



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC Vantage College



Annual Report 2022

# UBC Vantage College Mission Statement

*We seek to further establish Vantage College, at the university and among Canadian post-secondary institutions, as an interdisciplinary hub, where applied linguistics and disciplinary faculty, staff and students collaborate to mobilize and create new knowledge regarding international student language learning trajectories and academic outcomes. With the Vantage One programs, our mission is to offer an enriched student experience that incorporates and develops innovative pedagogies, interdisciplinary approaches, and transformative learning opportunities to ensure that Vantage students are academically successful and thrive at UBC throughout their undergraduate degrees.*



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# Message from the Principal

In this annual report, we highlight and celebrate the accomplishments of Vantage students and our team of incredibly dedicated faculty and staff who have successfully navigated through the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our 2021 cohort of Vantage students showed remarkable tenacity as they dealt with travel delays, changing quarantine rules, issues with closures of study visa processing centres and processing times.

In 2021, the Vantage One programs included a remote start option for students. These remote start timetables offered students who were unable to be here in-person for the start of term a way to begin their Vantage One programs online. All students were expected to be in person by the end of October in order to complete their term in person. Our faculty and staff planned for extra online sections in order to enable this remote start options and also adapted pedagogical approaches and community building efforts to consider both online settings and the transition back to in-person learning.

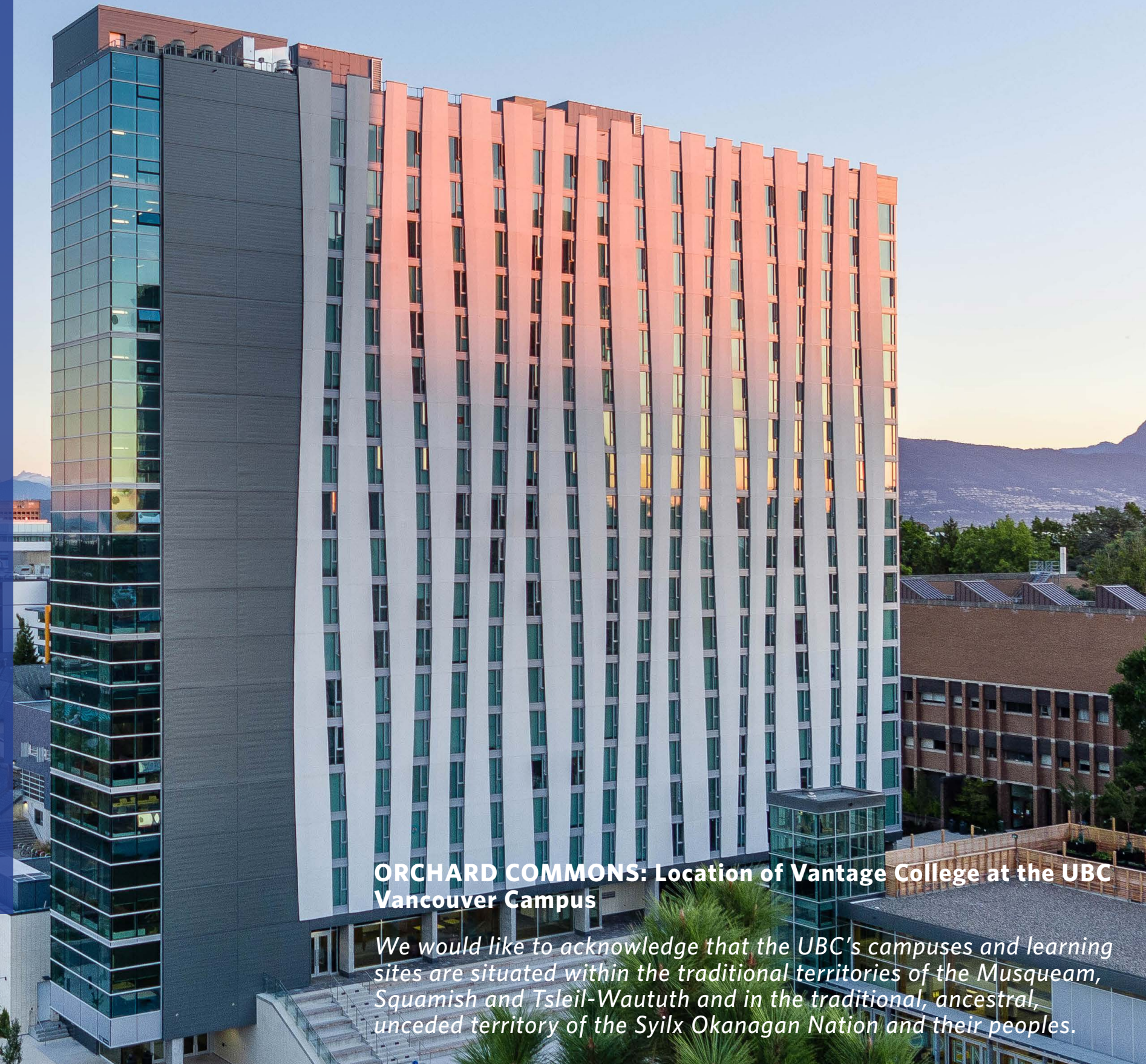
Across campus, hybrid and remote work arrangements were also piloted and adopted campus-wide in 2022. At Vantage, this provided an opportunity to increase flexibility by using hybrid modes of delivery for both curricular and co-curricular programming. Remote work arrangements have also created new ways in which our teams at Vantage are working collaboratively.

For the first time since 2019, our Vantage Capstone Conference was held in in-person in July. In person pictures with our cardboard Zoom box cut-off offered a playful and fun way to celebrate this very different year. The Capstone Conference offers our students an incredible way to showcase their talents and, this year especially, it was wonderful to be together in person to celebrate their accomplishments.

Looking back, I'm really proud of how our Vantage community supported each other during this immense period of change and transition. This annual report highlights a small selection of work by Vantage students, faculty and staff from 2022. I would like to acknowledge all of the accomplishments and immensely valuable contributions made by all 40+ faculty and 12 staff members to the Vantage One programs in 2022.

Warm regards,

Joanne Fox  
Principal, Vantage College

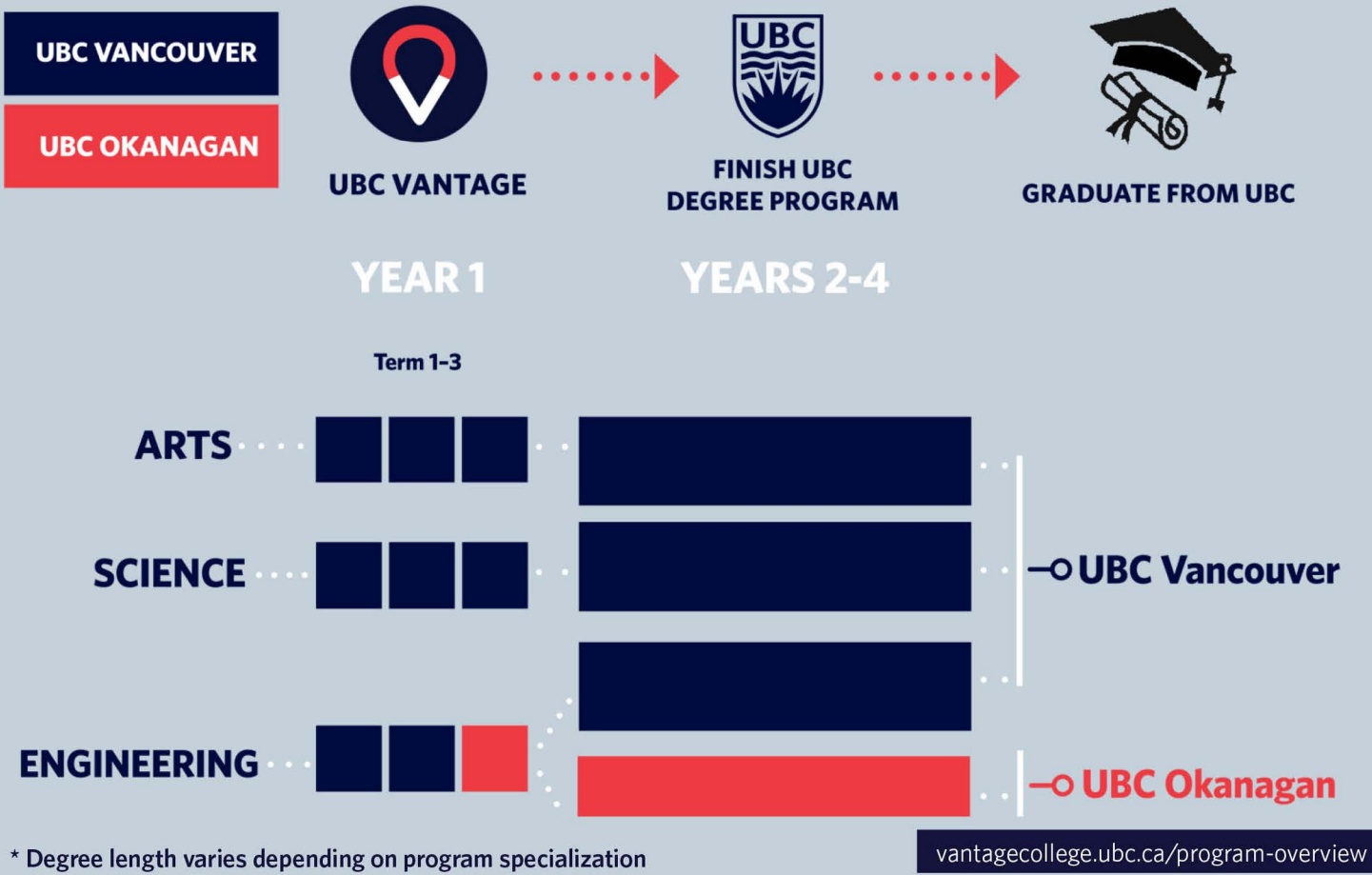


**ORCHARD COMMONS: Location of Vantage College at the UBC Vancouver Campus**

*We would like to acknowledge that the UBC's campuses and learning sites are situated within the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh and in the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation and their peoples.*

# Vantage One Programs, Enrollment and Progression

## streamed degree paths



### THREE DEGREE PROGRAMS

**Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Science:**  
For all three terms, students study at the **Vancouver campus**.

**Bachelor of Applied Science:**  
For terms 1 & 2, students will be studying at the **Vancouver campus**  
For term 3, students will be at the **Okanagan campus**.

\*\*Starting 2022/2023, admission to the UBC Vantage College Arts Program is suspended

## Dual campus

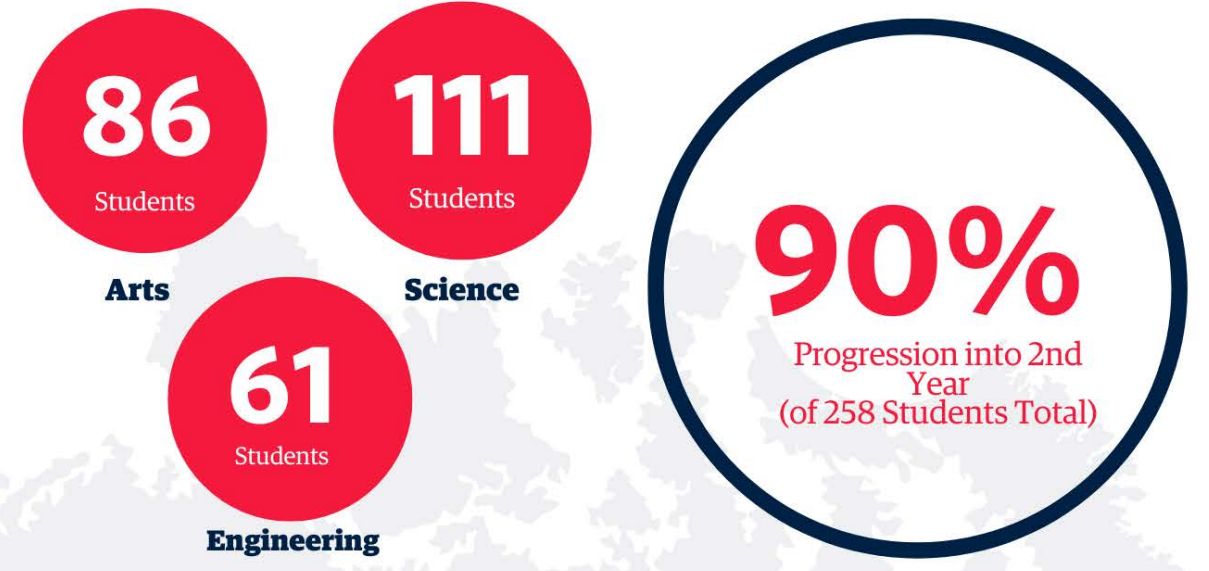
UBC Vantage College offers specifically-designed pathway programs for international students. In addition to the UBC Vancouver Campus, the Vantage One Engineering program also extends out to UBC Okanagan. The award winning Vantage One programs are customized to offer students an enriched first year experience that is 11-months long in duration.

While all Vantage students complete Term 1 and Term 2 at UBC Vancouver, where they study throughout Term 3 will depend on their chosen program.



## 2022 VANTAGE ONE PROGRAM ENROLMENTS

### Vantage One Programs for Cohort #8



### 2022 Capstone Conference

Research Theme: "Unmute Yourself: Make Some Noise!"

**230+**  
Students

**55+**  
Research Posters

**40+**  
Academic Talks

## Vantage Scholarships & Awards 2022

**\$1M**  
Award Amount Offered

**30**  
Awards Offered

**20**  
Nationalities Represented

## Engagement with UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan

The Intercultural Communications Committee (ICC) at Vantage College has committed to supporting staff, faculty, and students' engagement with UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan.

Following the facilitated discussion of the Self-Assessment Tool at our May 2022 Faculty and Staff Retreat, we have outlined a pathway for reconciliation in Vantage College through the following steps:

**Step 1: Reflect** - We encourage you to review and re-assess your understanding of decolonization, Indigenization, and reconciliation.

**Step 2: Explore** - Through individual and place-based learning, we encourage you to learn and un-learn about the histories and contexts of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, and to begin making connections to your work in Vantage College.

**Step 3: Engage** - We encourage you to commit to action in reconciliation.

**Step 4: Share (and reflect)** - At the 2023 retreat, we encourage you to share your learning and actions, and to begin another cycle of reflection, exploration, and engagement.

As you take these steps, the resources in this module may be helpful. We have compiled them for convenient access and welcome further suggestions.

The ICC at Vantage College is dedicated to continuing this work throughout the following year. Through holding events and workshops for faculty and staff to continue this work, we hope this will develop personal engagement with UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan, and its implementation within our pedagogy and curriculum at Vantage College.

## 2021/2022 Killam Teaching Prize: Vantage One Instructors

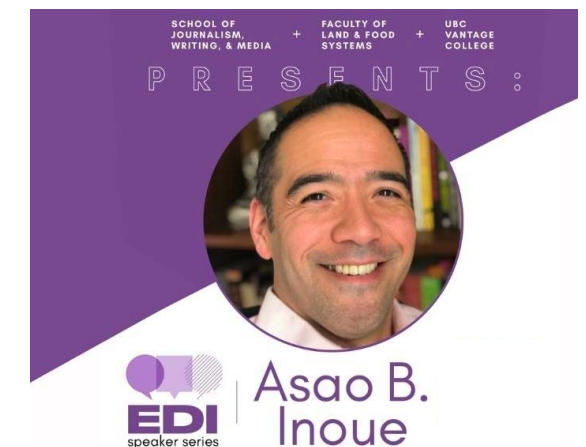


In 2021, Vantage College had the pleasure to announce that three Vantage One program Instructors were awarded the Killam Teaching Prize.

Dr. Juan Abelló (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering), Dr. Fok-Shuen Leung (Dept. of Mathematics), and Dr. Oluwakemi Ola (Dept. of Computer Science) received the Killam Teaching Prize. The Killam Teaching Prize is awarded annually to faculty nominated by students, colleagues and alumni in recognition of excellence in teaching. This is the second Killam Teaching Prize for Dr. Fok-Shuen Leung.

For more information on the incredible teaching and work by these notable instructors, visit the [Vantage College website](#).

## Speaker Series



The UBC School of Journalism, Writing, and Media, in partnership with the UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems, and UBC's Vantage College was pleased to present two seminars by Asao B. Inoue, Professor of Rhetoric and Composition in the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts at Arizona State University. The virtual event was a part of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Speaker Series hosted by the UBC School of Journalism, Writing and Media.

The event included a keynote— *Understanding and Doing Antiracist Classroom Assessment*, and faculty workshop, *How to Confront White Language Supremacy in Course Language Standards and Grading*.

For more information on this event and the speaker visit the [Vantage College website](#).

# Featured Faculty Publications & Projects

A selection of published works and projects focused on transformative teaching and learning are showcased in this section, over the span of 2021-2022. They illustrate the range and diversity of projects, as well as the high level of interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary collaboration that characterizes much of the work at Vantage. The outcomes of these projects inform programmatic decisions, as well as curricular and pedagogical design, as well as instructional principles guiding Vantage One programs.

## First-Year International Students and the Language of Indigenous Studies



by **Katja Thieme & Jennifer Walsh Marr**

Given UBC's location on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people and the TRC's Calls to Action (#63-65), Katja Thieme and Jennifer Walsh Marr recognize the need to integrate questions related to Indigenous writing and scholarship into our teaching of academic English and research writing. They have built this pedagogical and research project over the past five years, unfolding it through a process that has included development of course materials, adaptation of these materials for different classes, collaboration with Indigenous Initiatives at UBC's CTLT, presentation to other instructors locally, nationally, and internationally, and, most recently, publication. Their project has directly impacted Vantage College students in the Arts stream over those five years, including in this current academic year 2021/22, the last year of the Arts stream. Through documentation in this application, the project has had an impact on students while they study at Vantage College and as they continue their degrees. It has also had an influence on other faculty at Vantage College, UBC, and beyond, supporting language-focused teaching of Indigenous studies at this and other institutions.

Thieme and Walsh Marr's innovation is the integration of Indigenous studies within first-year writing and academic English courses at Vantage College. In their sections of VANT 140 and WRDS 150, which traditionally pay close attention to Western academic texts, they expand international students' repertoires of discourse by engaging with Indigenous texts.

Throughout this pedagogical initiative, there has been consultations and collaboration with Indigenous members of the university. Thieme and Walsh Marr were among the collaborators of (IN)Relation, a CTLT-led resource on Indigenous relations specifically geared toward international students. Currently, there is little research and pedagogical material for work with Indigenous texts in their combined fields of EAL pedagogy, English for academic purposes, and writing studies. Based on their work in VANT 140 and WRDS 150 as well as through participation in CTLT's Indigenous Initiatives, they have contextualized these materials at the intersection of English for academic

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## Learning Disciplinary Language and Multiple Competencies in First-Year Science



by **Alfredo Ferreira & Georg Rieger**

This project involves the development of an OER supplementary textbook for first-year multilingual students of physics at UBC and internationally, focusing on the language and multiple competencies of solving physics problems in speech and writing. It is funded by a UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement (TLEF) grant of \$15,487. The supplement adopts a multiliteracies teaching model by tracking and unpacking, through a task-based approach, the respective functions of language, figures and mathematics in solving physics problems, especially as these functions are reflected in the preferred orientations of three fictional students, who illustrate varying trajectories in their development as physicists.

## Tracking Academic Buoyancy of Vantage Applied Science Students



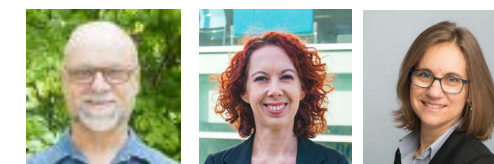
by **Juan Abelló**

Academic buoyancy is a concept developed by Martin and Marsh (2008) to describe the ability of a student to handle everyday school pressures, and bounce back from everyday academic setbacks. Dr. Juan Abelló, led a study to measure the academic buoyancy of Vantage Applied Science students, and found that student academic buoyancy increased as students progressed through our first-year program. The increase was statistically significant and had a large effect size for students who completed three surveys during this period. The increase was not statistically significant and had a small effect size for students who completed any two surveys, but analysis suggests this increase was not by chance. The limitations of this study include a small sample size, particularly for students who completed any two surveys.

This study appears in the peer-reviewed paper "Tracking academic buoyancy after embedding a transition to university learning component into a first-year calculus sequence" that Dr. Abelló wrote, and presented at the 2022 conference of the Canadian Engineering Education Association in York, Ontario. In 2022 Dr. Abelló was the recipient of the UBC Killam Teaching Award, and Chair of the Vantage One Engineering program.

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## Writing in the STEM Disciplines: Advancing Graduate Academic Literacies



by **Alfredo Ferreira, Jodie Martin & Sandra Zappa-Hollman**

Writing in the STEM Disciplines: Advancing Graduate Academic Literacies is a two-year project funded by the Advancing Education Renewal Fund, the School of Writing and Scholarly Communication, The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and Vantage College, through in kind support as well as course buy-outs for faculty involved in this initiative. Addressing the central aim of UBC's Great Grad Programs initiative, the outputs of this project consist of a series of workshops designed to provide graduate students in STEM with wide-ranging resources and robust experiences for improving their disciplinary writing. The Writing in Stem workshop series reflects an interest in providing a research-informed and relatively comprehensive set of educational experiences for graduate students across various STEM sub-disciplines, levels of professional achievement and needs and orientations. More specifically, the workshops apprentice science writers to the general functions in play when they write (what to write about, how to order these ideas, and how writers position themselves, their ideas, their readers, and other writers in the relevant disciplinary and/or institutional community), as well as introduce them to a series of strategies and skills to achieve their disciplinary writing aims.

Since September 2021, Dr. Alfredo Ferreira and Dr. Jodie Martin, AEP Lecturers at Vantage College, have designed and piloted ten workshops in consultation with Patty Kelly (Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication), Jacqui Brinkman (Graduate Student Professional Development), and Sandra Zappa-Hollman (Vantage College), and with support from doctoral student Shayan Fahini.

# Student Engagement & Support

## Vantage Peer Mentor Program



The Vantage Peer Mentors are a group of Vantage alumni students, passionate about fostering social connections and providing peer support to the Vantage One cohort. This includes event planning, peer-led communications campaigns, and working with staff and faculty members for student engagement initiatives.

Our Peer mentors are current UBC students who started their degrees at Vantage.

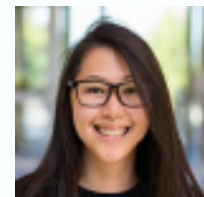
## Academic Advising

The Vantage College Academic Advising Team is an integral part in the success of all Vantage One students. In addition to providing resources for students to succeed in the Vantage One program, they also contribute to setting students up for success well into their UBC undergraduate experience. Our Academic Advisors also provide extensive assistance when students require mental health resources.

Various workshops, advising office hours and student focused events were held by the Advising team, in collaboration with the Vantage Peer Mentors. This collaboration led to a better understanding of just how online-learning can affect students, especially in their first year, and what new resources are required to ensure student success.



Atul Gadhia, Manager



Tina Chan, Advisor,  
Engineering



Beth Dennis, Advisor,  
Science

## Featured Student Stories

### Meet Tara Ubovic: 2021 Vantage College Excellence Award Winner



Meet Tara Ubovic, Vantage College Excellence Award Winner and current Vantage One Science student from Belgrade, Serbia. In this Student Profile interview, Tara discusses her experience at Vantage College, her future plans in Science research, and her love of music.

### Meet Joaquín Gutiérrez: Vantage One Science Alumni and Former Peer Mentor



In this Student Profile interview, Joaquin discusses his experience at Vantage College, how he found a community within the program, and his time as a Vantage Peer Mentor.

# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Capstone Conference



**UNMUTE YOURSELF**  
**MAKE SOME ((NOISE))**

The Vantage College Capstone Conference is held annually to showcase the incredible work from all our students over the course of their first year at UBC. On July 11th and 12th, UBC Vantage College held their 8th annual Capstone Conference. The conference is an opportunity for students and UBC's dual campuses, UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan, to foster connection and demonstrate their work and proficiency. This annual academic event allows students to showcase their final projects after completing their 1st year of academic studies in the Vantage One Program, and was awarded the 2020 BCCIE AWARD for Outstanding Program in International Education.

The theme for the 2021-2022 Capstone Conference was *Unmute Yourself: Make Some Noise!*—to commemorate our first year back with an in-person conference, since 2019. It was finally a chance for students to express themselves and raise their voice in the same room as their peers and not behind their computers and Zoom cameras.

This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Trevor Barnes, and we had the chance to hear from three student speakers from Vantage One Science, Arts and Engineering.



## Vantage One Awards Presentation During Conference

During the closing ceremony, Vantage College presented awards to students who's projects have demonstrated excellence in various categories, from best research design to best presentation. Vantage Teaching Awards are also awarded to faculty and staff at the conference.

### Student Awards

#### Arts

##### Most Rigorous Research Design

Winning Topic: "What is the relationship between the increase of women's presence in leadership positions with the reduction of stereotypes within the Canadian higher-education system?" by Fiorella Vargas, Yuki Hashiuchi and Serena Tanabe

##### Most Impactful Project

Winning Topic: "Pressing issue of the contributors of large-scale food waste in Canada." by Andrea Chen, Aria Chen and Ran Yue

##### Best Presentation

Winning Topic: "Investigating Strategies for Canadian University Instructors Dealing with Online Teaching Hardships" by Shufan Liang, Siqi Gao, and Skylar Gao

#### Science

##### Best Overall Research Project

Winning Title: "Interrelationship Between Vegetation and Slope Stability" by Jafar Alhasan and Aladdin Obaid

##### Best Presentation

Winning Titles: "Accuracy of Vancouver Rain Forecast Based on KNN Algorithms" by Salman Alqallaf and Leo Gao & "The Relationship Between Wounding Mandarins and Its pH Values" by Jellia Ma and Yiting Sun

#### Engineering

##### Applied Science Best Project

Presented to the team that builds a functional and energy efficient prototype sustainable dryer.  
Winning team: Ashkan Ahmady Afkham, Chidera Chima, Marcelo Gorrini, Dustin Huynh, Jibrán Khan, Elif Ucar Jerry Yang and Haonan Zhou

### Faculty and Staff Awards

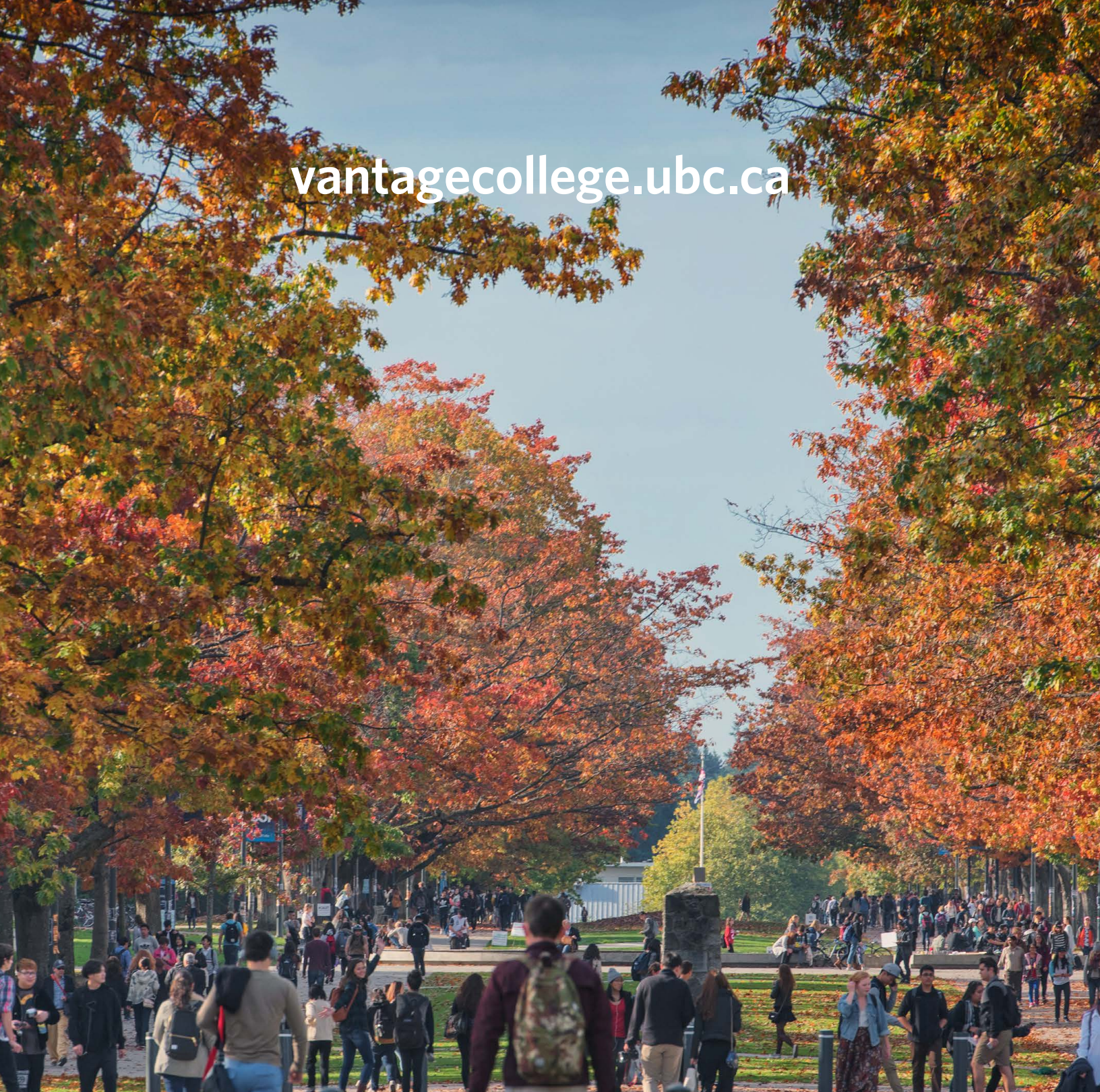
Vantage College Educational Innovation Award  
Awarded to: Katja Thieme and Jennifer Walsh Marr

Vantage Teaching Award  
Awarded to: Amber Shaw

Vantage College Staff Awards  
Award to: Wendy Brett & Linda Le



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