

VST Community Building and Orientation 2022

Tuesday Sept 6 – Saturday Sept 10

Zoom links will be posted to the Orientation POPULI COURSE page.

Pre-orientation gathering:

10:30 – 12:30 – International Students – New and Returning (lunch provided – Rm 110)

If you are new to North America there are unique challenges and opportunities as you acclimatize to Canadian culture and theological education at VST, particularly if English is not your first language. This gathering will give you the opportunity to meet with other VST students who are new to the North American/Canadian context, as well as some returning International Students who can share from their experiences some ways they found helpful in making this exciting transition! Bring your enthusiasm and your questions!

Tuesday SEPT. 6th: (New Students)

12:45 – 4:30 – ALL NEW STUDENTS starting a program from January 2022 onwards (if you haven't attended Orientation previously that is!)

12:45 – Meet and Greet (coffee/tea provided) – VST Atrium

1:15 – Gathering Prayers – Room 110

1:30 – 1:45 – *Getting to Know VST: VST's Vision & Mission - (VST President, Richard Topping)*

1:45 – 2:15 – *Getting to Know One Another*

Break

2:30 – 4:30 – *Getting to Know VST Faculty: "Before Theological Study: The 10% you need to know"*

2:30 – 3:30 – Theological 10% (Panel 1) – Ministry/Leadership Studies - Rm 110

- *Mission and Catechesis in Post-Christendom (Ross Lockhart)*
- *Practical Theology & Theological Field Education (Steven Chambers)*
- *Denominational Formation for Ministry (Rebecca Simpson; Rob James)*

Break

3:45 – 4:30 - Theological 10% (Panel 2) – Biblical and Early Church Studies - Rm 110

- *Hebrew Bible (Mari Joerstad)*
- *New Testament & Early Church History (Harry Maier)*

Wednesday SEPT. 7th: (New Students – 9:30 – 4:00)

9:30 – Gathering (Coffee/tea provided) – VST Atrium

10:00 – 11:00 – Theological 10% (Panel 3) – Theological, Indigenous, and Inter-religious Studies - Rm 110

- *Introduction to Theology (Richard Topping)*
- *Indigenous Theologies and Ways of Knowing (Ray Aldred)*
- *Inter-religious Studies (Laura Duhan-Kaplan)*

Break

11:15 – 12:30 – VST and Theological Neighbourhood Walking Tour

12:30 – 2:00 – VST Student's Association lunch (provided) – Lower Level Epiphany

2:15 – 3:15 – Student Support at VST (Financial Aid; Academic Planning, etc.) – Room 110

Break

3:30 – 4:00 – Worship, Spiritual Life and Chaplaincy at VST – Room 110

THURSDAY Sept 8th (New Students – Morning; ALL STUDENTS 11:30 onward) —

9:30 – Gathering – (Coffee/tea provided) – VST Atrium

10:00 – 10:30 – Introduction to the VST Library and Research Modules – Room 110

10:30 – 11:15 – Educational Technology at VST (Populi & Zoom) – Room 110

Break

11:30am ALL STUDENT ORIENTATION – RETURNING AND NEW STUDENTS – Epiphany Chapel or Room 110 (Zoom for distance students)

11:45 – Welcome to Musqueam Territory – Melaney Gleeson-Lyall – Chapel or Room 110

12:00 – 12:45 - Opening Community Worship

12:45 – 1:30 - Community Lunch (provided) – Lower Epiphany Chapel or VST Atrium/outdoors

1:45 – 2:15 What's New at VST? - Room 110

- 2022-23 New staff, faculty and sessional instructors
- New policies
- VST worship 2022-23
- VST Student's Association 2022-23 Executive and upcoming events

2:30 – 3:30 Program Groups

- Ministry/Leadership Degrees (M.Div; MAPPL) **(Room 110)**
- Research Degrees (MATS, Th.M & GDTS) **(Room 218)**
- Indigenous and Inter-religious Degrees (Th.M IIS, MA IIS & Dip IIS) **(Room 205)**

Unclassified students and those in Diplomas or Certificates may join any of the groups above if interested

3:45 – 4:45 Denominational Groups

- United Church of Canada **(Room 218)**
- Presbyterian **(St. Andrew's Hall Chapel)**
- Anglican/Episcopal/Lutheran **(Room 221)**
- 'Merely Christian' and OtherWise Affiliated **(Room 110)**

5:00-6:30 - VST COMMUNITY BBQ – Families Welcome!

Join students, faculty, staff and families for our annual opening BBQ in the VST Atrium and green-space at back (East side) of VST building.

Friday Sept 9th Anglican Church and Presbyterian Church Denominational retreats

Denominational retreats – (Director's of Denominational Formation (DDF) will be in touch with precise details – for now please save day!)

- United Church of Canada students ** **Sunday Sept 11th** (see below)
- Presbyterian students
- Anglican/Episcopal/Lutheran students

Students who do not affiliate with any of these denominations have a free day to explore Vancouver and the UBC Campus, buy books, get your UBC I.D. Card, rest, etc!

Saturday September 10th: Library Research Modules – Zoom only

All Diploma and Degree students are required to take *Library Research Modules A: Introduction to Library Research & Module B: Library Research Strategies for Paper Writing* in their first year of studies in support of the research and paper-writing expectations in their program.

Module A: Introduction to Library Research has been scheduled for the Saturday of Orientation Week. If you are able, this would be a perfect time to take this required module in preparation for your courses this year. **Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm – Zoom (no in-person). Synchronous participation only**

Module C: How to Write Papers is an optional module to take, though particularly helpful if you could use a basic refresher on writing academic papers. **Time: 1:30-4:30pm - Zoom (no in-person). Synchronous participation only**

Note: Required Module B: Library Research Strategies will be offered on Saturday, Oct 29.

Information about how to sign up for these and other modules will be forthcoming later in August!

**Students with significant background in theological research can be in touch with VST Librarian, Daniel Baek at dbaik@vst.edu about testing out of this requirement.*

Sunday Sept 11th United Church of Canada Denominational retreat

2:00 – 5pm – VST Room 110 – (Rev. Dr. Hyuk Cho, United Church DDF will be in touch with precise details – for now please save time slot – Zoom available for distance students!)