

At UBC, we strive to build an inclusive community that welcomes people of all genders and sexual identities.

LGBT2SQIA+

EXPLAINED

LEARN MORE ABOUT UBC'S POSITIVE SPACE CAMPAIGN.

The Positive Space Campaign is a campus-wide awareness and visibility initiative to make UBC more welcoming to gender and sexual diverse students, staff, faculty, alumni, and allies in all our working, learning, and living environments.

L

LESBIAN

A self-identified woman who is romantically/sexually attracted to other self-identified women.

G

GAY

A self-identified man who is romantically/sexually attracted to or involved with other self-identified men. 'Gay' can also be used to talk about both men and women or, more generally, the "gay community", but it commonly refers to men.

B

BISEXUAL

A person who is romantically/sexually attracted to or involved with people of the same gender or another gender, "both"/all genders, or is open to such attraction. Note: the word "both" appears in quotation marks to reference the root of bi as meaning two, but also to challenge the binary notion that there are only two genders.

T

TRANS, TRANSGENDER OR TRANS-IDENTIFIED

A term for people whose gender identity, expression, or behaviour is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth. Transgender is a broad term and "Trans" is shorthand for "transgender." (Note: Transgender is correctly used as an adjective, not a noun, thus "transgender people" is appropriate but "transgenders" is often viewed as disrespectful).

2 S

TWO-SPIRIT

A contemporary term that refers to the historical and current First Nations people whose individual spirits were or are blend of male and female spirits. This term has been reclaimed by some in Indigenous Native American LGBT communities in order to honor their heritage and provide an alternative to the Western labels of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

Q

QUEER

An umbrella term for a social, intellectual, and/or political movement that seeks to encompass a broad range of sexual identities, behaviours, and expressions. It is also a personal identity that has been "re-claimed" because 'queer' has been historically used as a vicious insult. The letter "Q" added to the end of the acronym LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) can refer to either queer or questioning.

Q

QUESTIONING

The questioning of one's gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, or all three is a process of exploration by people who may be unsure, still exploring, and concerned about applying a social label to themselves for various reasons.

I

INTERSEX

A term to describe people who are born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not fit typical definitions of male or female. The terms 'intersex' and 'trans' are distinct and should not be used interchangeably.

A

ASEXUAL

A newer term used to describe people who do not experience sexual attraction. Asexuality is not the same as celibacy, which is the willful decision to not act on sexual feelings. Asexual people are quite capable of loving, affectionate, romantic ties to others. In fact there is a lot of diversity in how asexual people experience things like relationships, attraction, and arousal.

+

PLUS SIGN

A plus sign (+) is added to represent the infinite variety of identities outside of, or not represented, by this acronym.