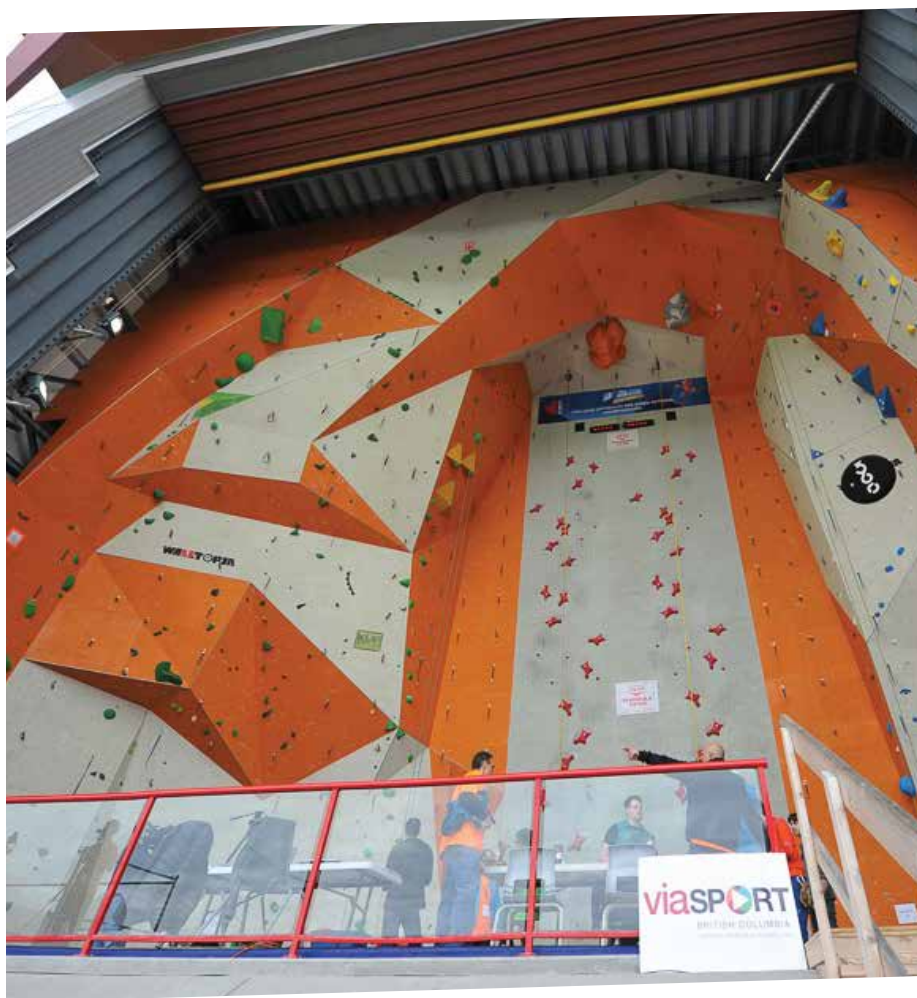
Visit the Sooke School District on Vancouver Island to experience world-class education in state-of-the-art facilities. Students will experience Canadian culture and improve their English in our warm, welcoming homestay families and friendly school communities. ■

For more information visit:

www.sookeschoolsvictoria.com



Saanich International Student Program: *Outstanding Education Programs and Personalized Support for Students*



WELCOME TO SAANICH! Located in Greater Victoria largest municipality on the beautiful west coast of British Columbia, the Saanich International Student Program (SISP) offers an unsurpassed quality of life and standard of living including:

- A safe, friendly and welcoming community
- The mildest weather in all of Canada where outdoor activities can be enjoyed year round
- Breathtaking scenery, with spectacular Pacific Ocean and fresh water beaches, mountains, parks and rainforests.

SISP achieves its mission statement to “**Improve the World Through Global Connections**” by delivering high quality academic courses and specialized programs in Global Education, ESL, as well as full

English and French Immersion. Diverse Focus Programs provide students with a well-rounded education. The Arts Academy allows students to pursue their interests in Visual Arts, Dance, Music and Theatre. Students can build vocational skills through Technical-Trade courses such as Chef’s training, Wood and Metal Work, Automotive Repair, Drafting, and a unique program in Marine Studies. The SISP Sports Academy encourages students’ athletic interests through participation in Judo, Ice Hockey, Sailing, Climbing, Rowing, Lacrosse, Golf, and Aquatics.

One of the keys to the Saanich School District’s successful international program is the extraordinary level of support that is provided to students. In addition to assisting students with their educational programming, SISP Counselor-Advisors are

dedicated to supporting students’ emotional needs to help overcome any challenges that they may face when studying abroad.

Much consideration is given to matching a student with the appropriate Homestay family. SISP’s three Homestay coordinators take great care in reviewing the students’ applications, seeking host families with similar interests and experiences, and providing ongoing student monitoring while they stay with Saanich families. Selected hosts have a keen interest in other cultures, an open and respectful attitude, a willingness to integrate a young person into their home and make them feel like a member of the family. They take an active interest in students’ school work and performance by encouraging the timely completion of homework, checking on progress and attending parent/teacher meetings as needed.

MORE REASONS TO STUDY IN SAANICH, GREATER VICTORIA...

- Online Learning Canada ([OLC](#)) allows students to complete B.C. credit courses in their home country prior to arriving (See the “[Schools+](#)” section of our website)
- Curriculum choices with high level academics and elective options
- Amazing field trips and activities including whale watching, skiing, sightseeing and more
- 21 Dedicated Program staff who directly support the needs international students
- 3 High schools to choose from with modern facilities
- Homestay program with 24/7 support arranged directly by the school district ■

For more information check out our website at: www.sisp.sd63.bc.ca.

Click “[HOW TO APPLY](#) +” to complete an application.

Homestay: Your Home Away from Home

WHEN STUDENTS COME TO VICTORIA to study, for either a few weeks or a few years, a big part of their educational success is their living arrangements. Living with a local family is a great way to make Canadian friends, learn first-hand about Canadian culture, practise English and, maybe most importantly, provide a supportive home-away-from-home experience.

ABOUT HOMESTAY PROGRAMS

Youngsters attending a school far from their home need more than a place to sleep and eat—they need to feel like they are part of a family. Homestay programs are designed to have every student feel like they belong and that people are there to help them succeed.

“It wasn’t only English lessons. I think (coming to Victoria) was one of the best experiences of my life. I really enjoyed the program, I met many friends and I was so close with my host family.”

Paulina Nuñez, Chile/University of Victoria student

Each Greater Victoria institution, from high schools and language schools, to universities and colleges, has experienced and dedicated staff to manage homestay programs for their students.

There is a rigorous process to qualify as a homestay family. They must meet specific requirements and pass a home visit to confirm that they are not only willing, but able, to host a student. Once accepted, homestay families are given manuals that clearly explain homestay policies, responsibilities and expectations, as well as suggestions about how to make students comfortable in their new environment and help them succeed in their studies.

“We provide orientation for new students, but also for the families, so everyone understands how it all should work. We are very proud of the experience our students have while attending school here. The family connections and friends they make in Victoria stay with them a lifetime.” Jeff Davis, Director, International Student Program, Greater Victoria School District

Homestay families report feeling very supported by school staff who help with everything from cultural fit to finding the right after-school dance class for their students.

The staff at UVic have a very practical problem-solving chart that they share with students to help them communicate with their host families. Posted on their website, the chart guides conversations that might be uncomfortable at home, no matter what language is spoken.



“Everyone welcomed me with open arms. I was scared before I came here—that it would be difficult for me to make new friends. But I was so wrong. From the first minute I felt more than at home here.”

Michele Mueller, Germany/Royal Roads University student

HOMESTAY PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Homestay families are a very special kind of people. They love the opportunity to host young people from around the world, and many have been welcoming students into their homes for years. They want them to have a wonderful time during their stay in Victoria.

“Dear Parent, I admire you so very much for sending your most precious child to a faraway country to study. You are very brave, and I promise to take good care of your child. They are safe with me.” Excerpt from the letter sent by Cory, Greater Victoria School District Homestay parent since 2009, to the parents of all students she hosts.

Homestay parents look after everything—from meeting the student at the airport, to being a sympathetic ear during bouts of homesickness. They make their students feel like one of the family, inviting them to join in on family activities and outings, and having them share their culture. Students often find comfort in the little things, like taking the family dog out for a walk or simply knowing that their homestay parents are there to listen, empathize and respond to their feelings as they adjust to their new environment.



“It can be overwhelming being away from home, away from family and friends. I acknowledge that feeling. Then I get them busy! We go on hiking adventures, movie nights, or I ask them to help me prepare their favourite dish. The key is to let them miss their home, but get them excited about Victoria.”

Cory, SD61 Homestay parent

TIPS FOR HOMESTAY SUCCESS

- Communicate with your homestay family as soon as you have their contact information. It's nice to introduce yourself and start getting to know one another.
- Find out what you have in common. Do they share your love of soccer? Are there hiking trails to explore? Dance classes to attend together? Talk about things to do.
- Use mealtimes with your homestay family to get to know each other better.
- Find out before arriving if your homestay family has any pets, and make sure you are okay with them.
- Be prepared to share your favourite food with your homestay family—you can even show them how to prepare it!
- Bring along a few condiments from home to add a familiar taste to your food.

- Offer to help with chores. Clearing dishes, walking the dog or washing the car are all part of living at a homestay and being part of a family.
- Communicate often with your own family. Let them know the new things you are learning about Canada's culture and people.
- Take pictures and post them on your school's Facebook or Instagram pages. Share your experiences! ■



Accredited Private Language Schools: *Ensuring a High-Quality Learning Experience Without Risk*

A MAJOR DISTINCTION of private language schools in Greater Victoria is British Columbia's unique accreditation process: it ensures high-quality educational standards as well as student protection from financial risk due to an institutional closure.



BC EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE

Getting an Education Quality Assurance (EQA) designation from BC's Ministry of Advanced Education is a voluntary process undertaken by private language schools. Having an EQA designation confirms that a school meets or exceeds performance standards, such as program outcomes, instructional staff and student satisfaction rates. Registered institutions must confirm their program offerings and institutional details annually to maintain their accreditation. All language schools in BC that accept international students on study permits are required to have an EQA designation.

EQA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- The institution must be a legal entity operating in British Columbia as:
 - a. Established under an Act of the British Columbia legislature, and/or

- b. A society operating under the BC Society Act or as a corporation under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, and/or
- c. A corporation operating under the BC Business Corporations Act or the Canada Business Corporations Act.
- The institution must provide and deliver an educational program in British Columbia.
- The Institution must have been in operation and authorized to deliver programs in British Columbia for a minimum of one year immediately prior to its application.
- The institution must not offer programming in British Columbia in partnership with a non-EQA designated institution, unless the non-EQA designated institution offers less than 50% of the program.
- The institution is required to meet the recognized quality assurance standards specific to the type of institution/ programming offered, as determined by the Ministry.

BC PRIVATE TRAINING ACT

In addition to an EQA designation, private language schools must be registered through the BC Private Training Institutions Branch (PTIB). PTIB ensures schools' compliance with the [BC Private Training Act](#). Under this Act, the Student Training Completion Fund protects students if their school closes during their course of study, by either letting them complete their studies at another institution or refunding their tuition. If a school is not accredited through PTIB, students are not protected by the Student Training Completion Fund.

LANGUAGES CANADA QUALITY ASSURANCE

Representing more than 220 private and public institutions across Canada,

[Languages Canada](#) offers international students an extra layer of security. Languages Canada is a sector-led national association dedicated to assisting their members in delivering quality, accredited English and French language programs. Languages Canada Assurance safeguards the interests of students by assessing:

- Student Services
- Teaching Staff
- Curriculum
- Marketing and Promotion
- Administration
- Student Admissions

Like British Columbia's EQA, Languages Canada's Education Completion Assurance Program (eCAPTM) ensures that students registered in accredited programs are able to complete their studies through another member institution at no additional cost in the event of a school closure. The Student Education Assurance Fund (SEAFTM) further protects students by reimbursing tuition if another placement is not possible.

EQA AND LANGUAGES CANADA-ACCREDITED PRIVATE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS IN GREATER VICTORIA

- Global Village English Centre (gvenglish.com/victoria)
- inlingua Victoria College of Languages (inlinguavictoria.com)
- Stewart College (stewartcollege.com)
- GEOS Languages Plus (geos.net)
- King George International College Victoria (kgic.ca/locations/victoria) ■

Visit learnvictoria.ca for a full list of accredited language schools.

Global Village English Centre Victoria:

With GV 360°, we have you covered



THE AIM OF THE GV360° PHILOSOPHY is to provide all our students with quality in the three A's:

- **ACADEMICS**
- **ACCOMMODATION**
- **ACTIVITIES**

Through personalized care and support, let our trained, professional and experienced instructors and staff guide you to your learning goals through the special GV360° approach.

Global Village English Centre Victoria is proud to be a member of IALC — the International Association of Language Centres.

Founded in 1983, the International Association of Language Centres ([IALC](#)) is dedicated to students by inspecting and awarding accreditation to quality, independent, boutique schools around the world.

The executive management of each GV school is present full-time, year-round. We understand that every individual arrives at our schools with unique plans, goals and dreams, and our onsite management team ensures that each student receives a complete language learning experience.

Your education is possibly the single most important investment you will make. Choosing an IALC accredited school will guide you to the right choice.

GV Victoria is Vancouver Island's only Official test Centre for IELTS and Cambridge.

[IELTS and Cambridge](#) test scores are invaluable for students seeking academic pathways, professional recognition, benchmarking to international standards, and global mobility.

Prepare for your test at Global Village Victoria by studying in one of our well-designed programs, taught by IELTS and Cambridge experts. Then take your exam in a facility you feel right at home in.

Because we meet such stringent standards, Global Village Victoria students can have the confidence that their assessment will be

recognized, regardless of where they choose to live and work in the future.

NEW ADVENTURES — NEW YOU

Improving your English at Global Village Victoria opens many new doors:

- Teen Activity Programs
- High school, college and university pathways
- Leisure and travel packages for 50+ students
- English Plus Programs — Yoga, Volunteering, Farmstay
- Power Speaking
- English for Business
- IELTS and Cambridge testing ■

Register for programs at victoria@gvenglish.com or get a free quote at: www.gvenglish.com/victoria

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inlingua Victoria College of Languages: *Go Orange – Go inlingua Victoria!*

OUT OF ALL OF THE PLACES in Canada to study, why choose inlingua Victoria College of Languages? Not only do we have a vibrant colour, but we are also a growing college with impeccable services. We love to have fun, but we also work hard and speak English at all times. As you're walking down Government Street in the heart of Downtown Victoria, you'll feel the excitement from locals and tourists, and suddenly you'll see our orange sign. There it is. inlingua Victoria — nestled downtown just steps away from the bustling Inner Harbour.

As you walk in to see us, you'll see friendly faces at the front desk, with beaming smiles and a welcoming, comfortable orange reception area. Maybe it's your first time here, or maybe it's your fifth. Either way, we'll be so happy to see you again. **Seeing our students improve is the best part for us**, and we strive to keep students working hard, having fun, and feeling confident about learning English. Our energetic teachers always have new and exciting ways to help students learn English, and they are experienced and engaging. Maybe it's the orange that surrounds our high-end campus, or maybe it's the school community, but at



inlingua Victoria we go out of our way to make sure that students feel really cared about, both at school and at their homestay or student residence. The city we are located in is also very safe, so you will feel comfortable staying in Victoria! Once you've finished classes for the day, there's still plenty of time for being social! Have you ever wanted to explore the Rocky Mountain trails, or go on a weekend trip to Vancouver or Seattle? Or go whale watching through the Pacific Ocean? Or just to go have casual drinks at a local pub on Government Street with your new friends from around the world. No matter what your preference is, we have every activity imaginable planned every day.

We are proud to be one of over 300 inlingua language centers across the world, and contribute to the growing network of 35 countries for over 45 years. Students love being here just because everyone is passionate about what they do. So why not make the connection now? Come by for a visit and we'd be happy to show you around! Go orange — go inlingua Victoria! ■

Stewart College: *Learn English where you feel at home*

IN JULY OF 2016, JUAN PABLO PREPARED to return home to San Jose, Mexico. The 15-year-old student had been away from home for nearly six months to study at Stewart College. After succeeding in his IELTS exam, he said goodbye to his classmates, and a school that felt like home. Staff greeted him every morning by name, ate lunch with him, and provided guidance after school. They encouraged him in his music studies and after class he trained as a violinist at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Juan Pablo came to learn English, but in the end thanked everyone for “an amazing journey and experience.”

Stewart College is an intimate, locally owned and operated language school in downtown Victoria. Their staff emphasize that students learn best when they are in a strong community, and familial atmosphere. They keep strong relationships, of course learning student names, but they also know who they are as individuals.

Operating since 2001, Stewart College provides a community-based approach to English acquisition that goes beyond classroom education. For Juan Pablo, those goals were to improve his IELTS score and grow as a musician. Other students tend to find their path after they arrive.

Miyu, from Ibaraki, Japan came to Victoria in the spring under a working holiday visa. Her English speaking ability was limited, so she decided to enroll in Stewart College's new Global Citizen Certificate program. The program focuses on real-world application. Students study English in the mornings, followed by an active language class in the afternoon, as well as learning about fundraising, charities, volunteering and community building. Miyu was able to volunteer with local Canadians at community organizations like Disaster Aid Canada, The Glenshiel, and the Fairfield Community Centre.

How did this help Miyu? Her speaking ability drastically improved, and she landed a part-time job immediately after completing three months of study. Even more importantly, Miyu still continues to



volunteer in the community, spending time at a senior's home and volunteering at the James Bay Market. College Director, Kristina Stewart loves this aspect of the program saying “Students get a chance to volunteer with Canadians and learn valuable job skills, but the aim is also geared to light a fire in the belly of these students to give back to their communities.”

Stewart College continues to provide strong learning support to students like Juan Pablo, and Miyu, while the staff provide a catered experience that inspires and transforms lives. Students can start their journey by registering at www.stewartcollege.com, or by email at registrar@stewartcollege.com.

Kevin Baer from Switzerland: “My time at Stewart College was great. I like the familiar atmosphere and the fact that there is a very good social cohesion among students and employees from the school. I'm very thankful for the interesting and unforgettable time.”

Student blog: <http://stewartcollege.com/index.php/en/blogs/entry/canada-s-great-impact-on-nature> ■



"I'm so happy to be studying English at inlingua Victoria. Come experience this amazing place!"

- Nayanne, *Brazil*

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It is at CityStudio Victoria.

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WHERE LEARNING MEETS LIVING.