

PRESS RELEASE

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FIRST YEAR ENROLMENT INCREASES 51% AT QUEST UNIVERSITY CANADA

SQUAMISH, BC, September 8, 2011 – As schools everywhere welcome students back to class this week and celebrate the start of a new year, Quest University Canada in Squamish, British Columbia has an even bigger cause for celebration. The graduating class of 2015 will be significantly larger than its predecessors due to a major increase in enrolment this September. The incoming class in 2011 is 51% larger than last year.

“We are certainly thrilled to see such a significant increase in enrolment this year,” says David J. Helfand, president of Quest. “It is a testament to how hard our faculty and staff have worked to fulfill the vision of this new university over the past four years. It is a very encouraging indication that this marvelous experiment is working, and the secret is out.”

Quest graduated its very first class this past April (2011), with degrees bestowed upon 49 courageous young men and women who took a huge leap of faith in deciding to attend a university that barely existed, and who are now firmly entrenched in the University’s history books as its inaugural “Class of 2011”. Founded four years ago to provide an innovative approach to post-secondary education in Canada, Quest today remains steadfast to its founding vision: *if you want to change the world, you need to change the way you learn about it.*

Incoming first-year student from Whistler, BC, Kyle Kirkegaard couldn’t agree more. “I first looked at Quest because I’m not yet sure of what I want to study and I like the interdisciplinary approach that a Liberal Arts and Sciences program offers,” she says. “What really cemented my decision was the one-on-one conversations I had with the faculty when I visited the Quest campus. It was inspiring to see them so passionate about their subjects and so interested in my individual learning. Quest supports you in so many different ways, and allows you to explore the subjects and apply what you’re learning in ways that you never imagined were feasible. And that’s even more apparent now that I’m immersed in life here.”

A total of 21 countries are represented in the incoming class, with 43% of the students from Canada (of whom 49 are from BC), 35% from the US, and the remaining 22% including students from Bangladesh, Bolivia, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Mali, Netherlands, Nepal, Sweden, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, the UK and Venezuela.

In numbers, the incoming class includes 146 students plus seven exchange students from Quest’s international partner universities. Quest is designed for a maximum of 650 students to maintain the small class sizes (maximum 20 students) and the high faculty to student ratio that are integral to its curricular model. **Currently 350 students are registered at Quest.**

“Clearly, a key reason for this large enrolment increase is that word is spreading about the innovative approach to post-secondary education Quest offers students,” says Helfand. “We are now seeing results from the support we’ve earned from both the families of current and (now) graduated students, as well as from counselors throughout the world who have sent students to us and seen them thrive – now they’re sending more our way.”

In four short years the University has achieved recognition for its exceptional level of student engagement and its unique approach to education. In the 2010 National Survey of Student Engagement, Quest ranked higher than all other schools in North America.

“Our first-place ranking in the Engagement Survey, the overwhelmingly positive reaction to our students and our program from distinguished visiting faculty who come to teach here, and now the undeniable hard data of these student enrolment figures provide valuable external perspectives on what those of us who work at Quest know,” says Helfand. “We have created a unique and highly effective academic program that produces graduates who are skilled in communication, imbued with quantitative reasoning skills, inherently trans-disciplinary in their approach to problems, technologically literate, instinctively collaborative, and engaged in their local and global communities.”

Quest University Canada is committed to helping make a Quest education affordable to all qualified students, regardless of their economic situation. With a well-funded scholarship program that allows Quest to be financially viable for students from all backgrounds and all areas of the world, the majority of students receive some form of merit scholarships or need-based awards.

With four new faculty members for 2011-12, new interdisciplinary courses such as “Life in the Universe” co-taught by a biologist and a physicist and “The Mathematics of Music” jointly offered by a musician and a mathematician, experiential learning courses such as “Volcanology” which will include a 10-day field trip to Hawaii’s active volcanoes, and a host of renowned visiting faculty, Quest’s commitment to academic excellence continues to evolve. In addition, the University has recruited over 30 new members for its varsity men’s and women’s basketball and soccer teams, the latter of which *already* have winning games under their belts this year.

Quest holds Preview Events throughout the year for prospective students and their families. For details visit <http://www.questu.ca/AdmissionsEvents>.

About Quest University Canada:

Quest University Canada, the country’s first independent, not-for-profit, secular university opened its doors in September 2007 with a vision to build a new kind of university focused on excellence in undergraduate education. Its simple philosophy – that education, in its truest sense, comes not from providing the right answers, but from learning how to ask insightful questions – has driven the development of a campus and a curriculum focused on producing broadly educated individuals with an informed perspective on the problems of the twenty-first century and the integrative abilities to address them. Quest’s unique approach to learning offers all seminar classes with a maximum of 20 students, a Block-Plan style of learning in which students focus on just one subject at a time for a month, unprecedented access to faculty mentors, a rigorous Foundation program that spans the arts and sciences, and the ability for each student to shape his or her course of study by posing a unique “Question” that directs the final two years of work. <http://www.questu.ca/>