

OUR PLAN
in **ACTION**

2022



Actions Speakers Louder

UBC
STUDENT
STRATEGIC
PLAN

LAND

Acknowledgement

With gratitude, we respectfully acknowledge that the UBC Vancouver's Point Grey campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the $\chi\omega\mu\theta\kappa\omega\acute{\gamma}\alpha\mu$ (Musqueam), and UBC operations in Vancouver more generally also take place on the territories of the $S\kappa\omega\chi\omega\acute{\gamma}\mu\eta\eta$ (Squamish) and $s\acute{a}lil\omega\tau\alpha\eta\eta$ (Tsleil-Waututh).

We respectfully acknowledge the Syilx Okanagan Nation and their peoples, on whose traditional, ancestral, unceded territory UBC Okanagan is situated.

We acknowledge that UBC's activities take place on Indigenous lands throughout British Columbia and beyond.



OUR PLAN *in* ACTION



The Student Strategic Plan represents our commitment to foster an unparalleled student experience. It guides our efforts to ensure that every student at UBC has access and thrives in all aspects of their lives at university and beyond.

Our vision includes launching diverse programs, empowering students, and inspiring the best from our faculty, staff, alumni, and partners. Our Plan in Action captures the impact and potential of the Student Strategic Plan.

The Student Strategic Plan has positively impacted our communities on and off campus through programs, supports, and services that prioritize student wellbeing, connect students across campuses and communities, and provide an exceptional student experience for all.

The initiatives featured in this report are the product of more than two years of consultation with students and national data on student interests. The result is a commitment to inspiring people, ideas, and actions for a better world, through:

Transformative Learning Reinforced Through Engagement, Connections Within and Across Campuses and Communities, and Wellbeing for People, Places and the Planet.

Our Plan in Action celebrates the impact of our collective actions over the last two years (2020–2022). It is a snapshot of the ongoing work in advancing the student experience. Though this report features a selection of initiatives that have positively impacted students and the UBC community, there are many more examples that were not included.

“Students are the heartbeat of UBC. In the classrooms, labs, and in the field, students are at the centre of this great university. The Student Strategic Plan is a roadmap for harnessing their energy and producing a world-class co-curricular experience.”

AINSLEY CARRY, VICE-PRESIDENT, STUDENTS

Our commitment:

**TRANSFORMATIVE
LEARNING** *Reinforced
Through* **ENGAGEMENT**



EXPANDED & ENHANCED CAREER SUPPORT

Enhancing access to career supports and resources at every point in the educational journey.

Students attend university to determine their career interests and build competencies to become productive members of society, but making your way into the world and finding the right career fit can be challenging. Expanded and enhanced career supports provide students with opportunities and guidance at every step of their academic journey. Providing accessible and innovative career development services is crucial for student success, academic retention, and overall student experience.

These programs reduce barriers for all students while increasing access to career-building opportunities. Our career development team will continue to expand its reach and endeavour to improve its impact to students of any year and education level.

“My experience at UBC has been positive, and I feel this position is a big part of that. It’s given me a window into what it’s like to be a researcher, how respectful community engagement takes place, and what it looks like. It’s been a transformative experience because I’ve been involved in fields of study and spaces that are new to me.”

SAM GRINNELL, YEAR 4, BA ENGLISH & CULTURAL STUDIES

THE DIFFERENCE *we’re making*

Students will have access to resources including interest inventories, resume writing support, mock interviewing, career research, networking, and internships.

Students will have greater access to virtual and in-person career events, workplace learning, and internships.

Students will experience increased access to career development specialists and peer-supported outreach.

Highlights of activities and initiatives that support the Transformative Learning Reinforced Through Local and Global Engagement Commitment

- Emerge Career Week: career supports and workshops for BIPOC students (UBC Okanagan)
- Expanded grant programs to support community-engaged learning for international students (UBC Vancouver)
- LinkedIn Learning Pilot (UBC Vancouver)
- Advancing culturally supportive services and programs for Indigenous students through the new Indigenous pathways initiative (UBC Okanagan):
 - + The Indigenous Pathways to Graduate Studies Program prepares indigenous students to explore graduate studies in a supportive, holistic environment.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN RECOVERY & HARM REDUCTION



“As British Columbia continues to grapple with the toxic drug supply and record-setting drug poisoning deaths, the Harm Reduction Team (HaRT) has challenged common university approaches and assumptions. These innovations are creating exceptional real-world learning experiences for student workers as well as employees, and saving lives.”

MELISSA FEDDERSEN, MANAGER,
CAMPUS WELLNESS & EDUCATION

Decreasing substance abuse stigma, improving access to support, and advocating for person-centred policies.

Providing support services for students' wellbeing is important. Two initiatives to address this need are Supporting Students in Recovery (UBC Vancouver), and Harm Reduction on Campus - UBC Okanagan's Harm Reduction Team (HaRT) Initiatives.

The Student Recovery Community (SRC) at UBC Vancouver is a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space for students in recovery to receive support and those wanting to explore their relationship with substances in a safe space. Students with lived experience lead this initiative to support their peers on their chosen recovery path.

At UBC Okanagan, the Harm Reduction Team (HaRT) initiative works to develop resources, deliver harm reduction services, and collaborate with stakeholders through the lenses of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Students in recovery are a marginalized group that experiences stigma, social exclusion, and isolation. Services that provide safe spaces for recovery, exploration, and inclusion change the world for young people everywhere.

THE DIFFERENCE *we're making*

SRC continues to provide students with outreach, mentorship, and ongoing support meetings.

HaRT provides support through educational efforts, sterile supplies, drug-checking techniques, and collaboration with the community to remove barriers to accessing services.

Highlights of related activities and initiatives that support the Wellbeing for People, Places and the Planet Commitment

- Move UBC: Moving for our minds, bodies and the planet (UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan)
- Creating a culture of care to support student health and wellbeing (UBC Vancouver)
 - + IBPOC Wellness Mentors pilot program
 - + Embedded Counselling in academic faculties
 - + Culturally safe and appropriate care for Indigenous students through a newly created Associate Director, Indigenous Mental Health and Wellness role
 - + Counsellors in Residence
- All Access Dining: Sustainability and Food Security (UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan)
- Launch of UBC Meal Share Pilot (UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan)

Our commitment:
WELLBEING for
PEOPLE, PLACES
& **THE PLANET**

Beyond Tomorrow Scholars.





“It is inspiring to witness the unwavering hard work, determination and talent of the first cohort of Beyond Tomorrow Scholars and the long-term impact that the program aims to make in creating joy, belonging, and community with and for all UBC Black students.”

ROHENE BOUJRAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
STRATEGIC INDIGENOUS, BLACK AND PEOPLE OF
COLOUR (IBPOC) INITIATIVES

Supporting Black Canadian students to reach their full potential by reducing barriers and improving access to higher education

In September 2021, the Beyond Tomorrow Scholars Program (BTSP) launched across both campuses with a commitment to increasing accessibility and student diversity while addressing systemic racism and taking active steps toward building a better community for all students. UBC recognized the critical need to collectively change the narrative and improve outcomes for Black students by working to remove barriers. Accessible education is a human right that provides opportunities, enriched experiences, and the skills needed for personal, social, and academic development.

The first cohort of 13 scholars joined UBC in 2021. Supporting these students sends a message that their future is theirs to create and empowers them to better the world.

Making higher education accessible for all makes a difference across the world. The Beyond Tomorrow Scholarship Program supports Black Canadians in their journey at UBC.

THE DIFFERENCE *we're making*

BTSP provided students with support focused on leadership, academics, career, finances, and health and wellbeing strategies.

BTSP established a connection with the UBC Black Caucus and the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, offering the first Black Student Orientation to both campuses.

88 students attended the first Black Student Orientation and 86% of attendees reported feeling a sense of community and belonging afterwards.

BTSP received 111 applications for Fall 2022 admission through several outreach initiatives to prospective Black students, parents, community organizations, and counsellors.

BTSP established a partnership with the Black Opportunity Fund (BOF), which led to donor gifts and shared promotion of the program.

Highlights of activities and initiatives that support the Wellbeing for People, Places and the Planet Commitment

- Launch of the Anti-Racism Initiatives Fund (UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan)
- Launch of the Experience Access Excellence fund, and Intercultural Excellence Fund (UBC Okanagan)
- Access to Post-Graduation Work Permits for international students: new procedures to remove immigration-related barriers and ensure equitable access (UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan)



INTERCULTURAL SPORT SERIES

Connecting students across campuses and communities through a love of sports.

The Intercultural Sport program is a series of cultural sport events that welcome domestic and international students to participate in and learn about intercultural sports. Connecting UBC Okanagan students with their peers in other communities, the series is a collaboration between UBC Recreation, Indigenous Programs and Services, and the Global Engagement Office, together with UBCSUO clubs, and community partners.

“The Sports from Home event showcased how different cultures stay active, yet, the core of the activities remains the same – having fun and building connections.”

CINDY SHA, KINESIOLOGY MAJOR & KUS BIPOC COMMITTEE MEMBER

Sports from home took place on the UBC Vancouver campus, and was a collaboration between UBC Recreation, the Kinesiology Undergrad Society BIPOC Committee, the Kinesiology Health & Wellness Committee, and Indigenous Graduate Initiatives.

Celebrating culture through sport empowers students to pursue cultural education in all areas while enriching their overall wellbeing.

Our commitment:

CONNECTION WITHIN & ACROSS CAMPUSES & CAMPUS COMMUNITIES

“The first year of implementing the Intercultural Sport Series was a huge success that we only hope to grow in partnerships and engagement in future years. This initiative was made possible through collaboration and forming strong relationships across many units and student groups.”

CRYSTAL WESTGATE, RECREATIONAL MANAGER, AVP STUDENTS AND ATHLETICS & RECREATION, UBC OKANAGAN

THE DIFFERENCE we're making

Participating students had diverse cultural experiences through engaging in various sporting events, Indigenous games, and cultural dances.

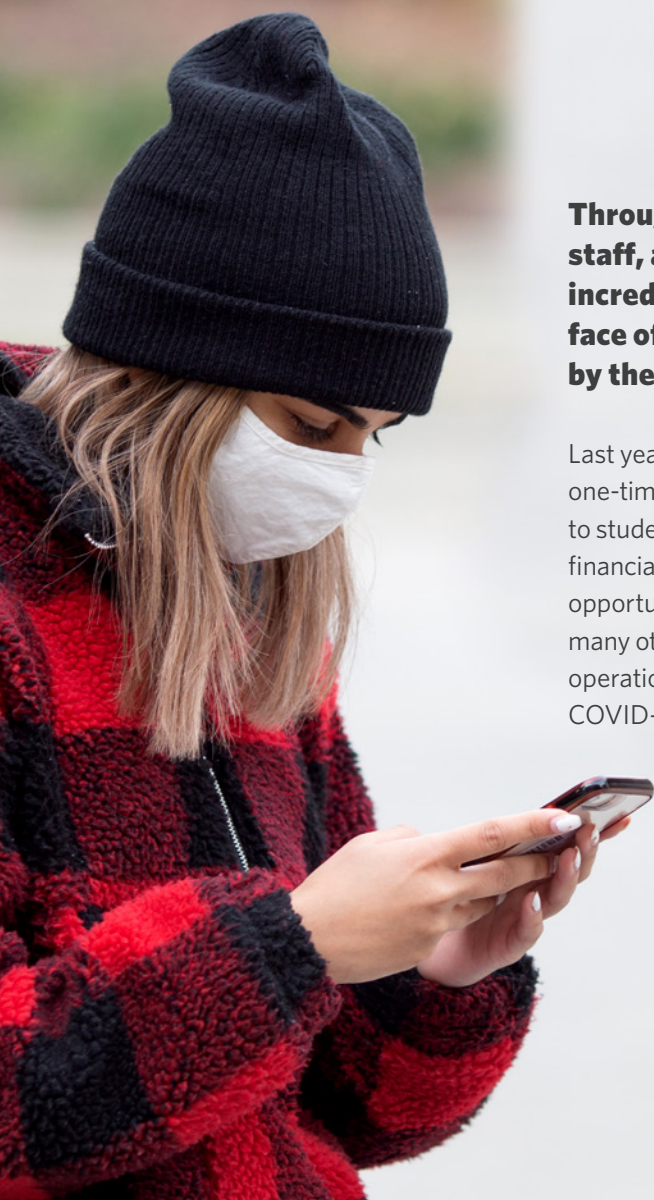
The Intercultural Sport Series provided students with social connection, improved wellbeing, and an opportunity to celebrate culture.

Highlights of related activities and initiatives that support the Connections Within and Across Campuses and Communities Commitment

- Expansion of multi-faith spaces and support for students (UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan)
- Student Connect Program — peer-to-peer supports in navigating programs and services (UBC Okanagan)
- Student affordability report and recommendations (UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan)
- Increasing access to varsity events through free student admission to UBC Thunderbirds and UBC Okanagan Heat (UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan)
- Off-campus housing support services (UBC Okanagan)

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

THROUGH COVID 19



Throughout 2021, students, staff, and faculty showed incredible adaptability in the face of challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year saw the University commit one-time funding of \$18 million to student supports, providing financial assistance, hybrid learning opportunities, and support for many other services, programs and operational shifts necessary due to COVID-19.

Highlights of the VP/AVP Students' actions and initiatives in support of students through COVID-19 (across both campuses)

- Programs and services pivoted to hybrid (in-person and on-line) offerings
- Expansion of the Student Assistance Program
- Student health and wellbeing supports expanded to include virtual and in-person offerings
- Support program for international students navigating life and learning through the pandemic
- Rapid screening campaigns
- COVID self-isolation supports
 - + On-campus housing and meal programs
 - + Off-Campus self-isolation through the Global Engagement Office Ambassador Program
 - + Student Ambassador Program
- Supporting students' transition and return to campus

LOOKING *AHEAD*

Our goal with the Student Strategic Plan is to provide students at UBC with an environment where they can develop in meaningful ways, access all that UBC has to offer, and build competencies that enable them to enrich the world. As we forge ahead, we will be agile to evolving student needs and favour steady progress over quick fixes.

This year, we will continue to adhere to the commitments outlined in The Student Strategic Plan, with a focus this year on equity, diversity, inclusion, affordability, health and wellbeing, first year experience, accessibility, and career development for students.

Our staff and campus partners are committed to ensuring that all students continue to have access to an unparalleled experience—this is what we strive to achieve, and our students should expect nothing less.

For more information and next steps in our work, connect with us: studentplan.ubc.ca

“Students choose UBC because of our outstanding academic programs and unparalleled student experience. From the classrooms to campus life, living and learning at UBC is an incredible journey. The Student Strategic Plan places all students at the centre of our work and provides a blueprint for an exciting path forward.”

DALE MULLINGS, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT STUDENTS
UBC OKANAGAN





Action People

Actions Speak Louder



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vice President Students
Associate Vice President Students

studentplan.ubc.ca