

Position Description: Volunteer Co-Directors (Two Positions)

2026 MURC Planning Committee

Deadline for Applications: Sunday, July 6 at 11:59 PM (PDT)

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference (MURC) is a conference for UBC undergraduate students to showcase their research in front of their fellow UBC students, family, and friends. Since its inception in 2003, the conference has been entirely undergraduate student-led and undergraduate student-centered, providing the UBC community with a unique platform to showcase and celebrate undergraduate research through presentations, workshops, and keynote speakers.

Student researchers can participate in one of three ways - in-person presentation, in-person poster, or virtual presentation, with exemplary presentations given recognition at the end of the conference. Other students, including graduate students, can support the conference as volunteers or adjudicators.

This year, MURC will take place in-person, with an online component, on March 21, 2026. Presenter registration for MURC 2026 will begin in November 2025.

VOLUNTEERS CO-DIRECTORS POSITION SUMMARY

The Volunteer Co-Directors will work closely with the MURC Co-Chairs and UBC staff to create and execute a comprehensive plan for the recruitment, training, support and recognition of conference volunteers.

TIME COMMITMENT

- This position is an 8-month long commitment, commencing September 2025 and ending in April 2026
- Approx. 8-10 hours per week from September 2025 to January 2026
- Approx. 15-20 hours per week from February to March 2026 (leading up to the conference)
- Note: peak periods will depend on portfolio-specific timelines
- Bi-weekly and Weekly collaboration sessions for the MURC Planning Committee will take place on Thursdays from 3pm-5pm. Attendance is mandatory for all sessions.

GENERAL PLANNING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collaborate with staff advisors and Co-Directors throughout the planning and implementation of the conference
- Co-develop, implement, attend, and participate in all MURC Planning Committee training, retreats and meetings
- Develop and execute portfolio-specific tasks, including the development of a timeline and deliverables, in consultation with staff advisors; support other portfolios as needed

- Build a strong team rapport which emphasizes teamwork, flexibility, and communication
- Oversee and implement events on the day(s) of MURC
- Help increase student and faculty awareness of MURC and undergraduate research
- Develop and plan key programming, workshops, presentations, and events, including pre-conference and day-off conference
- Consider ways to make the conference more inclusive, accessible, and safe

PORTFOLIO-SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work with the MURC Co-Chairs and other portfolios to develop creative ways to recruit volunteers
- Determine the number of volunteers and adjudicators needed for the conference
- Develop and manage a process for the selection of event volunteers
- Create volunteer roles, position descriptions and volunteer shifts leading up to and during the conference; ensure volunteers fully understand their roles and their impact on the conference
- Coordinate and implement training sessions, activities, and professional development opportunities for volunteers
- Maintain regular communication with volunteers leading up to the conference
- Create and execute a strategy of support and recognition for volunteers
- Work closely with staff advisors, Co-Chairs and other committee members to ensure consistency in communications and volunteer and adjudicator staffing
- Oversee the flow of presentations and events during the conference

QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong strategic and critical thinking skills
- Ability to provide constructive, goal-oriented, peer feedback to volunteers
- Ability to create and implement complex schedules
- Previous experience in volunteer management an asset
- Previous experience in workshop and/or event planning an asset
- Strong public relations, interpersonal, and communication skills (written and verbal)
- Strong organizational, teamwork, and project management skills
- Ability to meet deadlines and work well under pressure
- Must proactively initiate cross-portfolio communication
- Demonstrated initiative; ability to recognize problems quickly and apply sound solutions
- Demonstrated willingness to learn
- Previous experience with Microsoft Office applications

SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION RECEIVED

The Volunteer Co-Directors will be supported and supervised by the MURC Co-Chairs and UBC staff with the Centre for Community Engaged Learning.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Group Interviews (Virtual): July 28 to August 22, 2025
 - Morning, August 8, 2025
 - Afternoon, August 13, 2025
- Position offers: Week of August 25, 2025
- MURC Planning Committee Fall Retreat: September 20, 2025
- Bi-Weekly MURC Planning Collaboration Sessions: Starting September 25, 2025
- Weekly MURC Planning Collaboration Sessions: Starting January 8, 2026
- All Planning Committee members are asked to not schedule substantial extra-curricular activities in the period leading up to MURC: March 7 - March 21, 2026

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a cover letter and resume to the [Qualtrics form](#). The application for this position closes on **Sunday, July 6, 2025 at 11:59 PM (PDT)**. If you have any questions or concerns about the application process, please email undergraduate.research@ubc.ca. Please note that only candidates invited for an interview will be contacted.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Students that are part of the MURC 2026 Planning Committee will not be eligible to participate as a presenter or adjudicator at the 2026 Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference.
- Committee Members will be recognized for their contributions to MURC. Those in good standing will receive a certificate of recognition, and reference letters will be provided upon request.

WHY JOIN THE MURC PLANNING COMMITTEE?

Being a part of the MURC Planning Committee is an opportunity for professional growth and the development of a strong UBC community network. Participating in this committee provides an opportunity to enhance student's project management, event planning, public outreach, leadership, communication, and team collaboration skills. Past committee members have indicated the positive team environment as their most memorable experience, and project management, event planning, leadership, and communication as key areas of professional development during their time on the committee. Through team building within the committee, the student will develop a leadership skill set based on co-creation, partnership, and intentional communication. The planning committee members are central figures in the planning and implementation of the conference, providing the student with the opportunity to identify areas of professional interest.