



FUTURE STUDENT GUIDE

2026/27

ACADEMIC YEAR

Ģēlakasla

Liq'wala

čechathεč

Ayajuthem

The above words mean ‘welcome’ in the four languages of the Nuw-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka’wakw, Liḡw̓iḡdaḡw̓ and Coast Salish peoples.





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Using this guide

Look for these symbols to help you navigate our diverse learning opportunities.

 Indigenous-led culture, language and learning

 Study abroad opportunities

 Work-integrated learning options

 Career possibilities and pathways

WHERE YOU LEARN MATTERS



Your journey, your way

Flexible program pathways allow you to build an education plan that suits your needs.



Four unique locations

Studying at NIC means being surrounded by vibrant cities, towns and villages, sprawling beaches, beautiful provincial parks and all the adventure you could ask for.



Priority admission for Indigenous students

Students with Indigenous ancestry may be eligible for a priority seat in many NIC programs.



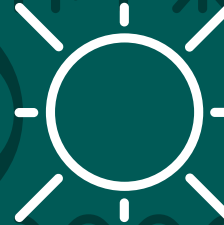
Your journey can be affordable

Over \$750K in awards and bursaries are available.



Make connections inside and outside the classroom

Our average class size of 18 students means more opportunities to collaborate.



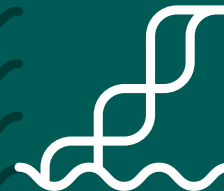
Engaged instructors

Industry-connected faculty who care about your future.



We'll meet you where you're at

Our student services team is here to help you on your journey.



Go anywhere

Start at NIC and transfer your credits to post-secondary institutions across BC, Canada and the globe.



We're honoured to acknowledge the traditional territories of the combined 35 First Nations of the Nuuchahnulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories the college's campuses are situated.



OUR CAMPUSES



For more than 50 years, we've been here for students — no matter where they study.

Mixalakwa

Our northern-most campus serves students in Port Hardy and beyond. Study options include upgrading, health care, land-based learning and more. We also offer on-site computer labs, study spaces and student supports.

Campbell River

Advanced trades facilities are just one of many reasons to study here – our campus also includes nursing, science and computer labs and a cutting-edge teaching kitchen and bistro. We're also home to the CARTI Seaweed Innovation Hub.

Comox Valley

Our largest campus is expanding with tul'al'txw student housing and the NIC Centre of Excellence for Early Learning. We've also renovated our science labs and made our outdoor spaces more accessible for those with mobility restrictions. Choose from a vast range of program options, including our degrees in business or nursing.

Port Alberni

This campus boasts an upgraded student lounge and other amenities. The Roger Street Bistro and nearby Tebo Vocational Centre offer culinary and skilled trades training. Our roster of on-campus programs also includes health care and early childhood care and education.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



Dual credit

Earn college credits in Grade 11 or 12. Your tuition may be covered.

nic.bc.ca/dual-credit

Tuition-free upgrading

Earn your high school diploma or complete your program requirements by taking high school level courses through Adult Basic Education.

nic.bc.ca/upgrading



Certificate

A short, focused credential.

1 year or less

Diploma

Deepen your knowledge.

3 years or less

Associate degree

Earn your arts or science credential.

2 years





Degree

Complete your bachelor's degree in nursing or business.

4 years

Post-graduate certificate

Already have your bachelor's? Boost your prospects.

1 year

Post-graduate diploma

Prepare for advanced studies or expand your career path.

2 years

Transfer to university

Start your post-secondary journey at NIC, then transfer across BC or beyond to finish your degree.





“I had a great time studying in France. As part of my double degree from Université Savoie Mont Blanc, I’m also completing an internship at Mount Washington Alpine Resort. It’s been an amazing experience.”

Dace Harle, BBA-USMB Double Degree student



Business administration

Prepare to succeed in business, build networks and gain experience locally and globally with a range of courses in marketing, finance, entrepreneurship and more. Or, specialize in accounting and prepare to earn your CPA designation.

Business

Business Administration Certificate 1 YR

Business Administration Diploma 2 YRS

- Accounting
- Management
- Marketing

Bachelor of Business Administration 4 YRS

- Accounting
- Management
- Marketing

Business Administration 2 YRS

Post-Graduate Diploma

- Global Business Management
- Accounting



Take part in one or multiple co-op work terms to gain experience in a variety of industries.



All Business programs include the course ABG 100 - Histories and Impacts of Colonization.



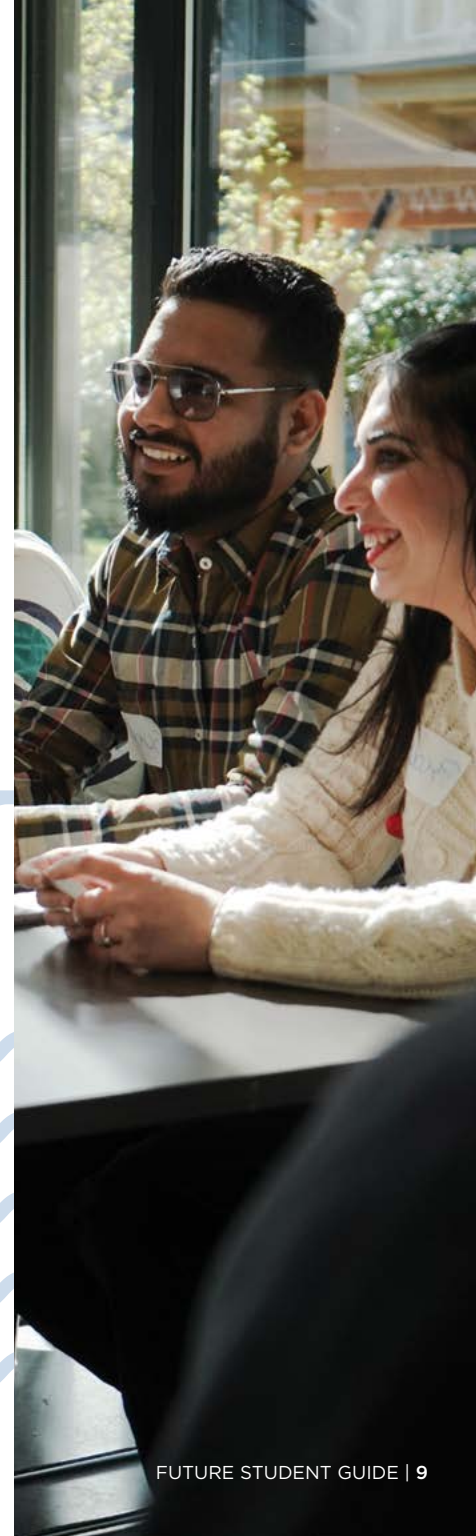
Studying business at NIC can also mean living and studying in France. With our partnership with Université Savoie Mont Blanc (USMB) you can earn your BBA degree and USMB degree at the same time.

Office administration

Office Assistant 1 Certificate 1 YR



Business, finance and administration are projected to see 251,100 job openings in BC by 2034 — 18% of all projected jobs.
(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



Digital design and development

Confidently design and code beautiful and highly functional digital products, from websites to mobile apps. Our curriculum is developed in consultation with industry experts, so you'll graduate with the skills employers are looking for.

Design stream

Web Design Fundamentals Certificate	1 YR
Communication Design Diploma	2 YRS
Advanced Digital Design and Development Diploma (Design)	3 YRS

Development stream

Android Application Development Certificate	1 YR
Web and Mobile Application Development Diploma	2 YRS
Advanced Digital Design and Development Diploma (Development)	3 YRS

Post-graduate

Digital Design and Development Post-Graduate Certificate	1 YR
Digital Design and Development Post-Graduate Diploma	2 YRS



Job openings for software engineers and designers are expected to reach 11,670 by 2034, while web developers and programmers will see 4,810 projected jobs in BC alone by the same year.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



“The capstone project gave me the chance to build a full brand from start to finish, including a visual identity, marketing materials and a landing page. It really helped me understand what it takes to create something cohesive and meaningful. Working with other designers also gave me the feedback and collaboration I now rely on in my own business.”

Celina Baulcomb, owner of Sorella Brand Design Studio, Communication Design Diploma (design stream) alum



Fine arts

Develop creative and critical thinking skills as you pursue your career as an artist or transfer to degree programs across Canada.

Fine Arts Diploma

2 YRS

Transfer opportunities

Complete the Fine Arts Diploma and transfer to complete a degree.



**Alberta
University
of the
Arts**



**University
of Victoria**



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY**



Expand your artistic horizons while on exchange in Europe.



In BC alone, painters, sculptors and other visual artists will see 1,840 job openings by 2034.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)

Health

Join the next generation of health care leaders and be part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Health Care Assistant Certificate*	6-8 MTS
Hospital Unit Clerk Certificate	9 MTS
Access to Practical Nursing Pathway	22 WKS
Practical Nursing Diploma (LPN)*	2 YRS
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (Option A)*	4 YRS
LPN Access to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (Option C)	3 YRS



- Third and fourth-year nursing students have the opportunity to join practicums in First Nations communities on BC's central coast.
- Choose from electives such as BC Indigenous Literature and Aboriginal Governance



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



The health sector needs skilled professionals. More than 99,000 job openings are projected in the sector by 2034 in BC.
(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



Health Pathways

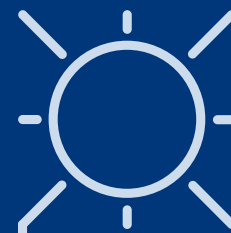
Health Care Assistant Certificate
(6-8 Months)

Access to Practical Nursing Pathway
(22 Weeks)

Practical Nursing Diploma (LPN)
(2 years)

Option C: LPN Access to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree
(3 years part-time)

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree
(4 years)





“Going through NIC’s HCA program gave me a lot of experience. It made the LPN program a lot easier, because you already understand bedside manner, how to move people safely and how to provide care. Going into nursing, you can focus on critical thinking, leadership and pharmacology.”

Courtney Oster, medical/surgical ward nurse,
Access to Practical Nursing Pathway alum

“I wanted to have a Montessori experience, have an Indigenous-based experience and I wanted to find something like a nature school. My NIC instructors found those practicums for me, including one here on Quadra Island. The endgame is to open a nature and art-based centre of my own.”

Robyn Yow, future childcare centre operator,
Early Childhood Care and Education student



Human services

Learn how to support children, adults and families in your area through community support and social justice.

Early childhood care and education

Early Childhood Care and Education Certificate*	1 YR
Early Childhood Care and Education Diploma	3 YRS



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



Together with education and law, demand for social, community and government services workers are expected to be the fourth-largest occupational group in BC, with 135,000 job openings projected by 2034.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)

Human and social services

Activity Assistant Certificate	4 MTS
Human Services <i>Educational Assistant/Community Support Certificate*</i>	1 YR

Human Services <i>Educational Assistant/Community Support Certificate - Indigenous Focus*</i>	1 YR
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This Indigenous-focused program's curriculum covers cross-cultural social analysis, traditional and contemporary First Nations education and more.

Social Service Diploma*	2 YRS
Human Services Diploma*	2 YRS



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



Indigenous studies

Explore programs and courses focused on Indigenous leadership and governance, languages and ways of knowing and being.

Awi'nakola	4 MTS/COURSE
Indigenous Leadership Certificate	1.5 YRS
Indigenous Language Fluency Certificate	1 YR
Indigenous Languages Pathway	4 MTS/ COURSE



In addition to opportunities in other sectors, 23,300 job openings in local and Indigenous public administration are expected in BC by 2034. (Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



Study Ayajuthem, Kwak'wala and Nuuchahnulth tuition-free through the Adult Basic Education program.



Journey together

Share language learning experiences and engage in cultural exchange through field schools to Japan, New Zealand, Hawaii or Costa Rica.





“When you start to learn our language, it’s like taking a peek behind the curtain of our culture. It’s a viewpoint that we’re all connected. Just listening to our Elders explain one word — that one word is a paragraph, two paragraphs. It’s really quite moving and beautiful.”

Grace Johnson, Indigenous support worker, Kwak’wala and Indigenous Leadership alum

Science and engineering

Engineering

Earn the same first-year credits you'd get at university — but enjoy better lab access and more one-on-one time with instructors. We also offer dual or guaranteed admission to UVic's engineering degree programs or secure general transfer to UBC, SFU and beyond.

Engineering Foundations Certificate	1 YR
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Life sciences

Prepare for advanced health and medical studies or sharpen STEM skills sought by employers across thousands of occupations.

Health Science Diploma*	2 YRS
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Island Pre-Health Science Advanced Diploma*	3 YRS
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- Includes courses such as Introduction to Indigenous and Pharmaceutical Medicines, Social Justice in Health Sciences, Indigenous Literatures in Canada and much more.



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.

BC Transfer Guide

Whether you want to earn a credential or pick up a few course credits, our programs and courses are transferable across BC. Check out the BC Transfer Guide and start planning your journey.

bctransferguide.ca



Sciences

Broaden your knowledge of scientific principles and research. Tailor your credential to focus on disciplines like biology and chemistry — or choose our new computer science concentration.

Associate of Science Degree	2 YRS
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- General
- Computer Science

Course subjects include:

Mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, space science and astronomy, computer science and more.



Projections show 150,300 job openings in the professional, scientific and technical services industry by 2034. (Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



“I was able to finish my first two years here and live at home — and the tuition is a lot cheaper. My credits also transferred easily. I’m choosing to go to UNBC’s Health Science program, but I could have also done my third year at NIC, earned my Island Pre-Health Science and then transferred to another program.”

Calixa Bally, health science student,
Associate of Science (Island Pre-Health Science) alum

Social science and humanities

Humanities

Investigate the human condition while learning how to think critically.

Associate of Arts Degree	2 YRS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General• Pre-Social Work• Psychology	

Course subjects include:

English, sociology, political science, history, philosophy, First Nations and more.

Social sciences

Learn to better understand society and deepen your understanding of the world.

Criminology Diploma	2 YRS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start your degree at NIC and receive transfer credit towards university degree programs including VIU and SFU.	

University transfer agreements

Complete up to two years at NIC. When you're ready to transfer, your seat will be waiting.

University dual admission and pathway agreement programs

UVic Dual Admission*	4 MTS/COURSE
UVic Guaranteed Admission	4 MTS/COURSE
VIU Dual Admission	4 MTS/COURSE

*Students must apply in Grade 12.



Note: Check online for specific deadlines and requirements.



Customize your courses

Maybe you're interested in trying certain science or humanities subjects — or perhaps you're looking to earn a few college credits. Our University Studies pathway is a great option if you want to take fewer courses while you plan your education.



Upgrading and access

Accessible education and training

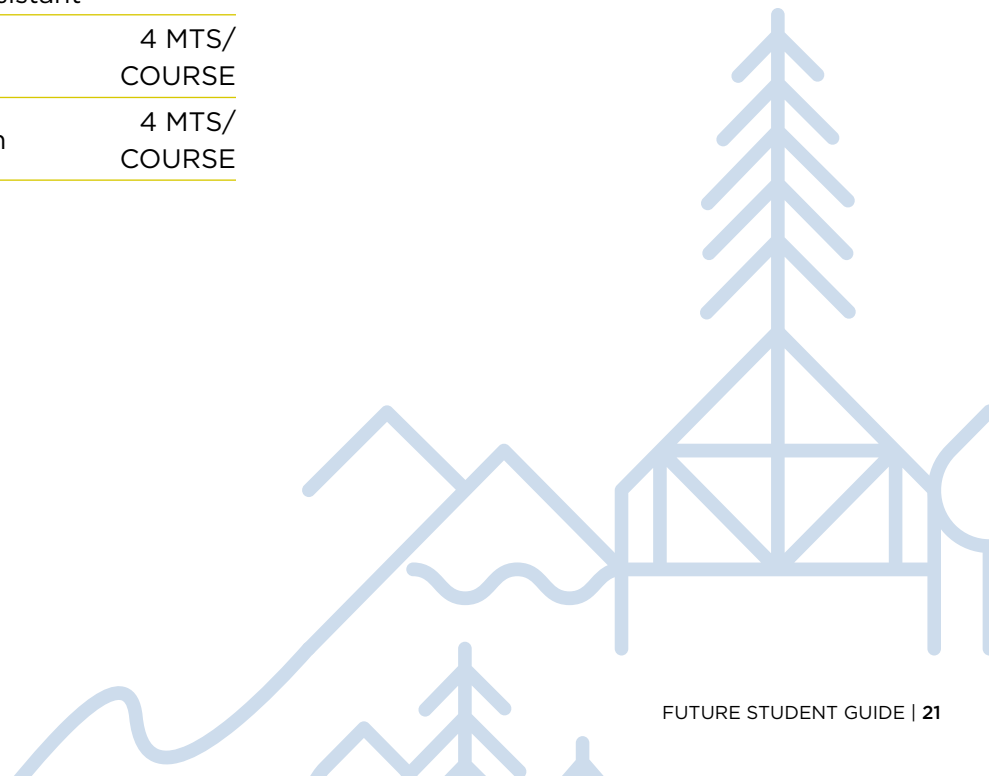
A variety of study options are available to help individuals with cognitive or developmental disabilities develop literacy, independence, employment, daily living and workplace readiness skills.

Employment Transition	4 MTS/ COURSE
Employment Transition - Grounds and Custodial Assistant	27 WKS
Practical Academics for the Workplace	4 MTS/ COURSE
Workplace Professionalism	4 MTS/ COURSE

Upgrading

Build confidence and skills to meet your education, training and employment goals. Our tuition-free upgrading courses are available for English, Indigenous languages, math and science.

Adult Basic Education	4 MTS/ COURSE
BC Adult Graduation Diploma	4 MTS/ COURSE



TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS



Dual credit

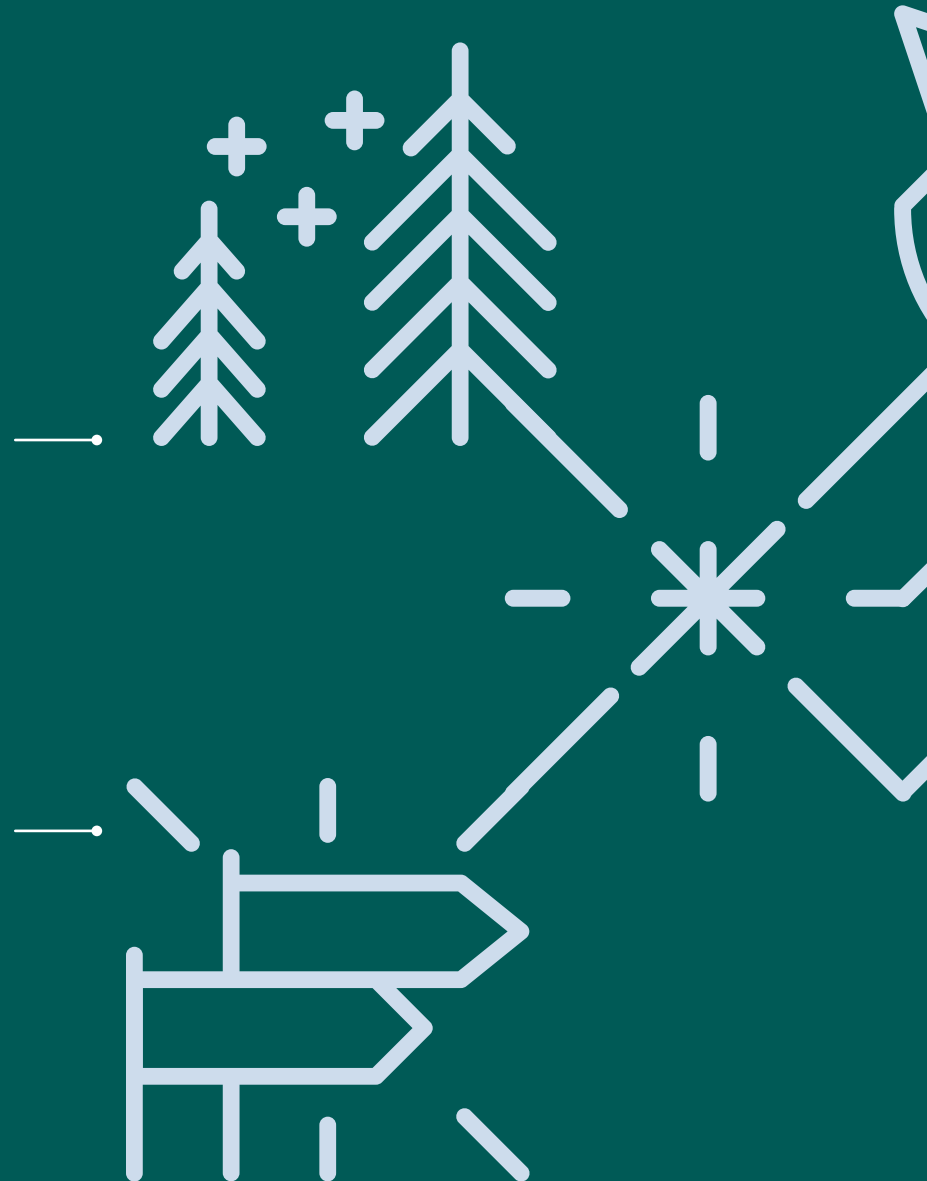
Start your Youth Train in Trades training in Grade 11 or 12. Your tuition may be covered.

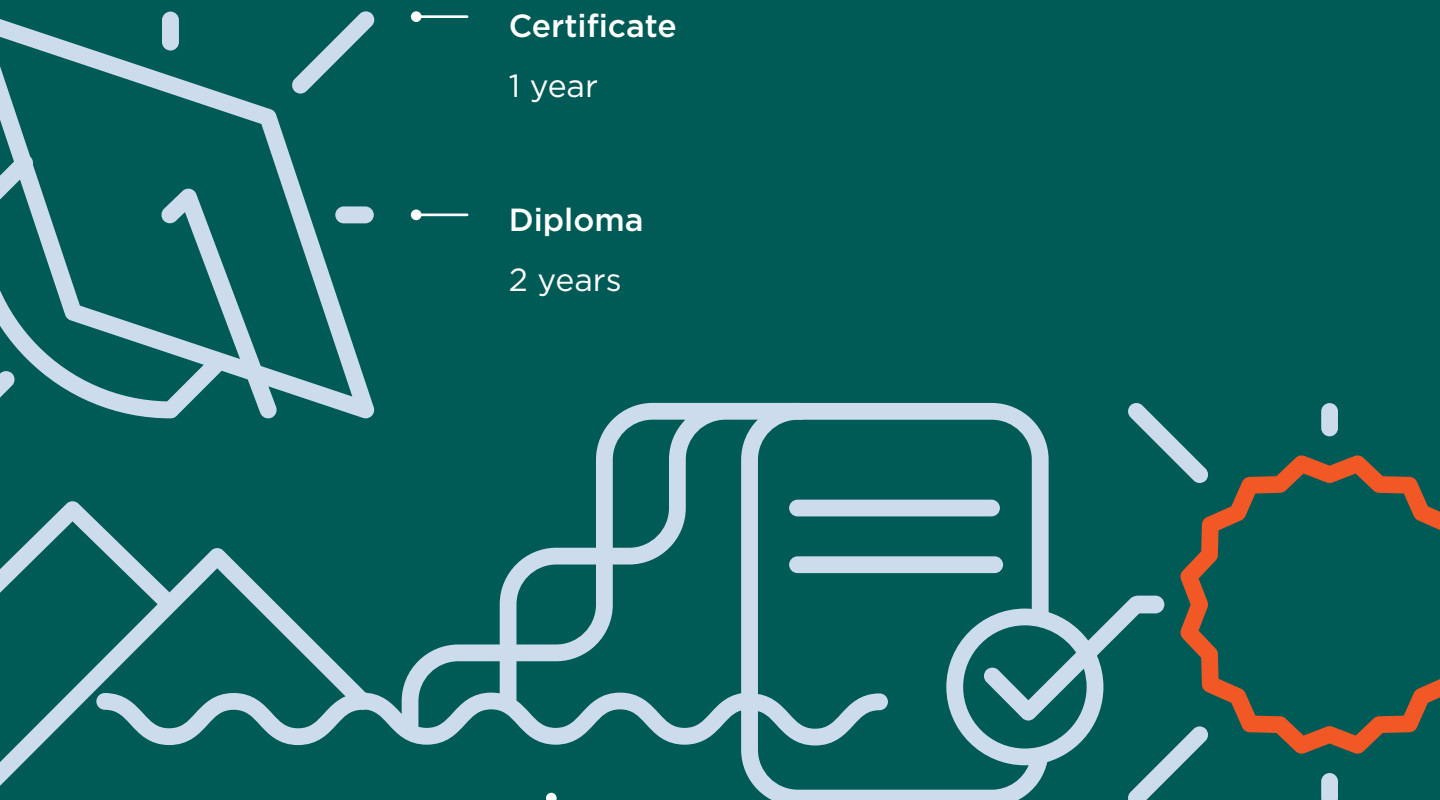
nic.bc.ca/dual-credit

Tuition-free upgrading

Earn your high school diploma or complete your program requirements.

nic.bc.ca/upgrading





Foundation
(Pre-apprenticeship/
Level 1)
24-36 weeks

**Apprenticeship
Levels 1-4**
5-10 weeks in-class
per level, remainder
with sponsor employer.

**Red Seal
examination**

Journeyperson

Automotive and mechanical trades

Work towards your Red Seal or pursue specialized trades training to get you started in the transportation sector.

Foundation

Automotive Service Technician Foundation Harmonized Certificate*	30 WKS
Heavy Mechanical Trades Foundation Certificate*	36 WKS

Apprenticeships

Automotive Service Technician Apprenticeship Harmonized	7 WKS/LVL
Heavy Mechanical Trades Apprenticeship	5-10 WKS/LVL



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



Automotive service technicians, truck and bus mechanics and mechanical repairers are among the top in-demand trades in BC. Combined with other trades, they're projected to account for more than 105,000 job openings within the next decade. (Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



SkilledTradesBC

We work hand-in-hand with SkilledTradesBC — the organization that supports trades training throughout the province. skilledtradesbc.ca



Construction trades

Expert faculty, fully equipped shops and provincially-recognized training.

Foundation

Carpentry Foundation Harmonized Certificate*	24 WKS
Electrician Foundation Harmonized Certificate*	24 WKS
Furniture Design and Joinery Certificate*	36 WKS
Plumbing and Piping Trades Foundation Harmonized Certificate*	24 WKS
Welder Foundation Harmonized Certificate*	28 WKS



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.

Apprenticeships

Carpentry Apprenticeship Harmonized	7 WKS/LVL
Electrician Apprenticeship Harmonized	10 WKS/LVL
Plumber Apprenticeship Harmonized	7-8 WKS/LVL
Welder Apprenticeship Harmonized	8-10 WKS/LVL
Welding Levels B and A	16 WKS, 8 WKS



BC's construction sector is expected to account for 99,600 job openings by 2034 — or 9% of total job openings. (Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



“When I took the program at NIC it was actually a career change. Now that I’m in cabinet making, it’s great. I get to work with my hands, work with wood and be creative.”

Darci Kachenko, cabinetmaker, Furniture Design and Joinery alum

Culinary arts

Take cutting-edge teaching kitchens, combine with world-class faculty and add a dash of creativity — your culinary career awaits.

Professional Cook 1*	28 WKS
Professional Cook 2*	14 WKS
Professional Cook 3*	11 WKS
Culinary Business Operations Certificate*	1 YR



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



Chefs and cooks are in demand. More than 14,600 job openings are expected in BC by 2034.
(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



Strengthen your culinary resumé with outgoing exchanges in Ireland.

Industrial automation and manufacturing

Install, program and fine-tune the systems that run advanced industrial machinery. Work in virtually any industry or ladder into an apprenticeship.

Instrumentation and Electrical Automation Technician Diploma	2 YRS
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An estimated 46,300 manufacturing job openings are expected in BC by 2034.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



“We got a lot of hands-on experience, which is something that helped a lot. I was able to figure out what I wanted to do but also see and interact with components and systems before entering the workforce. That was a big stepping stone into the industry.”

Erik Nessel, electronics technician,
Instrumentation and Electrical Automation alum



Natural resources

Start your path into the forestry sector with the Coastal Forest Worker Certificate or choose the Coastal Forest Technology Diploma certified by Technology Accreditation Canada and Forest Professionals BC.

Coastal Forest Worker Certificate*	4 MTS
Coastal Forest Technology Diploma*	2 YRS



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



The natural resources sector — along with agriculture and related production — will see more than 17,000 job openings in BC by 2034. (Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING



In-demand certifications

Quickly gain the knowledge to embark on a new career or add to your existing set of skills.



“The program itself was a blast. You also get the certifications, so you’re getting a broad spectrum of skills that’ll apply to the job you’re going after, whether it’s sea kayaking or hiking. It gives you the options to move into different areas of the industry.”

Jesse Haslehurst,
owner of Grey Wolf Expeditions,
Adventure Guiding alum



Scan to view all
programs online.

Professional and industry training

Our industry-recognized training covers health, marine industry and various sectors of the economy.

Advanced Digital Marketing with AI Integration	3 MTS
Adventure Guiding Certificate	1 YR
Applied Human Resources Practitioner	3 MTS
BC Wildfire Essentials	3 WKS
Craft Brewery Operations	4 MTS
Food Preparation and Mobile Kitchen Training	4 WKS
Office and Clerical Training	3 MTS

Workforce training

Maintain your workplace safety credentials and advance your employment goals.

We offer Marine Training, FoodSafe and other training throughout the year.

THE NIC EXPERIENCE

Being a student is more than showing up for classes. Join in events, access academic supports and put your well-being first.



Student supports

Access navigators

Thinking of going into health or trades programs and wondering about upgrading? We're here to support you.

Counselling

Sometimes we all need a little help. All registered students may seek free, professional and confidential counselling. Support from an Indigenous counsellor is also available.

Elders in Residence

Whether you're seeking guidance or support, Elders in Residence welcome you to connect with them for advice and resources at each of our campuses.

Financial awards

There's more than \$750K in awards available for NIC students. With one application, you can be considered for hundreds of bursaries and scholarships.

Financial aid

We can make your learning journey affordable. Learn about government student loans and grants, funding for former youth in care, apprenticeship funding and other financial supports.

Indigenous education navigators

Our navigators can help you make an educational plan, liaise with instructors or contact Indigenous sponsorship organizations.



Educational advising

Our advisors are here to help you plan based on your specific education and career goals.



Campus services

Campus stores

Online or in-store — buy your course books, supplies and NIC swag.

Department of Accessible Learning Services

If you identify as having a documented medical condition or disability that impacts your education, we're here to assist with academic accommodations and learning assistance.

Library and Learning Commons

Access research help, peer tutoring, writing and math support and technical assistance — or book a group study room.

North Island Students' Union

Connect with NISU and meet your peers who are on the journey with you. Access health and dental coverage, advocacy resources and services and supports designed by students like you.

On-campus childcare

Beaufort Children's Centre at the Comox Valley campus and Forest Circle Child Care at the Campbell River campus offer priority access for registered NIC students.

Student Services

Your hub for registering for courses, booking appointments, paying fees and getting answers.



Learn more

Find out about all of NIC's student supports and services on our website.

nic.bc.ca



tul'al'txw:

on-campus student housing

Applications are now open for tul'al'txw, our new student housing complex at the Comox Valley campus.

A total of 217 beds are available with a mix of housing options, including:

- **Nano:** Small single-occupant units with mixed-use furnishings.
- **Studio:** Standard single-occupant rooms with more space.
- **Quad:** Shared units for up to four roommates.
- **Family:** Units for students with dependents, including children or adults who need care.

For rates, eligibility, application information and more, visit nic.bc.ca/housing.

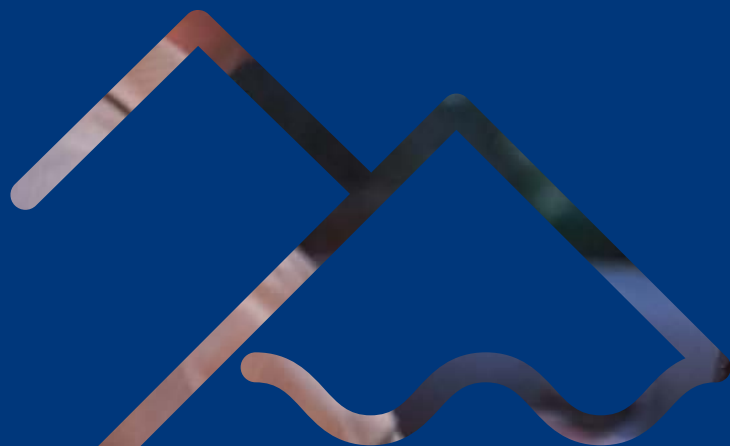


Student life

NIC isn't just a college, it's a community. You'll be supported from orientation to convocation. Access campus events, supports, activities and wellness and safety resources throughout your journey.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Empower your
learning with
research, career
growth and travel.



Work-integrated learning

Work while you learn

Some business programs include co-op or internships as part of the curriculum — allowing you to gain experience and academic credits at the same time.

Travel while you work

Complete an international co-op or internship.

Support all year round

We're here to help you customize your LinkedIn profile, polish your cover letter and resumé, prepare for interviews and connect with employers through a job board exclusively for NIC students.



Study abroad

Field schools

These credit-based, two-to-four-week immersive experiences take you to destinations like Hawaii, Japan or Costa Rica.

Students travel as a group and are led by NIC faculty to complete NIC courses.

Outgoing exchanges/ double degrees

Study abroad in Europe, New Zealand, Hawaii, Japan, Central and South America. Earn credits and/or a second degree while paying NIC tuition. Live abroad, immerse yourself in vibrant cultures, and explore the world as part of your academic journey.



CARTI

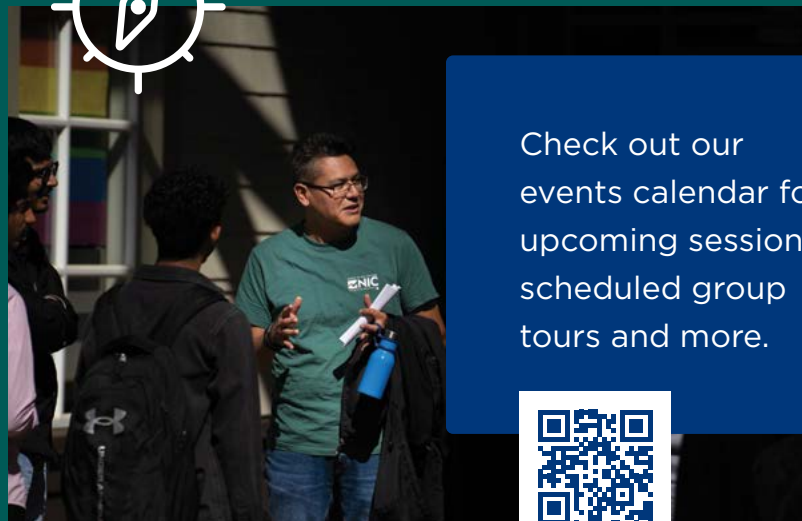
NIC's Centre for Applied Research, Technology and Innovation (CARTI) connects NIC staff and students with local businesses and organizations to develop innovative solutions to community, business and environmental challenges. Students can engage in community-based research and gain valuable experience.



GET TO KNOW NIC

Book a campus tour

Join an NIC recruiter for an inside look at classrooms, labs, studios, shops, campus amenities and more. Group tours are scheduled monthly, and registration is recommended.



Check out our events calendar for upcoming sessions, scheduled group tours and more.



Come to NIC Fest

You're invited to our annual education and career festival in March. Explore programs, meet your future instructors and tour our Campbell River, Comox Valley and Port Alberni campuses.

Attend an info session

These online events provide more detailed program and admission information.

High school visits

Look out for a recruiter in your high school. We visit schools across Vancouver Island and beyond throughout the school year.

Connect with a recruiter

Our Future Students team is here to help you explore learning opportunities and navigate the admissions process.

futurestudents@nic.bc.ca



Subscribe to receive updates from our Future Students team.



Start your application

Applications open in October for programs starting the following September. In most cases, admission is first-applied, first-qualified, first-invited. Many programs have limited seats, so apply early to secure your spot.

You'll apply to your program through **educationplannerbc.ca**, British Columbia's centralized post-secondary application system.



Celebrating 50 years of
making waves in education.



Photo credits:
Spencer Anderson
Lime Soda Photography

futurestudents@nic.bc.ca
1-800-715-0914

   @NorthIslandCollege

nic.bc.ca

All efforts are made to ensure information accuracy. Please note information may change without notice. The most up-to-date program information, including full admission requirements and curriculum details, is available at nic.bc.ca.