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## **Haida Gwaii Field Program (Aug 4-16, 2026)**

*A micro-credential offered by the Institute for Environmental Learning in collaboration with members of the Council of the Haida Nation and the communities of Old Masset and Skidegate (see [www.eco-learning.org](http://www.eco-learning.org))*

*Instructors:*

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## *Eco-Learning and Sustainability Experience (ELSE 452)*

### ***Rationale***

This year marks a re-invention of the Haida Gwaii field school after more than 20 years -- as part of an intensive, experiential program now offered by the *Institute for Environmental Learning* and *Continuing Studies (SFU)*. The program is open to all learners interested in developing professional competencies related to environmental learning and sustainability education. Key to our approach is the principle of ‘two-eyed seeing,’ a view that demonstrates that Indigenous and Western scientific ways of knowing are valuable, achievable, and inform how we live in the world. The field experiences combine foundational work completed informally, or within teacher education programs, with tighter connections to sustainability, professional development and curriculum theory. Participants earn a micro-credential which gives credit towards a proposed (new) *Certificate in Environmental Learning and Leadership*. The field school approach puts theory into action in specific places (e.g., on Haida Gwaii) while engaging in mutual learning and making new professional connections. All participants in the course work together on a service-learning project (within the field experience). This approach provides greater congruence with educational practice and a deeper understanding of both the merits and principles of place and Land-based education.

### **Sample Assignments**

*Nature Journals:* Participants compile and share notes/ideas/resources, with forms of reflective writing, comments on shared readings, nature sketches, poetry, etc. (journals provided)

*Shared Readings:* Participants engage with academic / professional articles from a variety of sources, create a synopsis of ideas, and share learnings with others, formally and informally.

*Field Activities:* Attendees participate and lead a variety of experiential activities, informally during the program. These link to a dialogue about Place-based and Land-based education.

*Lesson Plan Development:* Participants develop or revise place-based lesson plans with linkages to BC K-12 or other curriculums and to locations in Haida Gwaii (including pre/post activities).

*Portfolio Conference:* Participants share artifacts, ideas, writings and lessons using a portfolio of their own design, demonstrating personal learning and professional / philosophical connections.



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### **Eco-Learning and Sustainability Experience (ELSE 452)**

*Meeting point: George Brown Recreation Centre, Skidegate, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.*

#### ***Tentative Itinerary***

#### ***Part One: Conceptual Issues In ‘Environmental Learning’***

August 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> (Hiellen Longhouse, Naikun, Graham Island)

Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> - Settle into Cabins / Environmental Artifact Activity (around the Campfire)

Aug 5<sup>th</sup> -- Course readings / Environmental Learning Resources

Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> -- Various excursions into Naikoon Provincial Park

-- including visits to Tow (Tao) Hill, Masset, and Old Masset

-- including elders or guest speakers from Old Masset

#### ***Part Two: ‘Interlude’ and Transit to Skidegate***

Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> (Camping or Community Hall)

Transitional activities mid-island in Port Clements and Tlell, BC

Possible one-day break to enjoy the Music festival or a Pisuta beach walk.

#### ***Part Three: Exploring Community***

Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> (George Brown Rec Centre, Skidegate, BC)

Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> Settle in / Set Up for Community Mapping activity

Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Community Mapping-- *Daajing Giids* and *Skidegate*

-- Includes planning for community service: linking to local community

-- link to ‘Community service project’ in collaboration with Haida Nation

Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> -- Lesson planning/links to curriculum (Various community partners)

Aug 13<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Lake Hike (9AM – Lead by Parks Canada / Gwaii Haanas)

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> – Portfolio preparation

#### ***Part Four: Portfolio Conference and Course Wrap-up***

Aug 15/16 (Haida Heritage Centre, Daajing Giids, BC)

*Portfolio preparation / Lesson planning / Assignment work / Community Service*

*Final consultations / Portfolio presentations / Course Surveys / Celebration*