VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

Natural Resources Extension Program (NREP)

Contract Instructor Opportunity

Vancouver Island University (VIU)

Opportunity

Vancouver Island University's Natural Resources Extension Program (NREP) is seeking qualified, independent contract instructors to join our team and deliver industry-recognized training programs in the natural resource and environmental sectors.

We are particularly interested in candidates with expertise in marine and/or freshwater aquatic assessment methodologies, environmental monitoring, erosion and sediment control and natural resource management. Ideal candidates will bring practical field experience, strong instructional or mentorship abilities, and a demonstrated capacity to deliver hands-on training in collaboration with First Nations, government agencies, industry partners, and other natural resource professionals.

NREP is recognized for its applied field-based training and innovative approaches to workforce development. We work collaboratively with industry and professional associations to develop and deliver relevant training opportunities that respond to evolving sector needs. Through initiatives such as micro-credentials and partnerships supporting professional recognition, NREP continues to expand opportunities for learners to develop practical skills and advance their careers.

We are looking for knowledgeable, adaptable professionals who are passionate about sharing their expertise, supporting student success, and contributing to the development of the next generation of natural resource practitioners.

Key Qualifications and Assets

Successful candidates will ideally demonstrate a combination of the following:

- A minimum designation of Registered Biology Technologist (RBTech); Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio) or equivalent professional designation preferred.
- Knowledge of marine, freshwater aquatic, and/or terrestrial ecology, including the taxonomy and identification of British Columbia's flora and fauna.
- Experience with environmental assessment, monitoring, sampling methodologies, and field equipment.
- Ability to communicate complex scientific concepts in a clear, practical, and accessible manner.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Experience delivering field-based instruction, technical training, or professional mentorship.
- Knowledge of environmental projects and practices that meet applicable municipal, provincial, and federal requirements.

- Familiarity with environmental background reviews, technical resources, and information sources used in natural resource assessments.
- Experience interpreting and applying natural resource management legislation, regulations, standards, and policies.
- Demonstrated ability to manage field logistics, coordinate groups, and adapt to changing field conditions.
- Experience developing and maintaining relationships with industry partners, government representatives, Indigenous communities, and senior-level stakeholders.
- A positive, collaborative attitude and the flexibility to respond to changing program and client needs.

Instructional and Professional Competencies

NREP instructors play an important role in creating a supportive, engaging, and effective learning environment. Candidates should demonstrate:

- A commitment to teaching, continuous learning, and student success across a variety of program areas.
- Strong organizational, problem-solving, and time-management skills.
- The ability to provide individualized guidance and support while effectively managing groups of learners.
- The ability to assess student performance fairly and consistently using practical, relevant evaluation methods.
- Effective verbal and written communication skills in English.
- The ability to incorporate basic computer skills, digital resources, and online learning tools into instruction, as appropriate.
- A commitment to maintaining an equitable, diverse, inclusive, and respectful learning environment.
- The ability to balance technical accuracy, workplace safety, and practical skill development during field-based instruction.

Additional Requirements

Candidates must:

- Possess and maintain a valid British Columbia Class 5 driver's licence or equivalent.
- Be legally eligible to work in Canada.
- Be physically capable of transporting equipment and supplies and working in challenging terrain.
- Be willing and able to conduct field-based training in a variety of weather conditions and environmental settings.
- Be available to travel to program delivery locations as required.

Preferred Experience

The following experience would be considered an asset:

- Knowledge of adult education principles and instructional methodologies.
- Experience working with Indigenous communities and alongside Indigenous partners in the delivery of training or natural resource projects.
- Familiarity with Vancouver Island University, its continuing education programs, and its instructional systems.
- Experience adapting technical content to meet the needs of learners with different backgrounds, experience levels, and learning objectives.
- Experience developing or delivering industry-specific training, short courses, Micro-Credentials, or professional development programs.

About the Contract Opportunity

This is an independent contract instructor opportunity suited to professionals seeking flexible teaching opportunities alongside their existing employment, consulting work, or other professional commitments.

NREP offers competitive contract rates and opportunities to contribute to a diverse portfolio of industry-relevant training programs. The frequency and duration of assignments will depend on program demand, instructor availability, subject matter expertise, geographic location, and willingness to travel.
Successful candidates may have opportunities to contribute to existing programs, support new training initiatives, and share their specialized knowledge across a broad range of natural resource and environmental subject areas.
We welcome applications from experienced practitioners who are interested in sharing their knowledge, strengthening industry capacity, and supporting the development of practical skills within British Columbia's natural resource sector.

How to Apply
Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and résumé outlining their qualifications, relevant experience, areas of subject matter expertise, and interest in teaching with NREP.
Please identify the specific subject areas or programs you would be interested in supporting.

Application deadline: November 20, 2026
Email: nrep@viu.ca

We appreciate all submissions. Only candidates selected for further consideration will be contacted.