



2026-2027 UVSS Volunteer Handbook

Run By Students, For Students.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
WELCOME!.....	2
Introduction to Your Role as a UVSS Volunteer.....	2
Benefits.....	2
ABOUT THE UVSS.....	3
UVSS Mission, Vision, and Values.....	3
STAFF DIRECTORY.....	4
VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES.....	5
How to Find Volunteer Opportunities.....	5
Types of Volunteer Opportunities.....	5
What to Do if You Can't Attend a Shift.....	5
How to Withdraw from Volunteering.....	6
UVSS Safer Spaces Policy.....	6
Photo Release Notice.....	6
THANK YOU!.....	7

WELCOME!

Introduction to Your Role as a UVSS Volunteer

Welcome to the UVic Students' Society (UVSS) volunteer team! As a volunteer, you play a crucial role in representing and promoting the society's mission and values. Your primary responsibilities include engaging with fellow students and helping to foster a vibrant and inclusive campus community.

In this role, you'll be the face of the UVSS at various events and activities, and will get a chance to talk to other students about what's going on at the UVSS. Your enthusiasm and commitment to student welfare will help bridge the gap between the society and the student body, ensuring that everyone is informed and involved.

Being an effective ambassador means embodying the spirit of the UVSS: collaborative, supportive, and dedicated to enhancing the student experience. Your contributions make a meaningful impact; helping students feel connected to their student society, ensuring they know what services they can access, and helping grow a community of amazing students who want to make a difference.

Our UVSS volunteers are the heart of our student society. You help our events run smoothly and make sure students have a great time. You are crucial to our UVSS team, and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for volunteering with us, we can't wait to work with you this year!

Benefits

- Meet other likeminded students
- Develop leadership skills
- Build connections to the campus community
- Make meaningful contributions to the wellbeing of other UVic students
- Boost your resume
- Get a letter of recommendation from the UVSS - ask our Volunteer leads!

ABOUT THE UVSS

Founded in 1964, the UVSS is a social justice based non-profit run by students, it is separate from the University, and it runs a successful social enterprise that includes nine unique businesses. All undergraduate students at the University of Victoria are members of the UVSS.

The students' society exists to provide advocacy, representation, services, and events for its members. The UVSS works on issues affecting students, such as post-secondary funding, public transit, sexualized violence, campus sustainability, student employment, and affordable housing.

UVSS Mission, Vision, and Values

Our mission is to be a leader in providing high-quality accessible services, advocacy, and events that enhance the student experience, and to build a campus community that embodies our values.

Our vision is to see full student engagement in our core components of advocacy, events, services, businesses, and society governance.

Our values are what we stand for. They underlie everything that we do and guide how we make decisions, perform our work and work with each other.

These values are the primary driving force behind all that we do:

- Good Governance
- FUN!
- Excellence
- Service
- Environmental Sustainability
- Decolonization
- Social Justice

STAFF DIRECTORY

Primary Point of Contact:

Director of Events – Mohan Selvarajan
(he/him)

Event coordination, volunteer
management

Contact: events@uvss.ca



Secondary Point of Contact:

Director of Outreach – Matthew Allen
Curtis (he/him)

Volunteer coordination, UVSS outreach
& tabling

Contact: outreach@uvss.ca



Other Points of Contact:

Policy, Research, & Communications Manager – Errin Johnston-Watson (she/her)
UVSS communications, social media, volunteer coordination

Contact: comm@uvss.ca

Human Resources & Administrative Services Manager – Laila Casado (she/her)

Contact: hradmin@uvss.ca

Member Outreach & Communications Officer – Lily Drimmel (she/her)

Volunteer assistance, social media

Contact: comm3@uvss.ca

In Case of an Emergency:

If the emergency involves immediate physical injury, please dial 9-1-1. Afterward, or for any other security concerns not requiring emergency services, please contact Campus Security Services (250 721-7599).

VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

How to Find Volunteer Opportunities

Opportunities can fluctuate over time, and we keep our volunteers informed through our volunteer newsletter. Once you sign up, you'll have volunteer opportunities delivered right to your inbox, ensuring you receive timely updates on new and changing opportunities. You can also reach out to our main contact person Mohan, at events@uvss.ca. Don't hesitate to express your interests or ask for guidance on where you might best contribute.

Types of Volunteer Opportunities

At the UVSS, there are a variety of volunteer opportunities designed to fit different interests and schedules. You can get involved in organizing events, assisting with student advocacy, contributing to community outreach, supporting administrative tasks, and helping with various campus initiatives. For example, we host monthly free hot lunches, puppy playtimes, campus wide events like Campus Kick Off, and much more! Whether you're passionate about environmental sustainability, social justice, or student wellness, there's likely a role that aligns with your interests and skills.

If you want to get even more involved with the UVSS, make sure to check out our committees! We host everything from Events committee to Policy Development, so there's lots of different things to get involved in. Access our open committees and find out more [here](#).

What to Do if You Can't Attend a Shift

If you're unable to attend a scheduled shift, please notify Mohan (events@uvss.ca) as soon as possible. This allows us to arrange for coverage and ensure that activities continue smoothly. We understand that emergencies and unforeseen situations can arise, and we appreciate your effort to communicate promptly. If

possible, try to provide as much notice as you can to help us make necessary adjustments.

How to Withdraw from Volunteering

If you decide that you no longer want to volunteer, please inform Mohan (events@uvss.ca) as soon as possible. This helps us manage our volunteer resources and make any necessary adjustments. We appreciate your contributions and understand that circumstances can change. Your feedback is also valuable, so feel free to share your reasons for stepping down if you're comfortable doing so.

UVSS Safer Spaces Policy

The UVSS Safer Spaces Policy, available on the [UVSS Policy & Bylaws page](#), outlines essential guidelines and procedures designed to create and maintain a safe and inclusive environment for everyone within the UVSS community. All volunteers are expected to familiarize themselves with the UVSS Safer Spaces Policy and adhere to its guidelines. Understanding and following this policy is essential to ensuring a positive and safe environment for everyone involved in UVSS activities.

Photo Release Notice

By participating as a volunteer with the UVSS, you acknowledge and consent to the possibility of being photographed or recorded during UVSS events and activities. These photos and recordings may be used for promotional purposes, and for things like social media, websites, newsletters, and other marketing materials. Your participation in our volunteer program implies acceptance of this photo release. If you have any concerns or prefer not to be included in any photos or recordings, please inform us prior to your involvement. Your comfort and privacy are important to us, and we will do our best to accommodate your preferences.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to read through the UVSS Volunteer Handbook. Your commitment and enthusiasm are integral to the success of our initiatives and the vibrancy of our campus community. As a volunteer with the UVSS, you are playing a vital role in shaping an inclusive, supportive, and dynamic environment for all students.

We appreciate your dedication and look forward to the positive impact you will make. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you every step of the way.

Together, we can create a meaningful and rewarding experience for everyone involved. Welcome aboard, and thank you for your valuable contributions!

Warm regards,

The UVSS Team

