A DEGREE OF EXPERIENCE

Experiential learning opportunities

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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ATHLETICS & RECREATION

STUDENT GOVERNMENT / ASSOCIATIONS

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
Simon Fraser University is a leader in providing students with world-class experiential learning opportunities that equip them with the knowledge, skills and experiences they require to thrive in an ever-changing and challenging world.

As Canada’s Engaged University, SFU offers a ‘Degree of Experience’ that supports education beyond the classroom. Students learn through immersion in community projects, research laboratories, rainforests and river banks, corporate boardrooms, government offices, start-up companies, friendship centres, and thousands of other environments that engage learners in the kinds of spaces where they will apply their knowledge and skills once they graduate.

SFU students can customize their education by creating their own paths to include any number of experiential learning opportunities. Students may participate in full-time paid co-operative education work terms, study at one of our international partner universities, spend a semester in dialogue exploring critical issues through an interdisciplinary lens, or join one of our many leadership and peer education programs on campus. These local, national and global opportunities enhance learning and enable students to develop the skills and expertise they (and employers) desire to complement their degree requirements.

There are many ways to learn from experience at SFU. A good place for students to start is simply by getting involved, perhaps by volunteering on or off campus, or by joining a student club or association. Even participating in a recreation activity can provide informal opportunities for the development of important life and career skills. Formal experiential education programs are often closely linked to academic programs, and many earn academic credits.

All of these experiential learning programs and opportunities are outlined in this document. In addition to earning a degree, SFU students can obtain an impressive Co-curricular Record that documents their engagement and achievements in these experiential activities.

Gaining a ‘Degree of Experience’ helps SFU students transition to their post-graduation lives confident that they have the knowledge, skills and experiences that they need to succeed. Come to SFU and engage the world!
CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

http://ow.ly/10kmDT

A YEAR—OR MORE—OF PAID WORK EXPERIENCE IN MULTIPLE SETTINGS

SFU Co-op is your opportunity to learn in a workplace environment and try multiple career options before you graduate, by alternating study terms with paid, resume-boosting work terms in your field of interest.

Your Co-op employers provide you the responsibility and the guidance you need to contribute to their workplace in a meaningful and mutually beneficial way. You gain knowledge, confidence and contacts.

SFU offers additive credit for Co-op. Students completing three Co-op terms’ worth of additive credit earn a Co-operative Education designation on their degrees.

Since 1975, SFU Co-op has been connecting students with workplaces that match their interests, skills and areas for growth. Today, students in every Faculty have worked with more than 6,000 employers on every continent except Antarctica.
A TOP REPUTATION AMONG CANADIAN POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Each year, one Canadian student—among the 150+ postsecondary institutions in the country—receives the Co-op Student of the Year award from the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education (CAFCE). Between 2002 to 2010, an SFU student took this top prize four times, a recognition that SFU is one of Canada’s most prestigious Co-op institutions.

MEETING GLOBAL STANDARDS

SFU Co-operative Education is an accredited program of CAFCE, and a partner member of the World Association for Co-operative Education (WACE) and the Association for Co-operative Education in British Columbia / Yukon (ACE). As well, SFU Co-op staff are leaders internationally in the areas of Co-op research and development.

A BLENDED CURRICULUM MODEL

The SFU Co-op Preparatory Curriculum is delivered using a blended model, that includes the Bridging Online preparatory program, face-to-face workshops, the Online Learning Community (www.sfu.ca/olc), and one-on-one consultations with Co-op co-ordinators. The curriculum focuses on self-direction and mobilizing skills and knowledge, as well as the more traditional resume and cover letter writing and interview workshops.

A FEW WORDS FROM AN SFU CO-OP EMPLOYER

TESTIMONIAL FROM CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION CANADA

“At CIC VIA, we have been hiring SFU Co-op students for several years. They have contributed very effectively to the efficiency of our operation. They are bright and eager to do a good job. Once students have graduated, many come back as more permanent employees. Their experiences with Co-op have helped them qualify as officers and they continue to progress through our organization if they show the interest and initiative. Hiring Co-op students is mutually beneficial to both parties.”

Ashkan Azrahini was among the first graduates of SFU’s School for Interactive Arts + Technology Co-op program. Before completing his Bachelor of Arts, he completed four paid Co-op work terms. Ashkan diversified his work experience by working in different office environments, including the RCMP and E-Cubed Media Synthesis Inc., in both web development and design. After graduation, he was hired full-time with E-Cubed. He credits the SFU Co-op program for his smooth transition to the professional world. After working full-time with E-Cubed for two years, Ashkan moved on to pursue an entrepreneurial path. He now manages his own successful digital marketing and design firm, Distige Radical Marketing, where he blends technology and marketing in the creation of interactive communication portals.
EXPERIENCE YOUR EDUCATION AND ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY

The Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue is a one-semester, full-time program designed to inspire you with a sense of civic responsibility and encourage your passion for improving Canadian society.

Each semester we offer an original interdisciplinary experience through the mediums of dialogue, experiential learning, and community engagement. Past topics have included urban issues, sustainability, health, art and community, and citizenship.

Coursework is designed to give the classroom back to students by providing the opportunity to design projects from the ground up and explore issues of personal importance.

You’ll meet in the heart of downtown at SFU’s Vancouver campus, where you can work on projects that matter for the community, receiving rewards and inspiration that go far beyond grades and academic achievement. A small cohort of passionate classmates gives you a strong peer support network throughout the semester. As well, faculty members deliver intensive mentorship, providing space for students to reflect on what they are doing and why it matters.

Throughout the semester, classes host thought-leaders from government, business, and civil society, and you are encouraged to let go of preconceptions, be present and aware in the room, and remain curious while exploring issues from a variety of perspectives.

A TYPICAL WEEK

Spend your week in dialogue with thought-leaders, meetings with faculty, conducting research, attending public events, going on field trips, and working on individual or group projects with your cohort. You’ll engage guests from diverse backgrounds in open and respectful discussions, participating in conversations rather than merely listening to lectures.

For assignments, you will learn to perform research by talking to leaders and everyday citizens, picking up the phone, and asking good questions. You will write a commentary piece for submission to a major Canadian newspaper, as well as plan and facilitate a major public dialogue with your classmates.

You’ll receive feedback throughout the week, through one-on-one conferences with faculty, peer mentoring, group commentary about oral and written presentations, debriefing sessions on guest visits and dialogues, and multiple rounds of revisions on written submissions.

During the summer of 2010 a new kind of orchard appeared on the streets of Vancouver. Four cars, parked at various locations throughout the city, had fruit trees planted in their empty engine compartments, an imaginative evocation of one possible use for cars in a future “post-oil” cityscape. This collaborative art project, dubbed “Stick shift,” was created by student Julien Thomas, who says his Dialogue experience played a huge part in preparations for this project.

“In Dialogue I was given the confidence and skills to investigate issues, track down key decision-makers, determine a personally meaningful response, and deliver it. I was given a network of contacts from around the city, for example Emily Carr University students, city councilors, freelance designers, and other influential, innovative, and inspirational people.”
International exchange allows you to spend one or two terms studying at an SFU partner university while earning credit toward your SFU degree. With more than 130 partner institutions in over 45 countries participating, there are opportunities for students from every area of study.

While you are abroad, you normally pay SFU tuition fees, and living and travel costs vary depending on the location. Scholarships and financial awards are available each term to help you on your exchange, and some destinations have additional awards available through SFU, the host institution and/or the host country.

Where will you go?
Participating in an international exchange was by far the most memorable experience I have had at SFU. At first, I was a little nervous about living in another country on my own. But after going through both SFU and BI’s exchange orientations, I realized just how much fun the semester was going to be.

I was able to travel around Europe while taking four business classes in Oslo. I visited Amsterdam, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden and Italy while maintaining a strict budget thanks to cheap airlines like Ryanair and EasyJet. I was also able to travel within Norway and made my way to the west coast to visit the cities of Bergen and Stavanger. While in Stavanger, we took a four km hike up to the famous Preikestolen—a massive 604 meter cliff overlooking the Lysefjorden.

While on exchange, I expected to meet people, but I never expected to come away with new lifelong friends. I plan to return to Europe after graduation, and will be fortunate enough to have a place to stay in almost every country.

Studying abroad in Norway brought me out of the “bubble” I was living in here in Vancouver and opened my eyes to different cultures and ways of living. It was truly an experience of a lifetime; all students should take advantage of international exchanges while studying at SFU.

Justin Lepitzki
Major program undecided
BI Norwegian School of Management
FIELD SCHOOLS

http://ow.ly/10kmQo

Field Schools are a valuable experiential learning opportunity, giving students who may find international travel intimidating the chance to travel and work alongside other SFU students and an SFU instructor. Taking Simon Fraser University courses with a group of 12 to 20 other students is like an extended field study group tour.

Each Field School is for a full four-month term, with up to 12 units of selected SFU courses. Directed by an SFU instructor, students undertake a combination of coursework, assignments and field studies, allowing them to integrate their learning with the field school location.

Generally, programs begin at an SFU campus and then students head overseas to continue their studies. Tuition, shared accommodation, field excursions and, in some cases, return airfare to Vancouver, are normally included in the Field School program fees.

Field Schools are offered in the Summer (May through August), Fall (September through December) and Spring (January through April) terms, with destinations varying from year to year.

Current field schools include:
• SIAT Design in Milan
• Humanities in Prague
• Contemporary Arts in Berlin
• Environment and Ecological Education in Hawaii
• Dutch design in Amsterdam
I will never forget the tear-filled eyes of my two sponsored children when I looked back and waved goodbye. Emma and Emmanuella became my heart and soul in Ghana. Not a day goes by when I don’t think of Africa and what this continent did for me.

Last year, I challenged myself to go beyond my comfort zone and travel to Ghana as part of the Contemporary Arts Field School Program. There were many aspects of Africa, specifically Ghana, that appealed to me. The tortured history, burden of the past and current political and economic stability made me curious, but I knew there was more to Africa than poverty, disease, corruption and war. I wanted to experience Africa’s complexity with my own eyes and soak up the culture. The opportunity to go to Ghana came to me when I stumbled upon a 2009 Ghana Field School Program poster. At the time, I had just begun researching and raising funds for an organization dedicated to rescuing child slaves from the fishing industry in Eastern Ghana. When I saw the poster, it became abundantly clear to me that I should take advantage of this great opportunity. Without hesitation, I pursued the opportunity and applied for the program.

The touchstone of my character lies within my experiences. I will be digesting these experiences, studying in and travelling throughout the different regions of Ghana for years to come. My experiences were exhilarating as we learned about Ghana’s beauty, rich history and culture. We learned how to play different African instruments and different traditional dances; I can still feel the rhythms coursing through my body and soul. Furthermore, I learned more about the deep culture, old societies and spiritual power that lay beneath the surface of Ghana and witnessed the people rise above conditions that would break most of us.

During the two months, I maintained relations with many individuals ranging from local teachers, ministers, market women to rescued child slaves. I strongly suggest any of the SFU International Field School Programs to anyone who wants to have an uplifting and life changing experience. I have gained great personal independence through travelling, and experienced different cultures which in turn helped me appreciate differences that make people unique. Participating in the Ghana Field School Program was the best decision I have made and was the perfect way to finish my studies at SFU.
LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

PASSPORT TO LEADERSHIP

Meet new people and start your leadership journey! This suite of four sequential programs allows you to explore your leadership development alongside your peers. Designed to accommodate students from all faculties, here is an opportunity to refine and maximize your leadership potential. This series of leadership programs is flexible. You can take as many of the individual programs that suit your academic schedule and your interests, from term-to-term. You will receive recognition for completion of each Passport to Leadership Program on the Co-Curricular Record.

http://ow.ly/10kmYm
PASSPORT TO LEADERSHIP 1: FOUNDATIONS OF LEADERSHIP
Passport to Leadership 1 is a series of interactive workshops and on-line course work that cover a range of basic leadership skills and topics. Delivered by staff and student facilitators, you’ll complete the program with a cohort of your peers.

Completion of Passport to Leadership 1 is required to be eligible for Passport to Leadership 2, 3 and 4.

PASSPORT TO LEADERSHIP 2: EXPLORING THE LEADER IN YOU
In Passport to Leadership 2, you will dig deeper to explore your values, preferences and personal leadership style. With a focus on increasing your self-awareness, you’ll participate in self-assessment activities, like the MBTI. Attend in-person workshops and reflect on your learning in an on-line community.

PASSPORT TO LEADERSHIP 3: LEADERSHIP IN ACTION
In Passport to Leadership 3, take your leadership and personal development to the next level. In this experiential program, you will put the knowledge and skills you gained in P2L 1 and 2, into action! Each term this program will be focused on a specific set of skills in a specialized area of practice, you will work with staff mentors as an apprentice on related projects and programs across campus.

PASSPORT TO LEADERSHIP 4: SERVICE BASED LEADING AND LEARNING
Passport to Leadership 4 is the capstone of the four programs. This is your opportunity to step out on your own! You’ll apply what you have learned about yourself and working with others to service and volunteer opportunities. You will be supported in your service learning by mentors.

Passport to Leadership 4 is your opportunity to give back, make a difference and further strengthen your leadership capabilities.
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A wide range of leadership opportunities are available at SFU. Explore our Get Involved website (http://ow.ly/10k7yh) to learn about our co-curricular record, apply for opportunities through MyInvolvement, or peruse the variety of positions, programs and roles that can help you develop and apply your leadership.

RECREATION
There are many employment, volunteer and leadership opportunities for SFU students through SFU Recreation. Our program provides leadership in rec sport league management, fitness, marketing, and promotions. These opportunities equip you with transferable knowledge and skills such as: working in teams, communication, conflict management, and problem solving.

For details: http://ow.ly/10k7tq

RESLIFE
There are a range of both volunteer and paid opportunities in Residence Life, including our Residence Orientation Leader or Community Advisor positions. Both of these positions work closely with our residential population to help and ensure that our community is welcoming, inclusive and a positive experience for those who live on campus. These leadership positions will help you to develop transferable skills while playing a critical role in our program.

For details: http://ow.ly/10kn2s

WELCOME DAY
Help welcome new students to SFU at Welcome Day! Welcome Leaders play an essential role in helping new students feel comfortable and excited to begin their SFU journey. Receiving intensive training in professionalism, Welcome Leaders serve as ambassadors for SFU and help foster a culture of engagement and inclusivity at Welcome Day.

STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM
The Student Ambassador Program allows students to receive Co-Curricular recognition for doing short-term volunteering on campus. Get involved, give back, and get recognized! After a one-time registration, you can apply for volunteer opportunities as often as you like, depending on your interest and schedule. Be part of a community of students who are getting involved on campus.

Find out more: http://ow.ly/10kn7a

STUDENT SOCIETY
The Simon Fraser Student Society offers opportunities for students to join a club or start a new one, or get involved in student government or other associations.

Check the SFSS website for more information on all the programs they offer: http://ow.ly/10knrm
Peer Educators are students who volunteer their time to help fellow students help themselves. They are “paraprofessionals” who provide education, referrals and support on a range of personal, social, health, career and academic support issues. As a peer educator, you will engage in a variety of activities that both foster your own personal and professional development, as well as, support the success of other SFU students.

Peer Educators participate in subject-specific training and receive coaching from senior peers.

Peer Educators work in a range of areas on campus, including:

- Career Services
- SFU Sustainability Office and Embark
- Student Learning Commons
- Health & Counselling
- Student Engagement
- Recreation and Athletics
- Faculty of Science
Peer mentors help new students navigate their transition to SFU. Mentorship programs connect new students with current students for support, friendship and guidance. Peer mentors have different timelines and responsibilities, depending on the program they are in. With one international program, one Indigenous program, and several faculty-specific programs available, you can find an opportunity that best matches your interests!

Find out more: http://ow.ly/10k7yh
WORK-STUDY
http://ow.ly/10k7iZ

EARN SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME WHILE GAINING VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AT SFU

The SFU Work-Study program is an excellent way to earn extra income each term while gaining valuable experience through part-time on-campus opportunities for full-time undergraduate and graduate students. It’s also a great way to add to your resume, apply your studies, and get a step ahead on your future career path.

Your Work-Study experience will accommodate your class schedule and provide you with the opportunity to secure references from satisfied project supervisors. Successful applicants will be awarded 90 or 140 Work-Study hours per term and both Canadian and International SFU students can apply.

Work-Study program students also have the opportunity to access resources through Career Services that will help them gain the experience they prefer and allow them to apply newly acquired skills and knowledge to future academic and career possibilities.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify to participate in SFU’s Work-Study program you must:

- Be enrolled in at least nine units of normally-graded courses in undergraduate studies or be a full-time graduate student (if you are a new student enrolled full-time in your first term at SFU, you are also eligible to apply).
- Have a minimum 2.00 CGPA (undergraduate studies) or minimum 3.00 CGPA (graduate studies).
- Have a demonstrated financial need.
COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING COURSES

Community-Based Learning (CBL) is an excellent opportunity for SFU students to connect their academic pursuits to broader social and community contexts. CBL at SFU fosters critical thinking and informed, meaningful civic engagement through a wide network of opportunities and resources that meet students’ personal, civic, academic and career development interests. Through a mutually beneficial exchange, community and campus groups can access the time, knowledge, energy and talent of our engaged students, a process that contributes to community capacity, social capital, and community development. CBL at SFU is available both for credit through academic programs, as well as through non-credit facilitated volunteer experiences.

- BUS 486  Leadership
- CMNS 326  Applied Media Workshop: On The Hill
- DIAL 390/391/395 Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue
- GEOG 448  Public Policy, Theory and Human Geography
- HSCI 349  Community and Health Service
- HSCI 312  Health Promotion: Individuals & Communities
- KIN 343  Active Health: Assessment and Programming
- PDP [Education] French Module in Professional Programs [Cuba]
- POL 497  Pratique Dirigée en Science Politique
- SA 498  Field Study in Sociology and/or Anthropology
- SCD 401  Social Enterprise for Sustainable Community Development
- SCD 403  Leadership in Sustainable Community Development
- SCD 404  Project in Sustainable Community Development
- GSWS 401  Women’s Studies Research Project

SPOTLIGHT ON BUS 486

Business 486 investigates the theoretical foundation and research associated with leadership, including a critical assessment of what leaders do. Issues such as gender and leadership, leadership ethics, and culture and leadership, are examined.
PRACTICUM COURSES

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING WITHIN ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Practicum courses offer students a hands-on means of applying concepts learned in the classroom, to a practical environment. These courses are offered in academic departments across SFU. Here are some of the courses available:

| ARCH 339 | FPA 272 | HIST 461 |
| ARCH 435 | FPA 273 | POL 497  |
| KIN 343  | FPA 372 | PSYC 821 |
| KIN 455  | FPA 373 | PSYC 823 |
| CMNS 461 | FPA 470 | PSYC 825 |
| CRIM 462 | FPA 471 | PSYC 880 |
| CRIM 880 | FPA 472 | PSYC 882 |
| EDUC 343 | FPA 473 | PSYC 890 |
| PDP      | HSCI 880 | PSYC 892 |
| ENSC 194 | HIST 451 | PUB 477 |

KIN 455 builds upon the knowledge and skills learned in KIN 444 through advanced ECG interpretation, exercise stress testing, and patient counseling. Students are required to complete a 30 hour practicum within a community or hospital-based cardiac rehabilitation program. In addition, this course will introduce students to relevant research questions in cardiac rehabilitation and explore how this field is expanding and evolving.

The Professional Development Program (PDP) in SFU’s Faculty of Education develops ethically responsible, competent, professional teachers.

PDP is a full-time, three-semester program that comprises twelve months of study. The program is made up of a combination of practicum experiences and professional coursework integral to the understanding of important educational ideas and their application to classroom practice. When teacher candidates successfully complete the program they are recommended to the British Columbia College of Teachers to receive a BC Teaching Certificate.
Experiential learning through volunteering can form an important component of your academic career, as your personal and professional development is enriched by volunteer engagement both on campus and in the greater community. There are volunteer opportunities offered and promoted through many departments across the university. Whether on or off campus, volunteering will help strengthen your transferable skills and will give you the chance to contribute to a cause or a project about which you are passionate.

It’s easy to find an opportunity that works for you. Volunteer Services helps connect students to volunteer positions within various organizations. As well, Volunteer Services offers resources, workshops, events, and advising to students who want to find out more about the opportunities available to them.

Start making a difference by volunteering.
COURSE-BASED EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sometimes it may not be easy for students to see how their degree relates to the real world. At this intersection of theory and practice are experientially-based courses which bring theory to life—and life to theory. Rooted in both classroom and community, these exciting and innovative courses are offered in every academic program across SFU’s curriculum. Experiential Education courses provide students the opportunity to explore the relationship of their chosen discipline to the real world while gaining credit toward their degree. Each with its own flavour, courses rooted in experience offer a myriad of environments where students can “learn through doing” while applying critical thought in personally and professionally meaningful ways. Browse through our course list for just a few of the many experiential opportunities available across SFU’s eight faculties. Consult your academic advisor or visit sfu.ca/experiential to learn more.

http://ow.ly/10knN4
SAMPLE EXPERIENTIAL COURSES

- BUS 443-3  New Product Development and Design
- BUS 477-4  New Venture Planning
- BUS 488-3  Group Dynamics and Teamwork
- BUS 809-3  Equity Security Analysis and Portfolio Management I
- CHEM 317-2  Analytical Environmental Chemistry
- CMNS 226-3  Digital Media Communication Techniques
- CMNS 431-4  News Research and Analysis
- CMPT 363-3  User Interface Design
- CRIM 410-3  Decision-making in Criminal Justice
- EASC 303W-3  Environmental Geoscience
- EASC 416-3  Field Techniques in Hydrogeology
- EDUC 324-3  Foundations of Multicultural Counselling
- EDUC 452-8  Environmental Education
- ENGL 210W-3  Writing and Critical Thinking
- ENGL 371-4  Writing: Theory and Practice
- ENSC 440W-4  Capstone Engineering Science Project
- ENSC 441-3  Capstone Design Technical Project I
- ENSC 442-3  Capstone Design Technical Project II
- FPA 129-3  Movement Fundamentals
- FPA 130-4  Fundamentals of Film
- FPA 233-2  The Techniques of Film
- GER0 401-3  Environment and Aging
- GEOG 449  Environmental Processes & Urban Development
- IAT 208-3  Drawing as Inquiry
- IAT 309W-3  Writing for Design, Media, and Informatics
- IS 412-4  Central Asia, the Transcaucasus and Russia: Democracy, Development and Conflicts
- POL 354-4  Comparative Metropolitan Governance
- REM 611  Population and Community Ecology
- SCD 401  Social Enterprise for Sustainable Community Development
- WS 410-4  STT: Pirate Writing: Radiophonic Strategies For Feminist Consciousness Raising