Program Options

Bachelor of Science Degree Transfer Program
This recognized transfer program allows students to complete the first two years of their Bachelor of Science in Forestry at VIU, and transfer directly into third year Forest Resources Management or Forest Operations at UBC.

Post Diploma Bridging Year to University Degrees
Graduates of the technology program wishing to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) degree from the University of British Columbia (UBC) can take this one-year bridging program providing direct entry into third year forestry at UBC.

Upgrading Program for Diploma Program Entry
This option provides students with the prerequisites for the diploma program and includes some selected forestry courses.

2-Year Forest Resources Technology Diploma
This program prepares students for a career in a range of forest technology fields. Course work includes forest management, ecology, forest health and engineering. Students gain experience with state-of-the-art technology, including GPS, GIS computer mapping, 3D simulations, satellite imagery, and laser measuring devices. A full course listing is available on the program website. Students may transfer into the second year of VIU’s Forestry program from a recognized forest technology school in Canada or the United States. Transfer qualifications are adjudicated on an individual basis.

The Forest Resources Technology Diploma program is accredited by the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board. Graduates meet the required standard for membership in the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) as Registered Forest Technologists. Twelve courses in the program are currently recognized by the ABCFP as qualifying toward Registered Professional Forester status.

International Opportunities
Our international field school takes second-year students to visit forests around the world. These trips enhance student knowledge of world forestry practices while fine tuning their awareness of their own environment. Students looking to spend more time abroad can participate in our international student exchange. Through reciprocal agreements with partner institutions around the world, select VIU forestry students can travel abroad to complete a full term of studies. Exchanges have included schools in England, France, Italy, Finland and Hungary.

Scholarships
More than $22,000 in scholarships, awards and bursaries are dedicated to forestry students every year. General financial aid is also available.

Vancouver Island University Forest
Our programs make extensive use of the VIU Forest. Just ten minutes from campus, this “living classroom” provides year-round access to outdoor learning. Students have access to 1,700 hectares of forestland on the lower slopes of Mt. Benson. Field work is a major focus of our programs, and the VIU Forest allows students to practice engineering, surveying, mapping, timber cruising and ecological assessments in a real world setting. Graduates of the forestry program leave with the advantage of having significant experience in a working forest.

What makes us great

Career Options

Your Career in Forestry
A broad choice of field positions in forestry, environmental management, and natural resource management are available to program graduates. Career options include jobs with private forest companies, provincial government ministries (forestry and environment-related teams), and independent consultants.

Some graduates run their own business as private contractors doing timber cruising, engineering, silviculture project supervision and ecological assessments. Graduates find jobs in all corners of the province.

Registered Forest Technologists (RFTs) are important members of the forestry team. They specialize in on-the-ground forestry work in areas such as silviculture, forest protection, forest operations and forest measurements. RFTs measure and assess a wide variety of forest values, including fish, wildlife, recreation, timber, range, and visual impacts.

Summer Jobs
Well-paid summer jobs are a great way for students to gain real-life experience in the forest sector. VIU assists students in obtaining employment, both during the summer months and following graduation.

Put your boots up on your desk!

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