THE UBC EXPERIENCE

The program you’re looking for
UBC consistently ranks among the top 40 universities and among the top 20 public institutions in the world. With 18 faculties that are comprised of 60 undergraduate and masters programs, 52,721 students call the UBC Vancouver campus home, including 12,117 international students from 139 countries.

In addition to its standing as one of the top research-intensive universities in the world, UBC also prides itself on maintaining a vibrant learning environment that features numerous experiential learning opportunities and a 15-1 student-teacher ratio.

The place you want to be
Surrounded by the forested trails of Pacific Spirit Regional Park and sandy beaches of the Pacific Ocean, UBC’s Vancouver campus finds itself nestled in the city’s Point Grey neighbourhood. The United Nations has ranked Vancouver as one of top three cities in the world in which to live for the past decade. Vancouver is renowned for pristine natural surroundings of mountain and sea, year-round mild temperatures, and culturally diverse communities.

THE THUNDERBIRDS EXPERIENCE

Canada’s most decorated athletics program
The UBC Thunderbirds varsity program consists of 25 teams in 13 sports, with affiliations in two inter-university leagues. Historically, UBC boasts the most successful program in U SPORTS, as Thunderbird teams have won over 100 U SPORTS national championships to date and nine in the US-based National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). UBC has also produced countless international competitors and medalists, including 231 Olympians, and hundreds of student-athletes who have been drafted into professional leagues around the world.

Academic and financial supports
The UBC Thunderbirds program employs full-time staff to aid student-athletes in their academic pursuits. An emphasis is placed on the transition of first-year students, for whom one-on-one tutoring and guaranteed housing is offered.

Priority course registration is made available for student-athletes in most faculties. Financial support is provided in the form of athletic scholarships and alumni-supported awards for leadership and academics, as well as a work-study program.

Integrated sport science
To optimize individual and team performance, student-athletes have access to state-of-the-art facilities, technology, hydrotherapy recovery rooms, and massage therapy. They are also supported by experts in exercise physiology, dietetics, and sport psychology. In addition, UBC’s strength and conditioning coaches tailor individual and sport-specific training regimens for student-athletes in the 4,000-square-foot Smith and Laycoe Varsity Weight Room.

Athlete health is a key priority at UBC, with three full-time therapists and strong partnerships with the UBC Student Health and Allan McGavin Sports Medicine Centre all dedicated to keeping athletes in top form, mentally and physically.
The UBC Swimming Advantage

Thank you for your interest in joining the historic UBC Thunderbirds varsity swim team!

Thunderbird swimmers have enjoyed great success at the national and international levels. Since 1964, the UBC swim teams have combined to win 36 U SPORTS championships, including winning ten consecutive titles for both men and women from 1998-2007, a record unmatched in U SPORTS history. In 2017, the men’s and women’s team won the U SPORTS championships, with the women winning their U SPORTS record 21st national title. UBC continues to develop Olympians, including Brent Hayden who won the bronze medal at the 2012 Olympics in London. As well, UBC alumni Brian Johns and Annamay Pierse broke world records in their time at UBC, showing that UBC develops world class swimmers on the way to team success.

UBC has a long standing partnership with Swimming Canada, and is the host site to the Swimming Canada National Performance Centre–Vancouver (NPC-Van). On top of being an excellent U SPORTS program, UBC aligns its program to allow Thunderbird swimmers to achieve their international and Olympic goals as well as excel in the classroom.

The Thunderbirds moved into their new training venue in January 2017. The state-of-the-art $40 million UBC Aquatic Center boasts a 10-lane 50m FINA certified competition pool, as well as an 8-lane 25m pool. With team and individual access to sport physiology, nutrition, massage, customized strength and conditioning programs, and full time medical and physiotherapy support, our swimmers are given every opportunity to succeed.

Due to the high standard we set for the program, we expect recruits to be able to score in multiple events at U SPORTS championships during their first year on the team. We also expect swimmers to have multiple Canadian Senior National Time Standards when they come swim for the Thunderbirds. If you’re interested in continuing a path of excellence in the water as well as the classroom and you meet these standards, or are on track to meet these standards in the next year, please contact us to show your interest in becoming a UBC Thunderbird.

2016 Thunderbird Olympians

Yuri Kisil
50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 4x100 freestyle relay
Markus Thormeyer
4x100 freestyle relay
Erika Seltenreich-Hodgson
200 IM
Emily Overholt
400 IM
Martha McCabe (alumnus)
200 Br
Steve Price
Olympic Staff Coach

10 consecutive U SPORTS championship titles for both men and women from 1998 to 2007, a record unmatched in U SPORTS history

Head Coach Steve Price, 5-time U SPORTS and Canada West Coach of the Year and 2016 Rio Olympic Staff Coach
BECOMING A THUNDERBIRD

1. GOTHUNDERBIRDS.CA/RECRUIT
   • Thunderbirds recruitment information
   • Prospective Student Athlete Form

2. Ensure that UBC is the right academic and career choice for you. Investigate:
   • Programs offered
   • Academic prerequisites
   • Application deadlines

3. Compile your academic and athletic profiles
   • Academic transcripts
   • Playing history including participation in national, provincial and regional programs
   • Participation in other high performance sports
   • Coaches recommendations
   • Highlight videos
   • Recent results

4. Make contact with head coach
   • Make your intentions known
   • Discuss your options
   • Have your questions answered

5. Apply to UBC before the deadlines in your preferred faculty

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Steve Price
Head Coach

Derrick Schoof
Assistant Coach

Contact us:
swim.recruit@ubc.ca

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