2018 Program Guide

An initiative of:

University of Victoria | Computer Science

developed in collaboration with:

STEMBOLT sendwithus VIATEC

Coast Capital Savings InnovationCentre KANO CO-OP+CAREER

Greater VICTORIA School District SOOKE SCHOOLS 62 Shaping Tomorrow Today Saanich Schools Great Places to Learn & Safe Places to Be

Summary

The HighTechU Pilot Project is an initiative of the UVic Department of Computer Science, developed in collaboration with members of the Greater Victoria technology and education sectors, which seeks to build our community through experiential learning opportunities for island youth. Focused on developing in-demand skills in the next generation of innovators, HighTechU is about more than just coding; it's about empowering youth to build the diverse skills they need to succeed and thrive in the growing technology industry in Victoria and beyond.

Our Mission

To empower the next generation of innovators on Vancouver Island, through real-world, experiential learning opportunities for high school students.

Our Vision

To improve the perception of computer science and software engineering in the public eye, and reduce diversity gaps in the fields.

Our Core Values

At the heart of the HighTechU Project are 6 core values that guide the program pilot:

- ★ **Respect:** Honour diversity and act with integrity
- ★ **Resilience:** Find success in failure, persevere and overcome
- ★ **Curiosity:** Explore your passions, and expand your perspective
- ★ **Creativity:** Think differently, and dare to be original
- ★ **Teamwork:** Work collaboratively towards a common goal
- ★ **Innovation:** Embrace and drive change

Fostering Diversity

Beyond a core value, diversity is a cornerstone of the HighTechU pilot project. Through our programs we aim to create a safe and welcoming environment where all persons, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status, can discover and explore the world of technology and their role in leading future innovation. We are particularly focussed on helping provide an opportunity for under-represented groups, such as women, indigenous youth and members of visible minorities, gain exposure to the high tech industry and postsecondary education.

HighTechU Pilot Project Program Model

Read model description on page 3

Program Overview

Develop Skills *through the Computer Science Skills Academy*

The HighTechU Skills Academy is about more than just coding; it's about building the next generation of innovators here on Vancouver island. Over this six-week intensive weekend program, youth will get exposure to the real-world of coding, gaining the practical skills needed to succeed and thrive in the ever changing technology sector. The 2018 Academy program pilot will be located on-campus at the University of Victoria, running from **9am-4pm on Saturdays from April 7th until May 12th**. Curriculum for the pilot, developed in collaboration with industry partners, will focus on the skills and tools needed to develop in JavaScript, including the use of common frameworks and its applications in both front and back-end web development. The Academy program pilot cohort is limited to 15 students, with curriculum delivered by two graduate students from the University of Victoria.

Gain Experience *through a Summer Industry Internship*

After completing the 2018 Academy program pilot, participants will be **eligible** to apply for one of the limited spots in the 2018 Summer Internship program. This 8-week paid Internship is an opportunity for participants to gain meaningful, real-world experience with a local tech company, while gaining credit for Work Experience 12A and 12B (*if applicable*). Internships will run from **Monday, July 2nd until Friday, August 24th and will require a commitment to full-time hours** (*~35 hours per week*). Specific employment terms and contracts will be managed through individual employers, with ongoing support for both interns and hosts provided by the HighTechU team. While we encourage all Academy participants to apply for an Internship, please note that there are limited spaces available and as such not all applicants will be accepted for a position.

For the summer of 2018, internships will be available through the support of our industry partners, including:

Company Name	What they do.
sendwithus https://www.sendwithus.com/	Sendwithus is a cloud-based communications management platform that enables organizations to maximize their email potential.
STEMBOLT https://stembolt.com	Stembolt is an ecommerce consultancy that works with retailers around the globe. They're the team behind Solidus, an open source, modular, and customizable platform built for high-volume stores.

Explore Innovation *through Continuing Education*

The HighTechU pilot project recognizes the value of encouraging academic study necessary to lead the next generation of innovation. As such, participants who successfully complete the Internship program will be eligible to receive a $1000 award from their employer, to be released upon admission to the University of Victoria. Should students decide to pursue post-secondary education elsewhere, they will forfeit the award.

Participant Eligibility Criteria

For the 2018 pilot of the HighTechU project, we are accepting a total of 15 students to take part in our 6-week Academy Program. **As this program is a pilot, we are seeking participants who recognize its experimental nature and who are willing to provide ongoing feedback, should the program continue in the future.** In addition to recognizing that this program is in its pilot stage, we have developed the following eligibility criteria for participation in the project for 2018:

- Be a <u>currently registered</u> high school student from SD61, SD62, SD63 or the Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry. We strongly encourage members of underrepresented groups including women, indigenous youth and members of visible minorities to apply
- Have a genuine interest in technology, and be able to demonstrate your commitment to the HighTechU Pilot Project Core Values
- Be at least 15 years old and have a legal right to work in the British Columbia* for the duration of the internship (*not required for the Academy)

Program Dates

- April 7 - May 12……………... Computer Science Skills Academy
- July 2 - August 24…………… Summer Industry Internship

Application Process and Deadlines

- March 16……………………... Deadline to submit an Academy application
- March 21……………………... Invitations emailed to applicants for group interview
- March 24……………………... Academy group interviews
- March 26……………………... Notifications sent by email of acceptance to the Academy
- March 31……………………... Deadline for Academy attendees to submit waivers/administration fee
- May 31 ……………………… Deadline to submit an Internship application
- June 6………………………… Invitations emailed to applicants for individual interview
- June 9………………………... Individual interviews for Internship
- June 13………………………... Notification by phone of acceptance to Internship

Waivers and Administration Fee

Prior to the beginning of the Academy program, successful applicants will be required to complete a consent waiver and indemnity form. This form will be provided to successful applicants, and will need to be submitted no later than March 31st. To demonstrate commitment to the Academy, successful applicants are also required to pay a non-refundable $50 administration fee to help offset the costs of running the HighTechU program. Should there be financial hardship that may limit a successful applicant's ability to pay the fee, please contact program organizers at the details listed on page 5.

Dismissal from HighTechU Programs

The HighTechU Pilot Project organizing team has established a set of standards which outline expectations for participants during the program. HighTechU Academy administration reserves the right to dismiss any participant who, in their opinion, is a hazard to the safety and/or rights of others, or who appears to have rejected the reasonable guidelines and expectations for all participants. In addition to the **HighTechU Participant Standards and Expectations**, participants in the Internship program must also follow appropriate internal policies and procedures of their employer.

HighTechU Participant Standards and Expectations

- Uphold and demonstrate the HighTechU Project **Core Values** throughout your time in both the Academy and Internship programs.
- Actively support program staff in creating a positive, safe, and inclusive environment. Treat program staff and fellow participants with respect and cooperate with them at all times. Be polite and courteous to everyone you come in contact with at the University and Workplace – employees, colleagues, and members of the community.
- If you cannot report for an Academy session, or your Internship shift (or you must be late) provide notice to the appropriate supervisor as soon as possible. Any Academy participant who fails to show up for 2 or more sessions, without prior notice, may be dismissed.
- Be sure your parents or guardians know when you are scheduled to attend the Academy or your Internship (if applicable), and remember that it is your responsibility to keep track of your schedule. The Academy Staff and Intern hosts will not call/email/text employees to remind them of upcoming sessions.
- Think of the Academy as an opportunity to share your best self, and remember to behave and dress accordingly. No spaghetti strap tops, short-shorts, sweatpants, flip-flops, or clothes with inappropriate slogans/sayings are allowed while participating in the program.
- While HighTechU encourages responsible use of technology, please do not use your phone or personal devices during program time, unless directed by your staff/supervisor.
- If you have a problem or concern, please seek help from a HighTechU staff member. We want you to feel safe and comfortable in all HighTechU programs.
- HighTechU will not tolerate verbal, physical or virtual harassment of any kind, and consumption of illegal drugs and alcohol is strictly prohibited. Participants who engage in any of these behaviors will not be eligible to continue participating in any HighTechU programs.

Privacy Policy

The University of Victoria is committed to treating your personal information in accordance with FIPPA and the university's privacy policy. The collection of personal information is in accordance with section 26 of the Freedom of information and Protection of Privacy Act(FIPPA) and the University Act. The university uses the personal information for the purposes of providing educational and related services. For a detailed listing of the collection purposes see Schedule A, Procedures for the Management of Personal Information on the University Secretary's website. Should you have any questions concerning your personal information please contact the access and privacy office at foipp@uvic.ca.

Additional Information:

For more information on the HighTechU Pilot Project, please visit our website at:
http://www.hightechu.ca

Or contact:
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