

## **Vancouver Island University (VIU) Profile**

This section provides some basic facts about Vancouver Island University.

### **1. Substantial Changes in Leadership and Direction**

No substantial changes in leadership or direction has occurred in the last three years. VIU will continue to focus on serving the diverse educational and training needs of the region and continue to offer and expand vocational, trades, and developmental programs, increase opportunities for Aboriginal students, and enhance both undergraduate and graduate programming. The designation will also provide the opportunity to assess and respond to the changing social and economic agenda on Vancouver Island and in Powell River.

### **2. Mission Statement**

Vancouver Island University is a dynamic and diverse educational organization, dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning, service and research. We foster student success, strong community connections and international collaboration by providing access to a wide range of university and college programs designed for regional, national and international students. Approved as amended by the Vancouver Island University Board of Governors September 28, 2006

### **3. Institutional Support Areas**

A comprehensive list of educational support is available at:

<http://www.viu.ca/calendar/GeneralInformation/services&facilities.asp>

#### **Facilities and Resources**

The Forest Resources Technology Program has two dedicated lecture/lab rooms. One of these classrooms is equipped with fixed lab desks that provide equipment storage for microscopes, stereoscopes and other equipment. This lab is also equipped with sinks for use in soils courses and other applications requiring running water.

Both rooms have data projectors and screens with dedicated computers to allow use of video and computer applications. Classrooms are also equipped with Epson “smart projectors”. Specialized A/V equipment such as a video camera for microscope projection is available on loan from other departments in the building or from Instructional Media Services in the library.

Both classrooms connect to a “prep” room that is used for equipment and materials storage and lab materials preparation. A cold room (walk-in cooler) is located in the prep room to provide cold storage for fresh botanical specimens, dendrology samples, tree seedlings and other perishable items.

## **Computer Labs**

Forestry has a dedicated computer lab (for exclusive use of Forestry students) with 8 computers equipped with Microsoft Office, ArcGIS®, RoadEng® and access to the Internet. This lab is used for individual as well as group work and is also equipped with a high-speed laser printer.

Vancouver Island University has a fully equipped GIS computer lab that is utilized for class labs in both FRST 282 (Information Technology) and FRST 328 (GIS for Natural Sciences).

## **Outdoor Labs**

The Forestry Department manages a 1700-hectare woodlot. The Woodlot License is held by Vancouver Island University under tenure from the BC Ministry of Forests and is situated only 10 to 15 minutes travel time from campus. With the mild coastal climate of Nanaimo and its close proximity to our classrooms, this woodlot is used extensively for outdoor labs throughout the year for a variety of courses and a wide variety of instructional objectives. Two Forest Resources Technology faculty members are assigned half-time workloads to manage this woodlot for the benefit of Vancouver Island University. The majority of the Woodlot is classified as CWHxm biogeoclimatic subzone and provides a wide variety of plant and tree species, soils and terrain making the woodlot an unparalleled teaching/learning facility for our Forest Technology program.

Other benefits of managing our woodlot include income opportunities for our students fund raising activities for international travel through silviculture contract work, these work opportunities also provide students with “forest worker” experience that they would otherwise not receive as part of their education. The woodlot also provides several bursaries to our Forestry students each year.

Other field locations commonly utilized for outdoor labs and exercises include:

- Greater Victoria Watershed
- Mount Arrowsmith
- Biggs Park, Duke Point
- Colliery Dam Park
- Bowen Park

## **Equipment**

Students are responsible to purchase a compass and a GPS-enabled iPad. The Forestry Department supplies the following field equipment:

compasses	Eslon tapes	loggers tapes
nylon chains	clinometers	scale sticks
altimeters	prisms	Speigel relascopes
Increment borers	Brush saws	Chain saws
Planting shovels	Fire shovels	Fire pumps & hoses & fittings

### Specialized equipment

Hypsometers	
Laser Rangefinder	Mirror stereoscopes
Microscopes	Handheld GPS units

Other specialized pieces of equipment such as electronic scales are borrowed from other departments in our building as required.

## **Transportation**

A 4x4 six-passenger truck is dedicated to the Woodlot. In addition Vancouver Island University owns several 15-passenger vans and three 24-passenger buses that are utilized by the Forestry Department. Additional 15-passenger vans are rented as required.

## **Library Facilities and Resources**

The Vancouver Island University Library consists of the main Library, centrally located on the Nanaimo Campus, and branch libraries at the Cowichan and Powell River Campuses. The Access to the collection catalogue is provided via a web-based search engine. Fax and electronic transmissions and courier services facilitate inter-campus and interlibrary borrowing.

Borrowing privileges are also extended to all non-student residents of the University-College region, for a fee. The library also houses the Instructional Media Services Department that provides audio-visual equipment and a broad range of technical services and media development to faculty and staff.

## **Community Resources**

We are fortunate to be located in a community that is very heavily oriented to the Forest sector. Nanaimo is home to numerous government agencies, forest products companies and forestry-consulting firms. Many of these agencies and companies have traditionally supplied our program with subject matter experts as guest speakers on a wide variety of topics that enhance both the breadth and depth of topics we include in the program.

Within 90 minutes travel time, Victoria has the headquarters offices for all of the Provincial Ministries as well as the Canadian Forestry Service, all of whom have been very generous in the past by providing their expertise to our program on a wide variety of topics in the form of materials as well as subject matter experts as guest speakers.

## **Graduate Placement**

Student employment is managed within the forestry program through direct communication with the local employers. Jobs are posted directly in the forestry classrooms. There is a student placement office on campus however employers have generally contacted the forestry department directly. (<https://career.viu.ca/home.htm>)

- Forest Companies - such as Island Timber, Interfor, TimberWest, BC Hydro
- Forestry Consultants - Forsite Consultants, Azimuth Consulting, Strategic Forest Management, Strategic Forest Management,
- Provincial Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, BC Timber Sales

## **4. Policy on Recruiting Faculty**

See attached .pdf file titled: PROCEDURAL GUIDE FOR FACULTY SELECTION COMMITTEES

## **5. Admission Requirements** (<http://www.viu.ca/calendar/Technology/forestresources.asp>)

Policies regarding student admissions, grading and graduations are covered in this section. Relevant URL's are provided.

### **Admission Requirements**

- General admission requirements apply.
- English 12 with minimum “C” grade, or equivalent.
- Principles of Math 11 or Applications of Math 11 with minimum “C+” grade, or equivalent.
- One science 11 with minimum “C+” grade. (Forestry 11 satisfies this requirement.)

### **Recommendations for Admission**

- Forestry 11 and 12, and Biology 11.
- Physically fit for work in the woods.
- Previous forestry-related employment to assess personal suitability for this career field is an asset.

### **Notes on Admission**

- Applicants lacking admission requirements may take upgrading courses. Please check with an Advisor for details.
- Students must obtain Occupational Level I (First Aid) certification prior to graduation.
- Enrolment in this program is limited. Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.

## **6. Professional Development Policy**

See section 12.3 Professional Development in the attached collective agreement.