



**International  
Education**

# **International Education Strategic Plan**

**2024–2029**

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# Introduction

## Land acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Vancouver Community College (VCC) is located on the traditional unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəḿ (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səlilw̓ətəɬ (Tseil-Waututh) peoples who have been stewards of this land from time immemorial.

# President's accountability statement

**For nearly 60 years, VCC has been committed to ensuring a diverse, globally engaged and locally grounded community for students, employees, industry partners, and community members.**

We are proud of our commitment to internationalization and look forward to making an even greater impact in the years to come.

The International Education Strategic Plan (IESP) was developed to meet evolving student and sectoral needs, ensuring a learning and living environment that will serve our community and our province well into the future. Our unwavering dedication to international education and global engagement is central to this plan. We take responsibility for promoting sustainable and ethical initiatives, and through this strategic plan, we embark on a journey to integrate relevant programs, practices, and values across our organization.

At VCC, we believe that true progress cannot be made without also furthering reconciliation, equity, and accessibility. These values have strongly informed this plan and will continue to guide our way in the decades to come.

Thank you to all of those who contributed to this plan, and to the International Education Department and Advisory Committee members for your dedication, time, and collaboration on the IESP.

Thank you for joining us as we shape VCC's future together.

Sincerely,



**Ajay Patel**  
President and CEO, Vancouver Community College

# About the International Education Strategic Plan (IESP)

**The International Education Strategic Plan (IESP) is a collaborative effort led by the VCC International Education Department and supported by the IESP Advisory Committee on behalf of the broader VCC community.**

The plan is informed by and aligned with the [VCC Strategic Innovation Plan \(SIP, 2022 - 2025\)](#) and other VCC commitments, including the [Campus Plan](#), [Accessibility Plan \(2023 - 2026\)](#), [Environmental Sustainability Strategy \(2023 - 2028\)](#) [Mental Health and Well-being Framework \(2022-2026\)](#) and the [Indigenization Strategy](#) (forthcoming). It was developed with a keen eye to the British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Training International Education Framework (2021) and EduCanada's consultations on the forthcoming renewal of the federal International Education Strategy (2025 - 2030).

The IESP is a five-year strategic plan (2024 - 2029) that informs and guides VCC's local and global engagement in our [internationalization](#) efforts. The IESP was developed to be responsive to evolving student and sectoral needs, provide strategic vision and direction to VCC campus and community members, and position VCC to lead the BC College sector in global engagement. It is an institution-wide plan created with support from the Senior Leadership Team and the Board.

VCC is committed to community engagement in all of our strategic planning. We conducted internal and external stakeholder engagement, and their feedback was integrated into the development of this IESP. The IESP will be followed by a detailed College-wide implementation plan that will be community-built and initiated.

Thank you to the International Education Department, the IESP Advisory Committee, and internal and external stakeholders for sharing valuable ideas and helping shape this strategic plan. We also thank external consultants Kate Jennings and Sarah Mines, who provided expert training and senior advisory services throughout the development of the IESP.

# About VCC

Programs

**120**

Countries

**136**

Full time / part time students

**12.0k**

International students

**3.3k**

Indigenous students

**489**

Vancouver Community College (VCC) offers in-demand programs leading to employment that support provincial and federal strategies for internationalization. As a key player in the post-secondary landscape in B.C., VCC's connections to industry and community ensure that our students have direct access to employers and community resources. The majority of VCC's programs incorporate experiential and work-integrated learning to prepare graduates for employment, as demonstrated by our high graduate employment rates.

VCC prioritizes student learning with small classrooms in cohorts that provide individualized and specialized support for learners. VCC's cohort model embeds essential student support for language, intercultural and academic competencies. Our instructors bring industry experience to the classroom and our on-campus facilities provide real work and practical skills to promote community engagement and further ensure our graduates are ready for the workforce.

## Student services

- Academic Advising
- International Student Immigration Advising
- New International Student Orientation
- Pre-departure sessions
- International Peer Mentor Community
- Monthly Student Newsletters
- International Student Engagement Activities
- Immigration Workshops

# About VCC (cont'd)

Very satisfied or satisfied  
with education received

**94%**

Median hourly wage

**\$25**

Employment rate

**87%**

One of the College's core values is to create an accessible and sustainable environment in the local and global classroom, industry and community where students build the skills, develop the attributes and gain the experience needed for success now and in the future. We are deeply committed to furthering equity, accessibility, decolonization and reconciliation and adopting environmentally sustainable practices into our internationalization initiatives and operations, which makes VCC a unique and exciting place to study and work.

VCC administrators, staff and faculty foster a student-centered environment and ensure students have access to services and resources to enhance their success. We recognize our role in ensuring students are successful both on- and off-campus. We are committed to working with local partners to create living and learning spaces that are responsive to student needs. Through holistic student services and programs, VCC supports the entire student journey from pre-arrival to graduation and beyond.

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**This program significantly enhances students' professional development, fosters cultural diversity, and fosters a stronger sense of belonging within VCC. It not only aids freshmen in adapting to new environments but also provides support to mentors from their mentees. The symbiotic relationship between mentors and mentees allows both parties to grow and evolve together.**

Mandy Lee

International peer mentor

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# International Education strategic plan

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## VCC vision statement

The first choice for innovative, experiential learning for life.

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## VCC International Education vision statement

An inclusive environment for students, staff, and faculty to engage in international learning and contribute to the local and global VCC community.

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## VCC International Education mission

- Advance internationalization efforts at VCC through strategic internal and external partnerships.
  - Deliver high-quality, inclusive education and services for students to thrive academically, culturally and socially.
  - Promote and provide local and global engagement opportunities for students, staff and faculty and contribute to a more sustainable and interconnected world.
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# **VCC International Education strategic objectives**

The following strategic objectives position VCC to be responsive to global trends and opportunities and to lead the BC College sector in global engagement. Each objective has related actions that showcase opportunities for VCC to advance internationalization across the college. These actions will be further developed in the next phase of community-wide implementation planning.

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**Indigenous perspectives**

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**Equity, diversity, inclusion and access**

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**Student success**


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**Global experiences and partnerships**

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**Sustainability**

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## Indigenous perspectives

Integrate practices of decolonization and reconciliation in VCC's internationalization initiatives and actions to provide opportunities for the College Community to learn about, celebrate and honour Indigenous knowledge, cultures and ways of being and in keeping with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

### Actions:

- Collaborate with Dean of Indigenous Initiatives, Dean of Curriculum and Pedagogy, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Indigenous Faculty Initiatives Advisor to seek input, advice, and participation in the development and implementation of internationalization initiatives.
- Ensure international partnerships and collaborations align with principles of decolonization and reconciliation.
- Prioritize relationships with institutions that share a commitment to diversity, equity and respect for indigenous rights.



**As my Elders have shared with me over the years, it is how we connect and interact with people that is the most important thing. Reconciliation begins with building relationships, developing understanding, and allowing for Indigenous Elders and community members to collaborate on initiatives or projects such as the International Education Strategic Plan to support the good work we are doing at VCC.**

David Kirk

Dean, Curriculum & Pedagogy





## Equity, diversity, inclusion and access

Integrate practices of equity, diversity, inclusion, and access in all areas of internationalization to promote a positive and inclusive College community.

### Actions:

- Ensure that internationalization efforts and operations align with VCC's equity, diversity, inclusion, and access priorities.
- Support access to VCC programs and ensure regional, economic and demographic student diversity in alignment with provincial and federal priorities and frameworks.
- Support the ongoing development of teaching, learning and assessment strategies that are inclusive of diverse ways of knowing and being.
- Coordinate intercultural competency training for students, staff and faculty to enhance understanding of diverse cultures, backgrounds and perspectives.



## Student success

Support the well-being of students and enhance their experiences in successfully reaching their personal and professional goals.

### Actions:

- Enhance student supports and services with a focus on mental health, career and settlement, and safe and secure living conditions, to help students overcome challenges and achieve their academic goals.
- Support program development that aligns with in-demand labour market outcomes as identified by provincial and national labour market analyses.
- Ensure opportunities for students to gain employment in careers related to their field of study and maintain high graduate employment rates and successful graduate outcomes.
- Prioritize students' best interests and hold VCC and its partners, including education agents, accountable to ethical business practices that comply with provincial and federal standards.

## Inspiring success: Talita Zampieri Lima Mendes

***“VCC was an important step for me to get where I’m at right now. I believe you need to be humble, start small, and always think about the strongest success is when you have a strong foundation.”***

Talita Zampieri Lima Mendes, a recipient of the **2024 Outstanding Alumni Awards**, came to Canada as an international student from Brazil and excelled in VCC’s cosmetology program. Now the owner of Mon Cheri Salon & Spa and Bossa Nova Salon & Spa, Talita provides study and mentorship opportunities for VCC students, showcasing the impact of VCC on international student career success.

**[Learn more about Talita’s story.](#)**



## Global experiences and partnerships

Develop and enhance opportunities for the VCC community to participate in and benefit from global engagement through strategic partnerships and internationalization at home.

### Actions:

- Develop a framework, establish partnerships and create consistent processes for global engagement, mobility and exchange (both virtual and in-person) to increase student, staff and faculty access to global experiences.
- Establish strategies for embedding internationalization at home into College initiatives.
- Provide financial support for internationalization and global engagement initiatives.
- Leverage positive outcomes from global experiences and partnerships to support students, staff and faculty to navigate complex global challenges.

## VCC International Education strengthens ties with Coast Institute of Technology in Kenya

VCC delegates visited the Coast Institute of Technology (CIT) in Voi, Kenya, as part of the Young Africa Works project, sponsored by Colleges and Institutes Canada (CiCan) and funded by the Mastercard Foundation. This visit provided a chance to deepen collaboration between the institutions and enhance CIT's capabilities in curriculum development, instruction, and evaluation. The team, including members from International Education, Culinary Arts, and Jewellery and Gemmology, collaborated with CIT instructors, engaged with the gender mainstreaming committee, and celebrated the Day of the Girl.

At the Voi Gemstone Centre, they explored opportunities to develop CIT's gemmology program, empowering locals and fostering entrepreneurship. This initiative strengthened the partnership and built capacity in teaching and program development.

[Learn more about this story here.](#)



## Sustainability

Integrate and align relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and environmental best practices into VCC's internationalization efforts and operations.

### Actions:

- Strengthen our capabilities to design and implement strategies that minimize the negative impacts of social, economic and environmental crises and emerging challenges in alignment with the UN SDGs.
- Integrate environmental stewardship and best practices for sustainability into internationalization efforts and operations.
- Make operational decisions that support climate-conscious activities and align with provincial and federal frameworks and VCC's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

## About the Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation

The Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation (CCEAI) is envisioned as an eight-story, 31,943 square meter (343,832 square feet), LEED Gold certified, energy efficient, hybrid mass-timber/concrete building. The CCEAI is anchored by new automotive programs that will train automotive service technicians on the servicing and maintenance of electric vehicles – Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV), Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) and Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV). The CCEAI will contribute 772 net new students annually with the demand for 24,000+ jobs through to 2031, especially in the mainland southwest which represents -70% of the projected workforce.

The CCEAI at the Broadway campus is a catalyst project for the VCC Campus Plan. Learn more about the Centre, VCC's Campus Plan, stories about training in automotive innovation, and more at [vcc.ca/campus-plan](https://vcc.ca/campus-plan)

# IESP Aspirations

The IESP (2024 - 2029) sets VCC on a solid path for the next five years as we evaluate and enhance our internationalization efforts and operations. Throughout the IESP process, we considered why we were embarking on this work and setting strategic objectives for VCC. The vision became clear as we articulated our long-term aspirations. The IESP objectives will help ensure that VCC:

- is an institutional partner of choice for global learning opportunities with local, national and international institutions and governments; has increased engagement of VCC faculty and program areas participating in global learning opportunities; and is the college of choice for inbound and outbound mobility;
- is recognized locally and globally by students and employers as the first choice for skills training and career opportunities supported by high-quality student services; has the highest graduate employment rate in BC and is a role model institution for graduates who meet labour market demands and bring diversity and global competencies to the workplace;
- integrates practices of decolonization and reconciliation in its internationalization efforts and operations; proactively collaborates with indigenous colleagues in keeping with UNDRIP and advancing the TRC Calls to Action;
- integrates equity, diversity, inclusion and access in its internationalization efforts and operations; has a truly diverse student body supported by diverse faculty, staff and community members; is recognized as a local and global leader in creating accessible and inclusive student-centered programs and supports; and
- is known as a local and global leader in the College sector in its commitment and actions related to the UN SDGs; is reducing emissions within its internationalization efforts and operations and is positioned to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

We encourage you to contact us if you would like to get involved in our strategy. You can reach out to Jennifer Gossen, Director of International Education at [jgossen@vcc.ca](mailto:jgossen@vcc.ca) or [ieservices@vcc.ca](mailto:ieservices@vcc.ca)



### Get involved

Implementing the IESP will involve broad engagement with internal and external stakeholders. We look forward to working together to hold up the objectives and carry out the actions of this plan.