



An initiative of:



2019 Program Guide

What is HighTechU?

HighTechU is a non-profit 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 technology-focused, experiential learning opportunities for Vancouver Island youth.

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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

Our Core Values

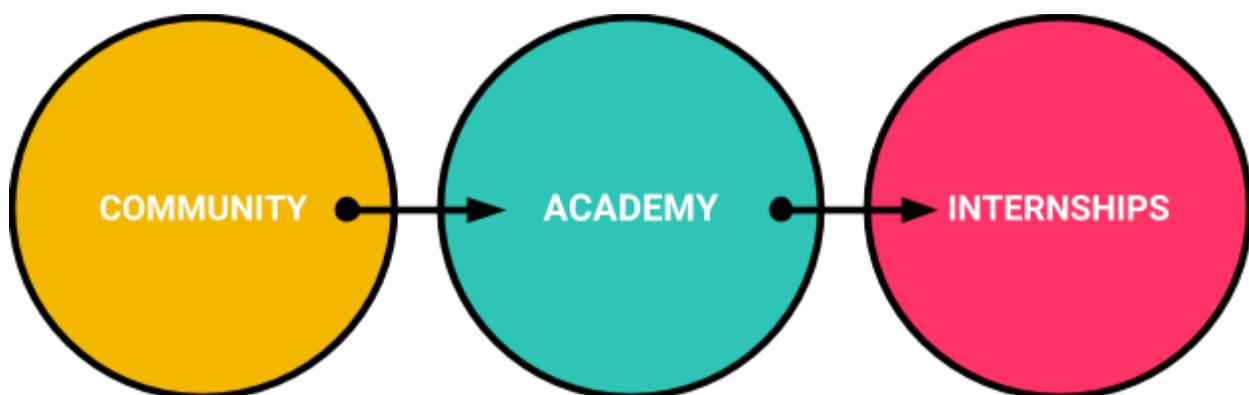
At the heart of HighTechU are 6 core values that guide all of our programs:

- ★ **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 HighTechU. 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 focused on helping provide an opportunity for under-represented groups, such as women, indigenous youth and members of visible minority groups, to gain exposure to the high tech industry and post-secondary education.

HighTechU Programs



Read program descriptions on page 3

Program Overviews

COMMUNITY HUB: A Technology Resource Hub for Vancouver Island teens!

The Community Hub is the entry point for anyone looking to become a member of HighTechU. THE HUB is a free online community full of resources to help you build your skills as a future innovator. HighTechU membership grants you access to all of the great resources available on THE HUB, so whether you are ready to join our next Academy cohort, or are simply interested in learning more about technology, you are sure to find value in the Community Hub, a new addition to the HighTechU Program for 2018-2019.

SKILLS ACADEMY: More Than Just a Coding Program

Once you have become a member of HighTechU, you will be able to access many great resources including the application to our seven-week intensive weekend program called THE ACADEMY, offered Saturday's from 10AM-4PM on-campus. During this hands-on, project-based program, you get the chance to learn using the same tools as the professionals, gaining exposure to the real-world of software development, and building practical skills needed to succeed & thrive in the ever changing technology sector. Developed in collaboration with education & industry partners, HE ACADEMY lets you test-drive a career in high-tech, working on an interdisciplinary team to build, test and deploy a custom web application.

Please refer to the "Important Dates" section of the guide for information on cohort dates.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS: Test-Drive a Career in High-Tech

For graduates of THE ACADEMY, our 8-week paid summer INTERNSHIPS give you the chance to actually experience life in high-tech, working with one of our amazing industry partners. HighTechU pairs participants with local technology companies, for customized summer internships that help support intern development while adding value to the companies they are working within. Supported by Mentors and a HighTechU Job Coach, internships are the chance to put your skills to the test, and gain early insight into the many career opportunities that exist - all while gaining credit for Work Experience 12A/12B (*if applicable*).

INTERNSHIPS are subject to availability, and generally take place during the months of July and August, requiring a commitment to full-time hours (35-40 hours per week). Specific employment terms and contracts are managed through individual employers, with ongoing support for both interns and hosts provided by the HighTechU team. While we encourage all ACADEMY graduates 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.

Upon completion of their internship, graduates will be eligible for a post-secondary award which can be applied to their first-year tuition should they choose to attend the University of Victoria.

Eligibility Criteria

- ★ Be a currently registered high-school student, or a home-learner, living and studying in the CRD.
- ★ Have a genuine interest in technology.
- ★ Be able to demonstrate your commitment to the HighTechU Core Values.
- ★ Be at least 15 years old and have a legal right to work in the British Columbia* (*only for Internships)

We strongly encourage members of under-represented groups including young women, indigenous youth and members of visible minority groups to apply.

HighTechU Member Standards and Expectations

- ★ Uphold and demonstrate the HighTechU Core Values.
- ★ 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.
- ★ Seek help from a HighTechU staff members and volunteers if you have a problem or concern. We want you to feel safe and comfortable in all HighTechU programs.

HighTechU will not tolerate any verbal, physical or virtual harassment of any kind, and consumption of illegal drugs and alcohol while taking part in programs is strictly prohibited.

Dismissal from HighTechU Programs

HighTechU has established the above set of standards, which outlines expectations for members taking part in any of our programs. HighTechU reserves the right to dismiss any member 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 members. In addition to the HighTechU Member Standards and Expectations, participants in the Internship program must also follow appropriate internal policies and procedures of their employer.

Waivers and Administration Fees

Prior to the official acceptance as a HighTechU Member, 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 prior to acceptance. A one-time *Pay-What-You-Can* membership fee of \$10 will be requested with all applications, covering HighTechU membership until the end of 2020. In addition to gaining access to all HighTechU programs, this membership will also include some sweet HighTechU SWAG. Successful applicants to the Academy will also be required to pay a \$90 administrative fee to demonstrate commitment to the program and help offset the costs of running the Academy. This administrative fee helps cover costs for your T-Shirt, Supplies and Certificate of Completion. 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.

Important Dates

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| December 31, 2018 | Deadline to submit HighTechU Membership application |
| January 12, 2019 | Skills Academy Group Interview(s) |
| February 2 - March 23, 2019 | Skills Academy Cohort 1 |
| April 6 - June 1, 2019 | Skills Academy Cohort 1 |
| July 6 - 17, 2019 | Skills Academy Cohort 1 |
| July 1 - August 31, 2019 (tentative) | Summer Internships |

Frequently Asked Questions

What does it mean to be a HighTechU Member?

Membership is a new addition for the 2018-2019 season, aimed at allowing more youth to become empowered through our programs. While we recognize many students are interested solely in THE ACADEMY and INTERNSHIPS, membership has been introduced to provide more youth (*regardless of prior knowledge*) the opportunity to learn and grow, through ongoing access to our online Community Hub.

I already know how to code. Should I apply?

While coding experience will certainly be helpful for programs like THE ACADEMY and INTERNSHIPS, HighTechU is for anyone interested in technology and looking to bring their skills to the next level. For those new to the world of code, HighTechU programs serve as a challenging jumping-off point - an opportunity to build skills working alongside other like-minded teens in a supportive and engaging environment. For experienced young developers, HighTechU is a chance to take a deeper dive into technology, enhancing your technical skills while applying your knowledge in a more realistic team environment.

What is the Community Hub?

The HighTechU Community Hub is an online resource centre for all things related to HighTechU. THE HUB not only serves as the gateway to programs like THE ACADEMY, but also as a way to discover new programs and resources that can help you continue developing skills on your own time.

Additional Information:

For more information on HighTechU, please visit our website at:
<https://www.hightechu.ca>

Or contact:
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