find your on-campus community
WITH ABORIGINAL STUDENT AFFAIRS
welcome to UBC. UBC’s Vancouver campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the hən’q̓əmin̓əm’ speaking xʷməθkʷəy’əm (Musqueam) Peoples. This land has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this territory since time immemorial.

We would like to thank Tahltan-Tlingit artist Linda Bob for allowing us to use her beaded flower design as our logo. She is a member of the wolf clan and has been beading for over twenty years.

Aboriginal Student Affairs (ASA) in the Faculty of Arts supports the success of new and continuing First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students.

We are here to provide you with academic and cultural support to help you meet your educational and personal goals at UBC.

Our team works out of the Arts Academic Advising office.

Buchanan D 112
Monday to Friday
9am - 4pm
arts.aboriginal@ubc.ca
604 827 5467

We would like to thank Tahltan-Tlingit artist Linda Bob for allowing us to use her beaded flower design as our logo. She is a member of the wolf clan and has been beading for over twenty years.
we are here to help! Your success at UBC is important to us. Aboriginal Student Affairs is an Arts Academic Advising team dedicated specifically to Aboriginal students, we encourage you to contact us with any questions you may have. We are here to help with:

Course-planning → Deciding which courses to take can be challenging, but we’re here to help you achieve your goals and discover new opportunities.

Degree requirements → The Faculty of Arts has specific requirements you need to complete in order to graduate; ask us about how to fulfill them.

Registration → Course registration is done on the Student Services Centre and we can help with building a worklist and ensuring that you register on time.

Academic Concession → If something unexpected happens and it impacts your studies, we’re here to help you with your options.

Graduation checks → It’s important to keep in touch with ASA to discuss graduation requirements, applications, and planning for the future.

Finding your on-campus community → Establishing a sense of community on campus is important to your success at UBC, contact ASA for more information on community building.

At ASA, we encourage you to push your boundaries and to learn more about resources and opportunities outside of the classroom. There are many internships, tutoring programs, peer resources, and cultural activities and events right at your fingertips.
who are we? Our team is made up of Arts Academic Advisors and Peer Student Advisors. There are two ASA Academic Advisors who are available year-round, and there are one or two student peers who work with the team over the Summer and Winter Sessions.

Hi there! My name is Karlene Harvey and I’m an Arts Academic Advisor. I’m here to offer any cultural and academic support you may need. I’m of First Nations descent from the Tsilhqot’in, Okanagan Carrier, and Kootenay nations and I graduated from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design with a BFA in Visual Arts.

Hi! My name is Myia Antone and I’m a 4th year Environment and Sustainability major in Geography. I’m one of the ASA Peer Advisors and a member of the Squamish Nation. Contact me if you’d like to chat about academic deadlines, general degree info, campus resources, community outreach, and student life.

Hello everyone! My name is Magdalena Moore and I’m an Associate Academic Advisor. I’m always available to help with academic planning and graduation, or whatever support you may need. I hold an MA in History from UBC, and also attended SFU, Concordia, and Capilano University.

Hi! My name is Magdalena Moore and I’m an Arts Academic Advisor. I’m here to offer any cultural and academic support you may need. I’m of First Nations descent from the Tsilhqot’in, Okanagan Carrier, and Kootenay nations and I graduated from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design with a BFA in Visual Arts.
ASA works closely with various programs across campus to ensure your success at UBC. We’ve compiled a list of the resources we think you’ll find useful. Have a look and if you’re still unsure of who to contact, please get in touch with ASA.

Need help with Admissions?
Contact Celia Reimer, Aboriginal Students Admissions Advisor:

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celia.reimer@ubc.ca
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Curious about financial planning, awards, textbooks sponsorship, tuition or funding?
If you’re a current student at UBC, please contact your assigned Enrolment Services Professional (ESP). In your Student Service Center click Personal Info ▶ Contact Summary ▶ UBC Contacts to find your assigned ESP. Or visit:

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students.ubc.ca/about/enrolment-services-professionals-esp
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Have questions about being sponsored by your Band, the government, or another third party?
Contact Sponsorship Billing:

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ubc.sponsorship@ubc.ca
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Want to learn more about the Longhouse and the First Nations House of Learning (FNHL)?
Contact the First Nations House of Learning:

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Interested in living in residence or finding housing at UBC?
Contact UBC’s housing department or Natalie Tole:

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vancouver.housing@ubc.ca
information@housing.ubc.ca
natalie.tole@ubc.ca
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Looking for help planning for your future career?
Contact Kimberly Rawes for Career Planning:

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kimberley.rawes@ubc.ca
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Looking for support for a disability or ongoing health concern?
Contact Kuan Foo at Access and Diversity:

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access.diversity@ubc.ca
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Interested in living in residence or finding housing at UBC?
Lucy is Kwakwaka’wakw, Métis, and European. She is a member of the Gwa’sala-’Nakwaxda’xw Nations, located on Northern Vancouver Island. She’s a role model to students as the current President of the First Nations & Indigenous Studies Student Association (FNISSA) and a former Commissioner for Aboriginal Students through the AMS.

What program/specialization are you studying at UBC and how did you come to choose it?

I’m passionate about traditional food and medicine revitalization and healing through reconnection to the land. I originally came to UBC with the intent of working towards my Dietetics degree. However, I took a couple First Nations and Indigenous Studies courses and realized that the course content aligned with my passions. I feel like the courses, professors, and fellow students in the program really contribute to preparing us for the important work we are doing to heal and rebuild our Indigenous communities.

Where on campus is ‘home’ for you?

I probably spend most of my time at the First Nations House of Learning (FNHL); I definitely feel at home there. I always run into friends there and the smell of cedar is comforting to me because it reminds me of being in a ceremonial big house.

Do you have any advice for Aboriginal Students at UBC?

Stay connected to what’s going on among the Aboriginal communities on campus. Join the Talking Stick Newsletter and attend the lunches and events at the FNHL. This is how you’ll meet some really wonderful people... I’d also recommend that new students check out and join student clubs. Finally, it’s important to look after your well-being. If it ever gets too overwhelming or you need someone to talk to, Counselling Services on campus is a wonderful resource.

Do you want to talk to someone about it? Wellness Advisors and UBC Counselling supports students’ wellbeing in a confidential and respectful environment. When you call to make an appointment, you can request to see a counsellor either at Brock Hall or the Longhouse.
Community can be found in many environments, spaces, and people in your life. Your community is probably made up of a number of different people: family, Elders, friends, leaders, mentors, peers, teachers, and many more.

As you transition to UBC, it is important to build a community so that you can thrive on campus. Every student has a different way of finding people that become a part of their academic paths and their everyday lives.
Siera Stonechild is Plains Cree and is from Alberta. She is a third-year student majoring in Honours History.

“I am Plains Cree, so I am not familiar with Indigenous west coast culture. It took a little bit of adjusting to the Longhouse on campus, as the practices and traditions are not the same as in my community back home. However, there is still the community around food, and humour, so I was happy that I came here! I have experienced some cultural insensitivity, once in a course, but after speaking with the Aboriginal advisor about the issue it was quickly resolved in a way that gave me closure. All in all, going to university is going to be a transition, no matter your background. I recommend coming to UBC because of the ample support for Indigenous students from First Nations support services, the student body, the faculty, and everyone in between.”

With the academic stress of being a university student, it is so important to explore the campus and people outside of your classes and to really make the most of your time here.

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finding your community

Your happiness and feeling connected to your culture while you’re away at school is important to us. We encourage you to explore a variety of Aboriginal-specific events, opportunities, and resources that can help you find your community on campus.

Need more information?

Contact the ASA Peer Advisors here: students.arts.ubc.ca/aboriginal/contact-list

Community resources: students.arts.ubc.ca/aboriginal/community
What program/specialization are you studying at UBC and how did you come to choose it?

I am currently undertaking a double major in Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice (GRSJ), as well as First Nations Indigenous Studies (FNIS). I chose these two subjects because as I mature as a student, I am realizing my strong desire to advocate for not only my Indigenous community but also other communities around the world. My goal is to bring intergenerational social issues to light in hopes of healing all Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Do you have any advice for Aboriginal Students at UBC?

I would encourage any current and future Aboriginal students to take advantage of our First Nations Endangered Languages (FNEL) and FNIS classes. I found these classes in my first year of university, and they helped me understand myself, and where I come from, a lot more. Furthermore, understanding the teachings in those classrooms also gave me insight and allowed my vision to grow beyond the classroom, so I can return to my community with solutions.

Where on campus is ‘home’ for you?

I think Wreck Beach and the First Nations House of Learning are home for me. Wreck Beach reminds me of my home on Haida Gwaii and this setting allows me to relax and take a breather from school and other worries. The First Nations House of Learning is home for me because I am surrounded by people who love seeing me grow as a person just like my family on Haida Gwaii does.

Not sure what to major or minor in?

Book an appointment with an Academic Advisor from the Aboriginal Student Affairs team. We can work together to find a specialization that is a good fit for you and we can also discuss other opportunities you can take advantage of as a student at UBC.

arts.aboriginal@ubc.ca
Jared is of Métis descent and is a third-year student at UBC pursuing a major specialization in Anthropology. This past Winter Session, Jared did a walk-on tryout for UBC’s Varsity Men’s Hockey team and made it onto the team as one of their new goalies.

What are you studying at UBC and how did you choose it?

I am currently an Anthropology major, with future aspirations to attend law school. I chose Anthropology because I am fascinated by the subject and it often intersects with First Nations studies, something that I am very passionate about.

Where on campus is ‘home’ for you?

It was a major transition for me… initially, I found balancing athletics and academics to be daunting, however, time management allowed me to make a successful transition. Once I organized a schedule and spoke with our fantastic academic advisors I was able to make a schedule that worked both with my academic and educational goals and have not seen any decline in my academics since becoming a varsity hockey player. UBC athletics is an amazing experience for any individual who has the opportunity and can entirely enhance your university experience!

What was it like transitioning to life at UBC as an Aboriginal student?

My transition to UBC was extremely smooth. After 2 years at Douglas College, the Aboriginal Academic Advising made it easy for me to get accustomed to UBC. While making the move from a college to a large university like UBC may seem challenging, taking advantage of the resources the ASA has to offer will make the transition much easier for new students.

Meet Jared

Want the full story?

All of the student stories are shortened for length. If you wish to read the whole interview and learn about other students, visit:

students.arts.ubc.ca/aboriginal/student-stories/asa-student-interviews
We asked current Aboriginal students and recent alumni what kind of advice they would give to their fellow students in their undergraduate Arts program. Remember to reach out to your fellow student community on campus to ask for their insight, recommendations, and any tips that they may have. You might learn something new or useful for the future!

**ask questions**  It’s important to ask questions. Funding, tuition, classes, cultural practices, and health and wellness are all common concerns—so don’t be afraid to reach out if you have any questions.

**map out your classes**  Worklist on the SSC will show you the locations of your classes. Use the map to make sure your classes are close enough to get to or you might have to run to the other side of campus every day.

**get a meal plan**  Get a meal plan if you can. It will save so much time and leave you free to spend your energy on your studies.

**be involved**  Getting involved with a student club can be one of the best actions you take in your first year at UBC.

**establish networks**  Learn and work to establish your support networks at school as soon as possible. It will help you alleviate your stress throughout your time at UBC, and you will feel confident and be given the support you need to believe you can achieve anything.

**know your limits**  You might be pressured to get involved in many things, but if your studies and friendships are all you can manage, don’t be ashamed. It’s perfectly fine to take three or four courses per semester if that’s what you need to do.

**get outside**  Vancouver is beautiful. Get outside as much as possible, try to get comfortable being by yourself, and give yourself time away from your phone or other electronic devices.

**have fun**  Don’t forget to have fun. Getting together with friends and talking about classes or sharing your thoughts and frustrations is really helpful for managing stress.

**don’t be shy**  Come by the Longhouse to study, and especially for the Tuesday lunches to enjoy good food and even better company.
There are many exam periods and a lot of time to keep growing. Do what you need to do to learn while keeping yourself happy and healthy! Finding ways to support both yourself and your classmates is particularly important- whether it’s through organizing a productive group study session or editing drafts for your term papers.

The best advice I could give would be to make a connection to a place on campus. The Longhouse was my go-to place. It was really the perfect place to be during exams. Whenever you feel like you’re faced with an impossible challenge remind yourself of where you come from. For a lot of Indigenous students, we are the result of our ancestors’ resolve to continue moving forward despite the odds against us.

Allow yourself some “me time.” For myself, this was often enjoying socializing with friends. Making friends and connecting with people in your program/club is such a great way to decompress.
get to know us

students.arts.ubc.ca/aboriginal
Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm

connect with us

facebook.com/AboriginalStudentAffairs
instagram.com/asaubc