



A PLACE & PROMISE FOR ARTS

UBC Faculty of ARTS
Strategic Plan, Fall 2011



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Taking Stock A Faculty of Breadth, Strength, & Diversity

This document constitutes a five-year plan for the Faculty of Arts, the largest Faculty at the University of British Columbia.

Arts has 20 academic departments and schools spanning the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Creative and Performing Arts as well as professional programs, more than 20 interdisciplinary programs, a gallery, a museum, theatres, concert venues, and a performing arts centre.

The Faculty of Arts comprises nearly 13,000 undergraduate and 1,600 graduate students, as well as 750 faculty (including approximately 500 tenure stream faculty), and 250 staff across the Vancouver campus. Our students come from over 100 countries, and we have 63,000 living alumni.



Indicators of Excellence

Many of our departments are considered in the top two in Canada and among the top 15-20 in the world. Although international rankings are imperfect, they provide one measure of our reputation and achievement.

The [*Times Higher Education Survey*](#) (THES) World Rankings placed UBC's Social Sciences (2011) at #16 and the Humanities (2011) at #28.

This document identifies four key areas of focus for 2011-2016: Pioneer Transformative Education, Enhance the Student Experience, Excel at Research, and Engage with the Community.

UBC Arts will address these areas recognizing its responsibility to our students and the people of British Columbia to provide high-quality, accessible education and research economically.



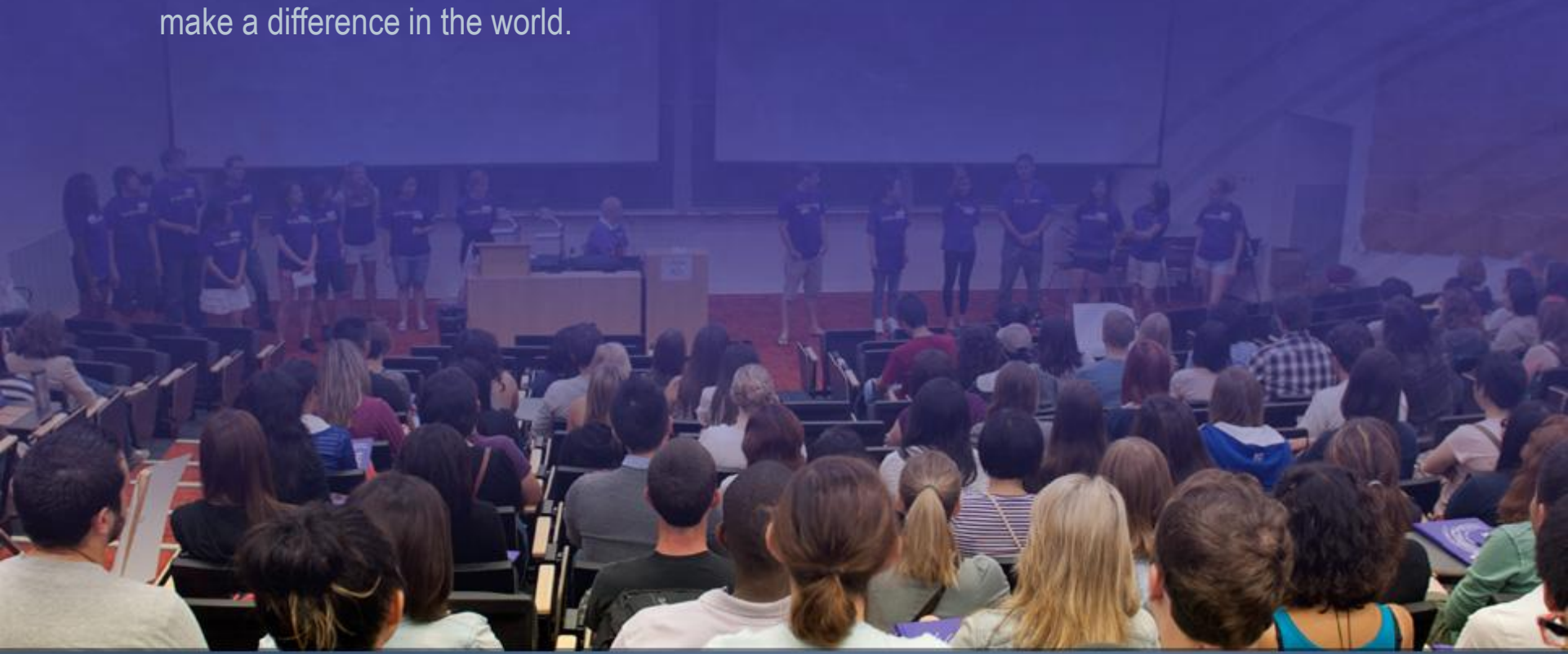
Pioneer Transformative Education

The Faculty of Arts aspires to be internationally recognized for an exceptional learning environment with innovative, student-focused pedagogical practices. We encourage student choice as they manage their own education. To reach these goals, we commit to:

- Encourage a balance between the number of teaching and research professors, fund teaching and learning innovators, facilitate the use of appropriate digital tools in teaching, and maintain our focus on research and writing experiences for students throughout the disciplines.
- Provide enriched educational experiences to all students. Building on our accomplishment of providing every first-year student with a small class experience, we will increase other high-impact opportunities for students by raising the number of community service and research learning opportunities, study abroad opportunities, internships, work-study options, co-op choices and student-led research.



- Reform our curriculum through improved accountability, develop measurable educational outcomes for our programs, stressing attributes and skills. We will map and evaluate our programs to determine how they deliver on these outcomes.
- Expand broad-based admissions to recruit students optimally ready for a UBC education, augment the diversity of the student population, and enhance the capacity of our students to make a difference in the world.



Enhance the Student Experience

- Work with the University to create a seamless process of student advising by implementing an Online Advising Management System (OAMS), which will help to assist in early intervention for students at academic risk and provide career-long student information.
- Support flexible and personalized learning plans for students, enhance and evaluate systems to assist students in navigating through their degree programs, and improve waitlist procedures.
- Improve transition to UBC and throughout first-year by expanding successful orientation programs and by providing additional services such as peer mentoring.
- Continue to support graduate student funding and career preparation, and open up additional teaching and training opportunities.
- Collaborate with the Vice-President Students, student organizations, and other faculties at UBC to implement and evaluate programs to reduce stress and improve physical and mental wellness.
- Build at least two “collegia” for commuter students. Each collegium will have a concierge, kitchen, study, and locker facilities.



Excel at Research

We will continue to enhance the quality and impact of research and scholarship in Arts; build areas of research strength, and further mobilize and exchange our research. The capacity to address interdisciplinary problems in research and teaching should be available to all of our faculty and students. We commit to:

- Invest in research clusters with potential to be leaders in their fields.
- Increase the number and quality of grant applications through improved administrative support.
- Inaugurate a Vancouver School of Economics in collaboration with the Sauder School of Business and help to anchor a new UBC School of Public Policy.



- Integrate the [Liu Institute for Global Issues](#) and a small number of other interdisciplinary units into Arts .
- Enhance the opportunities for rotating professorships and residencies for our own faculty and for visitors and postdoctoral fellows.
- Support research networks and education research innovation in northern Aboriginal communities.
- Emphasize the social and cultural impacts of our research (knowledge mobilization) in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Creative and Performing Arts and promote our research more vigorously.
- Develop additional resources for recording, training, preserving, archiving, and making accessible a wide range of community-based oral histories, including Asian-Canadian histories and those of BC's First Nations.





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Engage with the Community

We will share knowledge and expertise widely and engage in partnerships with the community. We will foster student, faculty, staff and alumni engagement with external communities and provide our students with experiential learning, service learning and research opportunities that will better equip them to make a difference to our world. We commit to:

- Increase our support of community service learning and research initiatives between our students, faculty and community partners.
- Encourage more public policy initiatives by faculty and students and increase public lectures and forums, available on campus, in the community and online.
- Increase public access to our plays, concerts, and exhibitions by Creative and Performing Arts units and Museums, and inaugurate an Arts & Culture District at UBC, with a top-level webpage for events and activities.
- Double our contacts with alumni and engage our alumni base in mentorship and events.



- Continue to support [Humanities 101](#), our outreach program that offers university-level courses to residents of the Downtown Eastside.
- Expand Aboriginal research and teaching initiatives to increase understanding of Aboriginal cultures and histories and to supportively and respectfully engage with Aboriginal peoples. Our initiatives in this area include: the MOA Native Youth Program, First Nations Languages Program, First Nations Studies, First Nations Languages and Linguistics, the Archaeological Field School, the School of Social Work Squamish BSW Pilot Program, the Nanisiniq Arviat History Project in Social Work, and Musqueam 101 among others.



Intercultural Understanding

The study and embrace of intercultural dialogue is woven into the fabric of many of our programs and units. At UBC Arts, we create intercultural aptitude among our students through study, reflection, debate and action across profound cultural differences, and these aptitudes will serve our students well as they emerge as leaders in their chosen fields and their communities. We commit to:

- Provide all of our students the opportunity for intercultural experiences in the curriculum, in the classroom, in the university community, in our local communities, and across the globe.
- Study the feasibility of implementing a Diversity and Intercultural Understanding curricular requirement.



International Engagement

We seek to further internationalize our curriculum so that all of our students understand the global dimensions to their areas of study and can excel in international work. We commit to:

- Include a global dimension in *all* of our new (relevant) programs of study.
- Build partnerships with international universities for exchange, joint programs and research and continue field schools in East Africa, Cuba, Chile, Argentina and Mexico.
- Build particular strength in regions of special importance to UBC. These include Asia and Europe. Specifically, we intend to develop Asian expertise in every relevant Arts unit.
- Develop resources in Islam and Persian studies in the [Department of Asian Studies](#) with additional strength in [Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies](#) (CNERs).





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