

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE

FUTURE STUDENT GUIDE

2025/26 ACADEMIC YEAR





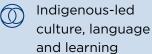
CONTENTS

Where you learn matters	2
Our campuses	4
The NIC experience	6
Student supports	7
Campus services	8
On-campus student housing	9
Beyond the classroom	10
Work-integrated learning	11
Study abroad	11
Academic programs	12
Business and management	15
Digital design and development .	16
Fine arts	17
Health	18
Human services	20
Indigenous studies	22
Tourism and hospitality	23

University arts and sciences	24
University transfer agreements	25
University-level courses	26
Upgrading and access	27
Trades and technical programs .	28
Automotive and	
mechanical trades	30
Construction trades	31
Culinary arts	32
Industrial automation	
and manufacturing	33
Natural resources	33
Continuing education	
and training	34
Professional training credentials	35
Industry training	35
Get to know NIC	36
Start your application	37

Using this guide

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





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.



Five 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 \$700k 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 are accessible and 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.



Accessible program pathways, transferable credits and boundless support - no matter where you study.

Mixalakwila

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 new CARTI Seaweed Innovation Hub.



Our largest campus is expanding with the new Student Housing Commons (opening in 2025) and the future NIC Centre of Excellence for Early Learning. We've also added upgraded science labs to the mix. Choose from a vast range of program options, including fine arts and university studies.

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 - and our roster of on-campus programs also includes health care and early childhood care and education.

Ucluelet Learning Centre

Our location on Vancouver Island's stunning West Coast offers access to business, health care, university transfer and adult basic education courses. You can also connect to NIC resources to plan your educational journey.



THE NIC EXPERIENCE

Being a student is more than showing up for classes.

Take 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.

Financial awards

There's more than \$700k 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

Buy your course books and supplies and get your NIC swag.

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.

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 services and supports designed by students like you.

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





Student Life

NIC isn't just a college, it's a community.

Early Assist

Need academic or personal support? Early Assist connects you with campus and community resources.

Orientation

A journey is about the people you meet along the way. We welcome you to connect and engage.

Student wellness

Access free, professional and confidential counselling, sexualized violence support and more.

On-Campus Student Housing

Student housing is opening at NIC's Comox Valley campus in September 2025.

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.

Applying for housing

Apply to your program of choice starting Oct. 1, 2024. Housing applications will open in Winter 2025.



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

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Empower your learning with research, career growth and travel.





Work-Integrated Learning

Work while you learn

Some business and tourism 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 two-to-three-week, immersive experiences take you to destinations like Jordan, Spain or Japan. Students travel as a group and are led by an NIC faculty to complete NIC courses.

Outgoing exchanges/ double degrees

Live abroad and study at an international college or university. Earn credits and/or a second degree while paying NIC tuition. Volunteer and specialized exchanges are also available.



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.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



Dual credit

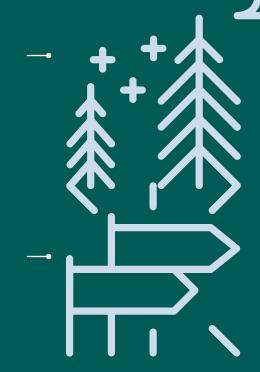
Start your postsecondary education in Grade 11 or 12. Your tuition may be covered.

nic.bc.ca/dual-credit

Tuition-free upgrading

It's never too late.
Earn your high school diploma or complete your program requirements.

nic.bc.ca/upgrading



Certificate

A short, focused credential.

(typically < 1 year)

Associate degree

Earn your arts or science credential.

(2 years)

Diploma

Deepen your knowledge.

(< 2 years, 1 year if you have your certificate)





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 open up your career path. (< 2 years)

Transfer to university

Take your first two years of post-secondary at NIC, then transfer across BC or beyond to finish your degree.





Business and Management

Business

Prepare to succeed in business, build networks and gain experience locally and globally with a range of co-op and applied learning opportunities.

Business Administration Certificate	1 YR
Business Administration Diploma Accounting Management Marketing	2 YRS
Bachelor of Business Administration Accounting Management Marketing	4 YRS
Business Administration Post-Graduate Diploma Global Business Management Accounting	2 YRS



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



Live in France while you earn your degree from Université Savoie Mont Blanc — or double your degree at Robert Gordon University Aberdeen in Scotland.

Office administration

Specialize in accounting or general office administration with our flexible online programs.

Office Assistant 1 Certificate	1 YR
Administrative Assistant Certificate	1 YR
Computing Accounting Assistant Certificate	1 YR
Office Management Certificate	1 YR



Graduates from these programs pursue work in the business, finance and administration sectors – that's 175,900 jobs or 18 per cent of all job openings in BC by 2033.

(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

Digital Content Production	1 YR
Micro-credential	
Web Design Fundamentals Certificate	1 YR
Communication Design Diploma	2 YRS
Advanced Digital Design and	3 YRS
Development Diploma (Design)	

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



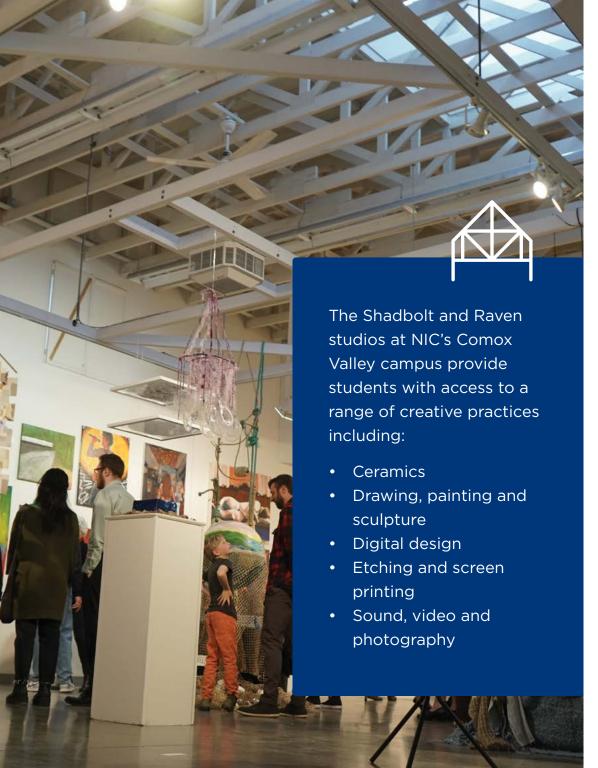
By 2033, there are more than 22,480 job openings projected for web designers and developers, graphic designers, illustrators and software developers and programmers in BC. (Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)





"Because I was exposed to so many different approaches it helped a lot in terms of what I could offer."

Dale Garcia, NIC Communication Design Diploma alum, designer, photographer, video editor and small business owner



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 syly







Expand your artistic horizons while on exchange in Europe.



In BC alone, 1,540 job openings are expected for painters, sculptors and other visual artists by 2033. (Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)

Health

Gain the expertise and experience to join the next generation of leaders in a multi-disciplinary healthcare team.

Health Care Assistant Certificate*	6-8 MTS
Access to Practical Nursing Pathway	1.5 YRS
Practical Nursing Diploma (LPN)*	2 YRS
Bachelor of Science in	4 YRS
Nursing Degree*	



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

Option C: LPN Access to Bachelor of 3 YRS Science in Nursing Degree

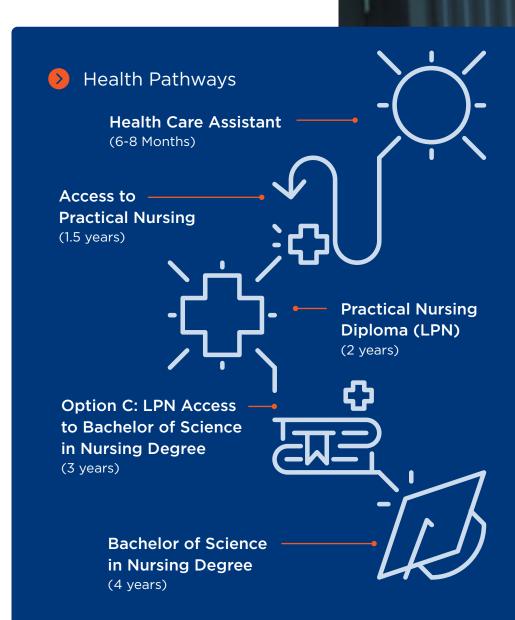


*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



Graduates will be prepared for health-related occupations that are projected to see a total 98,200 job openings by 2033.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)





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	2-3 YRS
Education Diploma	



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



More than 12,300 jobs are forecasted to open for early childhood educators and assistants in BC by 2033.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)

Human services

Human Services	1 YR
Educational Assistant/Community	
Support Worker Certificate*	
Human Services	1 YR
Educational Assistant/	
Community Support Worker,	
Indigenous Focus Certificate*	



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

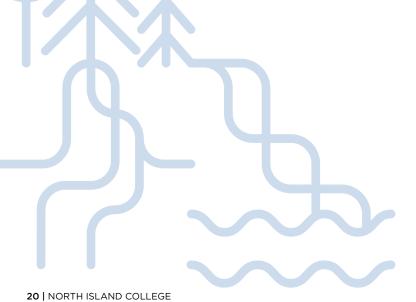


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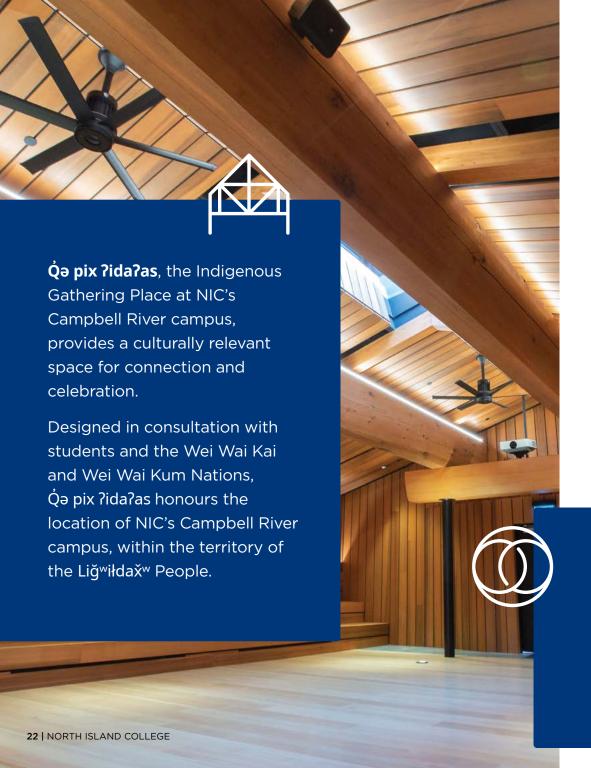


More than 14,900 job openings for social and community service workers are expected by 2033.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)







Indigenous Studies

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

Awi'nakola	VARIES
Indigenous Leadership Certificate	1.5 YRS
Indigenous Language Fluency	1 YR
Certificate*	

^{*}This program will run based on funding



BC is expected to see 20,600 job openings in local and Indigenous public administration by 2033.
(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



Share language learning experiences and engage in a cultural exchange through field schools to Hawaii or Costa Rica.

Did you know?

You can study Ayajuthem, Kwak'wala and Nuu-chah-nulth tuition-free through the Adult Basic Education program.



Tourism and Hospitality

Create spectacular experiences while specializing your skills in accommodations, food and beverage and sustainable tourism.

Adventure Guiding Certificate	1 YR
Tourism and Hospitality	1 YR
Management Certificate	
Tourism and Hospitality	2 YRS
Management Diploma	

- Adventure Guiding
- Hospitality Management
- **Tourism Management**

Tourism and Hospitality Management 1 YR Post-Graduate Certificate

- Hospitality Management
- Tourism Management

Tourism and Hospitality Management 2 YRS Post-Graduate Diploma

- Hospitality Management
- Tourism Management



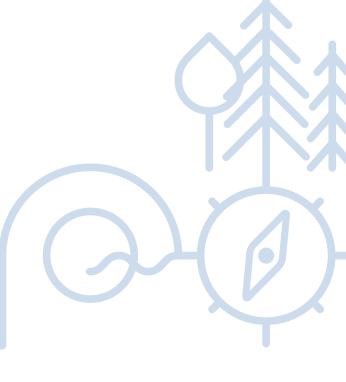
In accommodation and food services alone, there are 60,700 job openings expected in BC by 2033. (Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



Work locally or internationally for your internship.



Exchange opportunities are available in over 30 countries allowing you to explore the world and meet new people.



University Arts and Sciences

Engineering

Earn your first-year university credits with the benefit of small labs and one-on-one time with instructors. Qualify for dual or guaranteed admission to UVic's engineering degree programs or secure general transfer to UBC, SFU and beyond.

Engineering Foundations Certificate 1 YR

Humanities

Investigate the human condition while learning how to think critically.

Associate of Arts Degree	2 YRS
Associate of Arts Degree	2 YRS
Pre-Social Work	

Sciences

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

Island Pre-Health Science Advanced Diploma 3 YRS



- 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

Associate of Science Degree

2 YRS

Social sciences

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

Criminology Diploma

2 YRS

 Start your degree at NIC and receive transfer credit towards university degree programs including VIU and SFU.



Projections show 142,400 job openings in the professional, scientific and technical services industries by 2033.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)





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



- Dual Admission
- Guaranteed Admission



Dual Admission

"The course base was really well-balanced; I feel the instructors at NIC do a great job of integrating classes together. It felt like I had a strong foundation to take admission tests like the MCAT."

Vincent Michaud, NIC Associate of Science Degree alum, student, UBC Faculty of Medicine

University-Level Courses

Create your own path with courses that can transfer directly to a program of your choice at another university. Options in BC include: VIU, UVic, UBC, Royal Roads, SFU and more.

Part-time studies are a great option for students who are employed full-time or who have family commitments. The Canada Study Grant for part-time students can make it affordable.



Graduates from these programs work in education, law and social, community and government services – one of the top five occupational groups for job openings in BC by 2033.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



Immerse yourself in travel with field schools, exchanges and degree opportunities in Europe, Asia and beyond.

Subject areas

- Business
- Computer science and IT
- Digital design
- English
- Fine arts
- Humanities
 - History, liberal studies, modern languages, philosophy, First Nations, global studies, Indigenous language fluency and more
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social sciences
 - Anthropology, sociology, psychology, political science, criminology, economics and more



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



Upgrading and Access

Accessible education and training

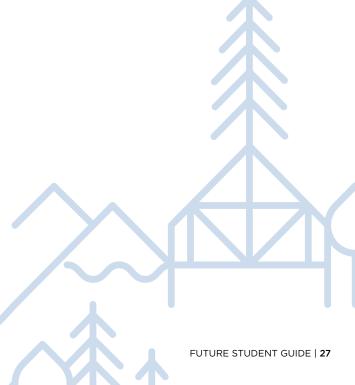
A variety of study options are available to help individuals with cognitive or developmental disabilities develop literacy, independence, employment, daily living and workplace readiness skills.

Accessible Learning	VARIES
Employment Transition	VARIES
Employment TransitionGrounds and Custodial AssistantKitchen Assistant	26 WKS
Practical Academics for the Workplace	VARIES
Workplace Professionalism	VARIES

Upgrading

Build confidence and skills to meet your education, training and employment goals. Upgrading courses are available for English, Indigenous languages, math and science. Tuition is free.

Adult Basic Education	VARIES
BC Adult Graduation Diploma	VARIES



TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS



Dual credit

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

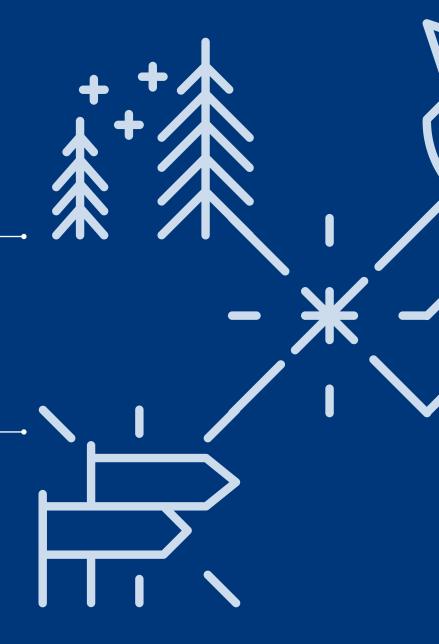
nic.bc.ca/dual-credit

Tuition-free upgrading

It's never too late.

Earn your high school diploma or complete your program requirements.

nic.bc.ca/upgrading





FUTURE STUDENT GUIDE | 29

Automotive and Mechanical Trades

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

Certificates

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

Apprenticeships

Automotive Service Technician	7 WKS
Apprenticeship Harmonized	
Heavy Duty Apprenticeship	5-10 WKS



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



More than 6,600 automotive service technicians and related mechanical trades job openings are expected in BC by 2033 — with another 1,900 jobs forecasted for heavy duty mechanics.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)





Construction Trades

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

Foundation

Carpentry Foundation Harmonized Certificate*	24 WKS
Electrician Foundation Harmonized Certificate*	24 WKS
Fabricator-Welder Foundation Harmonized*	32 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
Metal Fabricator Apprenticeship Harmonized	6-7 WKS/LVL
Plumber Apprenticeship Harmonized	6-8 WKS/LVL
Welder Apprenticeship Harmonized	8-16 WKS/LVL
Welding Levels B and A	16 WKS, 8 WKS



Graduates will pursue work in BC's construction industry, which is projected to see 66,600 job openings by 2033.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)

SkilledTradesBC

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

Culinary Arts

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

Certificates and Diplomas

Culinary Business Operations Certificate*	1 YR
Culinary Business Operations Diploma*	2 YRS

Apprenticeships

Professional Cook 1*	28 WKS
Professional Cook 2	14 WKS
Professional Cook 3	6 WKS



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



A projected 14,000 job openings for chefs and cooks are expected by 2033.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)



Strengthen your culinary resumé with outgoing exchanges in Ireland.



Industrial Automation and Manufacturing

Add analog and digital-based automation tools to your skill set and be ready to work in any industry.

Instrumentation and Electrical 2 YRS Automation Technician Diploma



An estimated 50,800 job openings are expected in manufacturing by 2033. (Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)

Natural Resources

Our specialized training is recognized by Forest Professionals BC and Technology Accreditation Canada.

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



*Priority admission is available for Indigenous students.



Forestry and associated support roles are expected to see 2,100 job openings by 2033.

(Source: BC Labour Market Outlook)





"I tree planted across Canada for eight years and I've always loved being outdoors. There are so many different facets to forestry like wildlife management, riparian restoration and a lot of avenues for my career. That's why I was drawn to it."

Naomi Johnson, NIC Coastal Forest Technology alum, BC First Nations Forestry Council scholarship student

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





Professional Training Credentials

Earn your credential and be ready to start a new career in under a year.

Activity Assistant Certificate	4 MTS PT
Adventure Guiding Certificate	1 YR
Animal Care Aide Certificate	7 MTS PT
Hospital Unit Clerk Certificate	9 MTS PT
Metal Jewellery Design Certificate	1 YR

Industry Training

Whether you're interested in sharpening your business skills, earning safety or marine certifications or breaking into a new industry like craft brewing or regenerative farming, we've got you covered.



Scan to view all programs online.



Workforce Training

Maintain your workplace safety credentials and advance your employment goals.

We offer First Aid, CPR, WHMIS, FoodSafe and other training throughout the year.

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.





Come to NIC Fest

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

Attend an info session

These online or in-person 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







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.

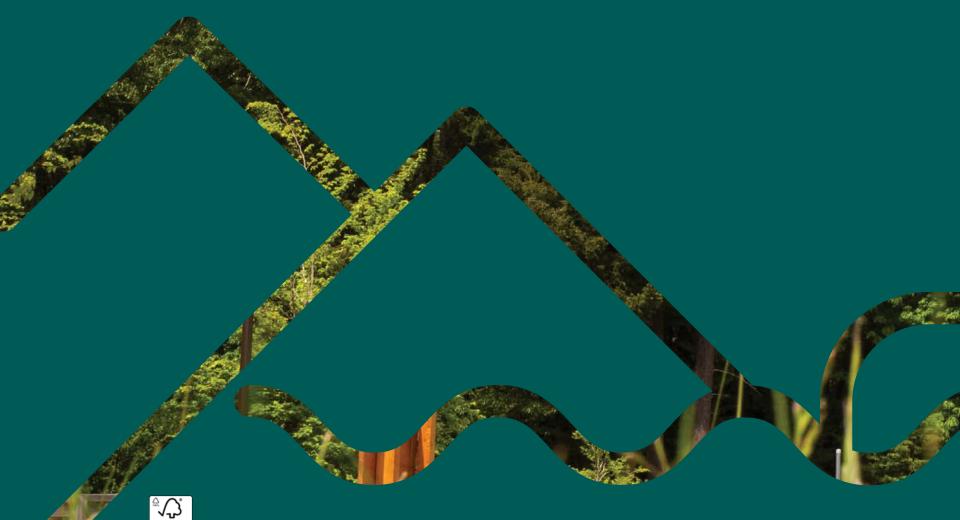
You'll apply to your program through educationplannerbc.ca,

British Columbia's centralized post-secondary application system. NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE

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

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