

MEDIA RELEASE

**November 3, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MR15-077**

Start Here, Grad There: NIC and UVic Strengthen Partnership

NIC’s university admission partnership with UVic is growing again. Since 2010, more than 150 North Island students have started their degrees with one of Canada’s top ranked universities through NIC, thanks to innovative admission agreements between the two Vancouver Island post-secondary institutions.

The first NIC-UVic university admission partnership agreements were signed five years ago this month. Since 2010, North Island students have saved more than \$300,000 in tuition and rent by securing their seats at UVic while studying at NIC.

On October 30, NIC and UVic strengthened the agreements to include fine arts degree pathways in addition to existing arts and science degrees. To celebrate, NIC treated UVic-bound students to a special lunch with Catherine Mateer, UVic’s Associate Vice President Academic Planning, and Patricia Marck, UVic’s Dean of Human and Social Development.

“Our partnership with UVic ensures North Island students have access to university from their home communities,” said Lisa Domae, NIC’s Vice President of Learning and Students. “The success and popularity of these agreements demonstrate the need for more accessible degree pathways from the North Island. We’re very proud to renew our commitment to students and add fine arts to the agreements today.”



UVic Associate Vice President Academic Planning Catherine Mateer and NIC Vice President of Learning and Students Lisa Domae sign an agreement that guarantees UVic admission to North Island arts, science, engineering, and fine arts students while they study at NIC.

UVic is a national and international leader in post-secondary education and an institution of choice for students from around the globe. In 2013, the Times Higher Education World University Rankings placed UVic first in Canada and number 20 globally among universities less than 50 years old.

“NIC students are well-prepared to succeed when they arrive at UVic,” said Mateer. “They know what they want to study and have the confidence to do well. It’s our pleasure to work together to put more university degrees within reach of North Island students.”

Margaret Lyster is taking first-year arts and science courses at NIC this year.

“Starting at NIC is allowing me to live at home and work toward my goals at a manageable pace while saving money,” she said. “The support I’ve received has been amazing.”

Under the agreements, students save up to \$10,000 a year on tuition and rent and qualify for scholarships from both institutions while studying at NIC. Students also have time to adapt to post-secondary workloads before moving to Victoria, while the institutions collaborate to ease their application and course transfer process.

“NIC smoothed my transition from high school to university,” said Max Watamaniuk, a science student who received a \$16,000 scholarship from UVic in 2014. “I didn’t have to worry about finding housing or living by myself on top of attending UVic in my first year.”

NIC students learn in small, discussion friendly class sizes where they get to know their instructors and course material well.

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The agreements are available to students just graduating from high school and existing NIC students. High school students apply to NIC starting in October and are admitted based on their grades before graduation. College students guarantee their seat in competitive UVic programs with a C average in eight or more NIC courses.

For more information on NIC's partnership agreements with universities across BC, visit www.nic.bc.ca/university, or talk to an educational advisor by calling 1-800-715-0914.

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