



Press Release For Immediate Release Monday Oct.3, 2005

University Canada West Opens Doors – Historic Moment in Canadian Education

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

University Canada West, the first private self supporting university approved under the BC Degree Authorization Act, and Canada's first such University is now a reality. UCW began its first classes on September 26 with a founding class of 19 students. ". UCW prides itself by focusing on Student Success in a very personal way. This first class of students will receive a tremendous amount of attention from faculty who have been selected, not only for their outstanding academic credentials but because they love to teach in a small institution which focuses on personal interaction", says Dr. David Strong, President.

The first degree offered is a Bachelor of Commerce in Management Technology. You can also study for Commerce degrees in International Business, Strategic Leadership, Tourism and E Commerce. Additional degrees, including BAs in Economics, Media/Communications, Culture/Heritage/Tourism, and a BAsC in Geography, have been reviewed and Ministry approval is expected shortly. Other programs are in the pipeline

University Canada West is not restricted to undergraduate education .An MBA program starts with 15 students on October 7th.The MBA program offers unique options, especially for the mature learner

The historic day began with University Canada West President Dr. David Strong greeting students as they arrived on campus at 950 Kings Road in downtown Victoria. A morning of introductory lectures ("awesome teachers" said one student afterwards) was followed by lunch and an afternoon of orientation to the University's unique features, and ended with a barbecue under a beautiful Victoria sunset. The enthusiasm and excitement of students, faculty and staff was magnificent. Students continue their orientation through the week, using activities such as a scavenger hunt designed to get to know "Victoria as Our Campus".

The University Canada West degree programs differ from traditional ones. While they provide the same 40 courses, they are delivered in 3-month Quarters rather than the usual four-month Semesters. This allows students to graduate within just two and one half years, gaining an early entry into the job market, with significant financial benefits in both the immediate and long term.

All degrees have a practical orientation to skills as well as knowledge and understanding, ensured by Learning Coaches as well as top-notch professors. No matter what their specialty, all students take the same 15 Arts and Science courses in their first year, dispersing for their 20 specialty courses for different degree programs, and reuniting in the final quarter for five "capstone courses". The capstone courses provide an integration and overview of global and fundamental ideas – world religions and philosophies, world monetary systems, scientific revolutions, etc.

Dr. Rick Roskin, Vice-President Academic, said, "We want our students to graduate as skilled as well as educated individuals, ready to succeed in whatever challenges they take on in employment, post-graduate studies, or personal ventures."

As well as the in-class instruction and tutorial support now provided, all courses will eventually be accessible on line using the University's specially developed software and portals termed "MYUCW". Dr. Strong said "Our students are dynamic and mobile, and we want them to have maximum flexibility and choice of learning methods in space and time." He noted that University Canada West is probably also unique in that its tuition fees are the same for both international and Canadian students.

University Canada West also offers a number of Diploma and Certificate programs, and details can be found at <http://www.universitycanadawest.ca> .

For further information, please contact:

Jim Griffith, Vice-President External Relations
University Canada West
950 Kings Road
Victoria, BC Canada V8T 1W6
Telephone: 250-978-1800; Facsimile: 250-978-1801; Email: info@universitycanadawest.ca