

DIRECTOR OF INTER-RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Vancouver School of Theology (VST) is a thriving theological college serving Anglican, United, and Presbyterian Churches in Canada. We serve a good number of other denominations whose values are congruent with our mission. We welcome a significant number of international students from the US, the Pacific Rim, and Africa. We hold a wide theological and cultural bandwidth.

Our core work is to prepare students for ministry in congregations and the wider world. VST is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders in collaboration with Indigenous Churches and other faith traditions. We are an affiliate college on the beautiful campus of the University of British Columbia. We are an institution with growing enrollment, balanced budgets, dynamic classrooms, and accomplished scholars.

In addition to 5 master's programs (MAIS, MATS, M.Div., MAPPL, TH.M.), we have two Ph.D. programs in conjunction with Durham University and the University of Pretoria.

We are seeking a successor to our current Director of Inter-Religious Studies who will retire at the end of June 2025. She has done a masterful job and has given our program high profile in Canada and throughout North America. See vst.edu.

Applications for this position will be received until October 31, 2024. Please send your materials to rshi@vst.edu. An application should include a current cv, three letters of reference, and a cover letter all sent directly to Vancouver School of Theology via email or snail mail.

Vancouver School of Theology
Attention: Rachael Shi
6015 Walter Gage Rd.
Vancouver, BC
V6T 1Z1

Inquires about the position can be made to Richard Topping, President, at richardt@vst.edu.

The Vancouver School of Theology acknowledges that the land on which they are located is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwm̓əθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) People.

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POSITION DESCRIPTION

OCTOBER 2024

ACCOUNTABLE TO:	President
POSITION STATUS:	Quarter-time administrative appointment, three-quarter time teaching in Inter-Religious Studies and area of competence; 3-year contract with possibility of renewal. This is a full-time salaried teaching-administrator position with full benefits (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028).
WORKS CLOSELY WITH:	President, Dean, Faculty
RELATES TO:	All degree programs with a special emphasis on Indigenous Studies, staff and faculty and students

VST

Vancouver School of Theology is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders. We are a theological graduate school that offers a wide range of degree, diploma, certificate, and continuing education programs with sufficient flexibility to accommodate a variety of goals and personal circumstances. Together with the core work of the school preparing candidates for Christian leadership in the church and the world, the school has a stream of Inter-Religious Studies and Indigenous Studies, unique in North America. There is rich overlap and intersection between these streams deepening and broadening theological education.

INTER-RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Inter-Religious Studies Program aims to:

- Enhance VST's academic theological curriculum in Inter-Religious Studies
- Increase VST's national and regional reputation in Inter-Religious Studies
- Contribute to respectful interfaith collaboration in British Columbia
- Contribute to student spiritual formation by raising awareness of multi-faith issues in ministry and communal life
- Prepare leaders for working in Canada's contemporary multi-faith environment

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Implement the mandate above in collaboration with others
- Support the IRS program, degree students, and advanced degree research in collaboration with all degree programs
- Represent the curricular and programming interests of Inter-Religious Studies at Faculty Planning, Faculty Council, and Faculty Association
- Raise the profile and level of integration of Inter-Religious Studies within the formal and informal programming of VST
- Support fund-raising efforts for the program in cooperation with the Development/Advancement office and the President
- Report on progress quarterly to the President
- Three-quarter teaching in Inter-Religious Studies and area of the candidate's expertise

QUALIFICATIONS

- Ph.D or equivalent in related field
- Teaching experience at the theological college, seminary or university level
- Excellent communication, relationship building and advocacy skills
- Demonstrated program development experience
- Demonstrated capacity to move from vision to action
- Administrative skill and experience
- Significant scholarly publication in a related field
- Skill in cross-cultural and inter-religious conversation, dialogue, action