



St. Michael's
University School



SENIOR SCHOOL

VIEWBOOK

St. Michaels University School

St. Michaels University School, established in 1906, is an independent, not-for-profit day (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12) and boarding (Grades 8 to 12) school located in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. This viewbook provides an overview of the Senior School (Grade 9 to 12) program and experience.

Our Mission

Our school seeks the excellence in all of us, with passion and compassion. We are a community shaped by the pursuit of truth and goodness, providing outstanding preparation for life.

Our Vision

To learn, to lead, to serve.

Our Values

Respect | Courage | Honesty | Service

We acknowledge that our school rests in the heart of Straits Salish territory, a living culture with its own rites, ceremonies and unfolding history. We honour the Esquimalt, Songhees and WSÁNEĆ peoples, whose homelands we share and whom we recognize as our neighbours.



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PROUD TABS MEMBER
THE ASSOCIATION of BOARDING SCHOOLS

 SMUS is accredited by Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS), the national accrediting body for independent schools in Canada.

We are also a proud member of many professional organizations, including HMC (The Heads' Conference), Independent Schools Association of British Columbia (ISABC), National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS), and The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS).



A warm welcome to St. Michaels University School. I'm delighted you are considering an education with us.

SMUS is a world-class school built on the solid foundations of its extended community. At the heart of that community are the students, some drawn into boarding from a diverse range of cultures and others who are from Victoria and the surrounding area. As a student at the school, you will be inspired by a large, dedicated and highly qualified faculty who will nurture your individual interests and enthusiasm.

The school's Mission is to aim for the "excellence in all of us." As anyone who aspires for the highest standards will know, this is no easy task, but you will be provided opportunities for the development of the mind, the body, and the soul that enable you to ask the big questions and really find out who you are.

We believe in both passion – come with a spark of enthusiasm and it will be fanned into a blaze – and compassion – education is a shared experience and we all journey together. Indeed, the school's commitment to service and leadership has a reach far beyond BC; it is truly international.

We invite you to come and meet us at our beautiful Richmond Road campus, and to find out firsthand the blend of people, place, tradition and innovation that makes St. Michaels University School such a special place. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Admissions team, who will be more than glad to assist.



Mark Turner
Head of School

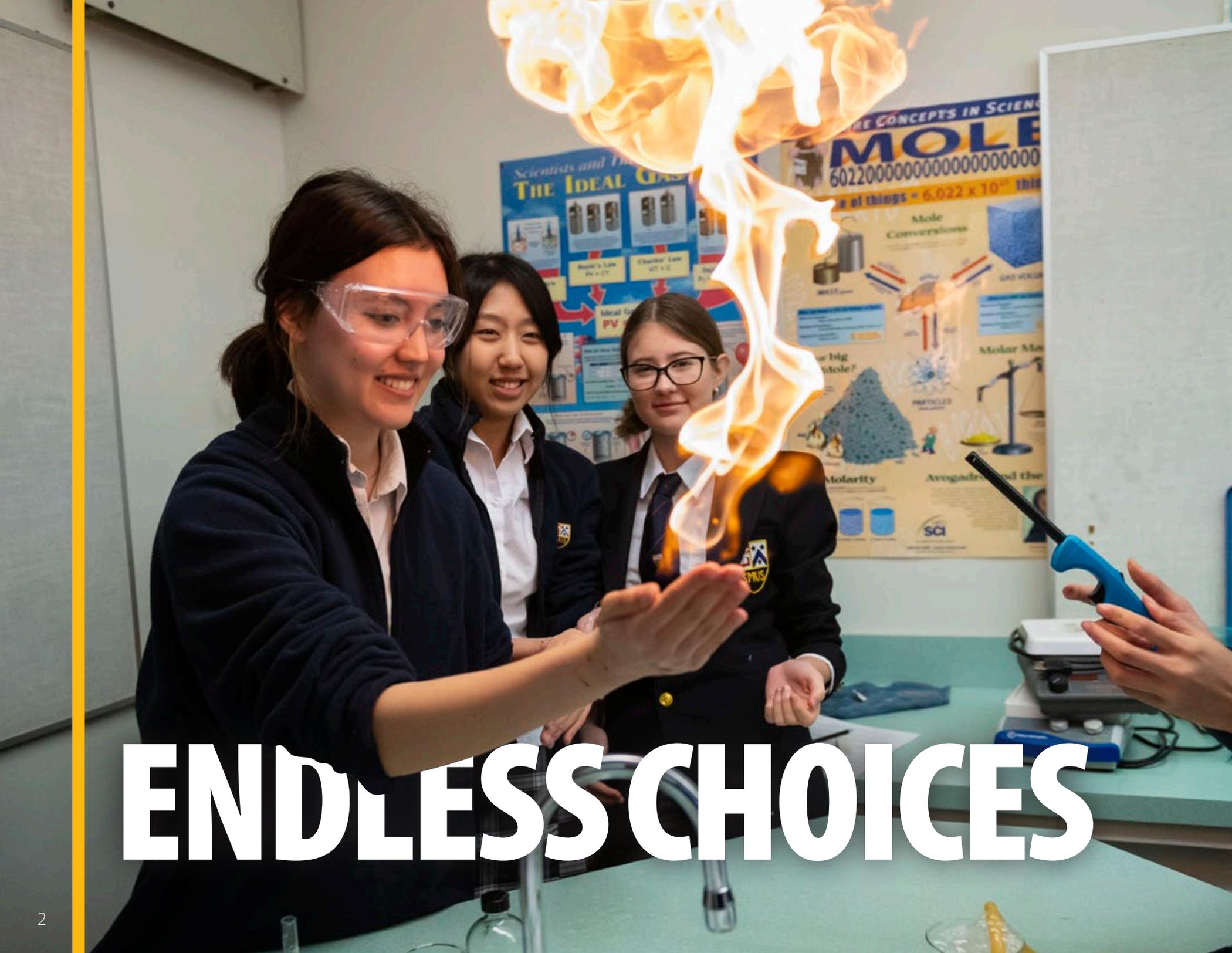
“Welcome to the SMUS family!
Here, you'll always be supported and encouraged by those around you. No matter where you are – on the sports field, in the classroom or in your boarding house – you'll be part of a team. All your passions – current or undiscovered – will be embraced. We can't wait to see you on campus and for you to discover firsthand what makes SMUS so special!”

– **Head Prefects Jonathan Nguyen & Devon Oneschuk**

SMUS to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill & McGill University

Unique Courses @SMUS

Throughout this viewbook you'll find descriptions of just some of the more than 120 courses you can choose from at the Senior School. Check out our full course list at smus.ca/course-handbook.



ENDLESS CHOICES

Joining St. Michaels University School means you get the best education to help prepare you for life, thanks to the abundance of choices you are given to make your education your own. We offer general and specialized courses in English, social studies, sciences, engineering, robotics and design, math, French and modern languages, visual and performing arts, and physical education.

What sets our curriculum apart is the amount of options available to you as you earn your BC Certificate of Graduation. We like to think of your experience – in academics, arts, athletics, clubs and councils, and service and leadership – as a huge buffet.

You have access to more than 120 courses and 65 clubs at the Senior School. You have the flexibility to choose to try a variety of options to find what you love most, or load up your plate with just the courses and subject areas you want to concentrate on.

Personalized Learning

SMUS is a pioneer in personalization. That means your education will be tailored to you – your strengths, your weaknesses and your interests. No two SMUS students will have the same experience at our school because they are given the room and support to personalize their experience. Everyone has a different way of learning and SMUS has both the breadth of courses and the depth of teaching so you can follow your own path.

Real-World Experiences

An important part of your education is having experiences you typically don't get in a classroom. At SMUS, we offer this by taking advantage of our location in the city of Victoria. Many courses integrate off-campus learning. For example, you might work on a business project with a local company, display your art at a community gallery, or get a tour of the Parliament Buildings with a politician. If you join the Senior School musical, you will perform on stage in a professional downtown theatre.

Advanced Placement Program

Our Advanced Placement (AP) program helps you deepen your knowledge in subject areas that you are passionate about. You can take university-level courses (and even earn first-year university credits) while still in high school. With dozens of AP courses at SMUS, you can dive deeper into diverse subjects or concentrate on your area of study.

Joining the AP Program

Transitioning into the Advanced Placement program from International Baccalaureate school is done seamlessly at SMUS. Many of your classmates join us from the IB Middle Years and IB Diploma programs, and thrive in the AP program thanks to the support of our talented AP teachers.

“APs are one of the most amazing opportunities you’ll get here. This is a university-prep school and the APs are really what prepare you. But more than that, they expand your world and you will feel like everything is starting to connect.”

**– Titobi Wuraola, Calgary, AB
SMUS to University of Toronto**

Unique Course @SMUS

AP Seminar and AP Research

You can really take your university preparation to the next level by taking the two-course AP Capstone program. You’ll develop in-depth critical thinking, research and presentation skills in this PhD-style prep program that allows you to challenge yourself and dive deep into topics that are important to you. Check out all of your course options at smus.ca/course-handbook.



DISCOVER YOUR PASSIONS

Stepping out of your comfort zone and being introduced to new experiences is the best way for you to learn more about yourself. At SMUS, our courses and extracurricular options are designed to give students a time and place to learn more than just content. We ensure that you are well-prepared for life after graduation by giving you opportunities to explore new passions, interests and skills so that you can make confident decisions about your future.

A Love of Learning

Students love learning here. You'll be in an environment where it's cool to be playing a sport, performing in orchestra, and excelling academically! Everyone is encouraged to be themselves. Your teachers will teach you in engaging ways that open your eyes to the beauty of each subject, and will help you continue to foster your love of learning. Whoever you are, whatever you want to pursue, you'll find a home alongside lifelong learners here.

“I love school at SMUS and I always look forward to going to class every morning. I love that the teachers teach you to understand what you’re learning about. They make sure that you’ve actually learned the subject and not just memorized it.”

– Adrienne Ho, Hong Kong
SMUS to Western University

Explore Who You Are

SMUS places a lot of emphasis on self-discovery. We're innovators in experiential learning, which will give you opportunities to use classroom knowledge in real life. We'll ask what it means to you to live a purposeful life and challenge you to lead and volunteer. All of this means that you will know everything you need to know about yourself when it's time to choose courses and universities.

Character Education

SMUS puts a high priority on helping you develop as a leader. Leadership is hard to learn in a classroom, so we give you opportunities to hone the skills that make a good leader: teamwork, communication and decision-making.

The culmination of our leadership program is being elected a school prefect and working directly with staff to make a positive impact on the school community.

Service and having a desire to help others is part of being a SMUS student. You'll work to make a difference in our community to benefit local, national and international organizations, and graduate understanding that giving back is an important part of life.

Clubs and Councils

When you're not in class you have plenty of chances to get involved in activities you're passionate (or curious) about. There are more than 65 clubs and councils to join, including:

- Academic, Arts and Athletic councils
- Astronomy Club
- Book Club
- Business Ethics Club
- Film Club
- Green Council
- The Jag Newspaper
- Makerspace Club
- Model UN Club
- Neuroscience Club
- Pride Alliance
- Public Speaking and Debate Club
- Robotics Club
- Stand-Up Comedy Club
- Thai Club
- Volunteer Club

You can see the full clubs and council list on our website.

Unique Course @SMUS

Engineering and Design

Try something completely new while learning about electronic circuitry, coding and more in our Engineering and Design course. You'll get to use state-of-the-art equipment, including 3D printers and laser cutters, to help bring your ideas to life as you solve creative challenges. Check out all of your course options at smus.ca/course-handbook.

Science teacher and rowing coach, Susanne Walker Curry, won the prestigious Lifetime of Service and Commitment to Secondary School Rowing award in 2023.



TALENTED AND SUPPORTIVE TEACHERS

Your love of learning stems from your experiences in and out of the classroom – that’s why we ensure that your teachers and coaches are always at the top of their game. SMUS faculty come from all over the world, and many of them have taught in a variety of countries.

Each of your teachers brings with them a wealth of knowledge and experiences to help make your time in their classes as fun, as valuable and as meaningful as possible. We have teachers who’ve been shortlisted and who’ve won Canada’s top teaching award. Many of our faculty pursue their master’s or doctorate degrees while teaching at SMUS because they, like you, are truly passionate about learning.

Individual Support

Everything at SMUS is aimed at your success. Our personalized approach means that teachers will quickly get to know where and how you might need extra help or an additional challenge. Smaller class sizes means your teacher has more time to spend ensuring your success. We have an Academic Support Centre staffed by teachers after school and a Learning Resource team to help students who might need more specialized support.

Teachers Who Love What They Do

Students often tell us that their teachers are more than just a teacher to them – a friend, a mentor, a counsellor. Our teachers take pride in getting to know you and helping you through subjects you find difficult. We also have an award-winning professional development program for our teachers, so they are at the forefront of their profession for your benefit.

An Enhanced Classroom Experience

Each one of your teachers is dedicated to your success as a student, and as a member of a larger community. In addition to the core academic skills they’ll help you develop, your teachers intentionally design lessons that are unique, engaging and that help you build a broader understanding of who you are and your place in the world. Our teachers are committed to integrating the First Peoples Principles of Learning, and Indigenous perspectives are integrated into our courses across our program. Teachers also provide classroom experiences that allow you to build key life skills, including curiosity, initiative, integrity and empathy.

“Small class sizes allow us to get to know each student on an individual level. When we identify something that’s holding a student back from reaching their full potential, we work with them to come up with a plan to support their learning. We want to see our students succeed and become confident in all aspects of student life.”

– **Allison Higinbotham,**
Mathematics teacher & volleyball coach

Unique Course @SMUS

Marine Studies and Training

One of the engaging science courses you can take is Marine Studies and Training. Our school is located just 5 minutes from the ocean, and this unique-to-SMUS course uses hands-on experiences to help you learn about marine biology, environmental issues, chemical oceanography and more. Check out all of your course options at smus.ca/course-handbook.



UNIVERSITY AND LIFE PREPARATION

Almost all students who come to SMUS go on to higher education at universities all over the world. It used to be that getting good grades was enough but now top universities want to see that you have a range of skills, including teamwork, problem-solving, self-motivation and the ability to lead.

As a university prep school, developing these skills is at the core of what we do. You'll also work one-on-one with an Academic Advisor who will support your post-secondary plans so you can be confident you're receiving the best possible preparation for your future.

Your Academic Advisor

Your Academic Advisor is a member of our dedicated University Counselling team, and is key to assisting you with plotting out your path through high school and into university. Their work with you begins as early as Grade 9 to help you choose your courses.

With the help of your Academic Advisor, and in consultation with your parents, you'll be guided through the process of discovering possible career and post-secondary options, researching universities and eventually applying to the post-secondary institutions of your choice. They'll help you find schools and programs that are a perfect fit for your learning style, your interests, and where you'll thrive as a student and young adult.

STEAM-Inspired Approach

In preparing students for life in a rapidly evolving world, we offer students innovative programs in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics). In addition to the courses you can take in these subject areas, you will also have opportunities in extracurricular and extension activities in STEAM. We focus on problem-solving, inquiry-based, hands-on approaches that foster critical thinking, collaboration, resilience, and risk-taking. Embracing and exploring these skills will set you up for success inside the classroom and in your life after graduation.

“Beyond just providing answers to the what and how of post-secondary options, University Counselling pushed me to ask ‘why am I interested in a given program and why does it make sense for me?’ I cannot imagine the application process without them. I’m not sure I would have known where to begin looking and my applications certainly would not have been as strong.”

– **Jasper Johnston, Victoria, BC;**
SMUS, Harvard and Oxford alum

Unique Course @SMUS

Data Science

Become a data explorer and tackle complex projects using the skills needed to dive deep into the world of data analysis, probability, and modeling. You'll develop a deep understanding of data exploration, correlation/causation, and bias/uncertainty, all while gaining hands-on experience with the latest software tools. Check out all of your course options at smus.ca/course-handbook.



IGNITE YOUR CREATIVITY

Let your artistic talents shine by taking advantage of the wide variety of arts courses and extracurriculars at SMUS. No matter your grade or skill level, you can delve into the visual and performing arts in fun and engaging ways – from AP Studio Art to Grade 9 choir or strings and creative writing.

Arts education is about more than just giving you a creative outlet. The arts are the perfect place to develop and grow your confidence, innovation and leadership skills.

With dedicated arts facilities on campus, including a visual art room, design labs, drama room, theatre and music rooms, you'll have the space and time to let your creativity soar.

Artistic Hub

Victoria is a city known for its great arts scene. (Timothy Williams, who composes and writes music for Hollywood films including *Get Out* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*, is a SMUS alum!) You'll take field trips to see exhibits and concerts, and get master classes from local artists.

Extracurricular Arts

Need more art in your life? You have a variety of options once the school day is over. The annual Senior School musical brings together actors, singers, dancers, set-builders, musicians and more to put on a huge three-day show at a major theatre in downtown Victoria. You can also play in a jazz band, sing in a choral ensemble, join the Photography or Dance clubs, sit on the school's Arts Council and so much more.

Art Schools

Recent SMUS grads have been admitted to prestigious art schools worldwide to pursue degrees in musical theatre, architecture, dance, vocal performance, creative writing, fashion design and more, including at:

- Emily Carr University of Art & Design (Vancouver, BC)
- ESMOD (Paris, France)
- Florence Institute of Design International (Italy)
- Parsons School of Design (New York, USA)
- Pratt Institute (New York, USA)
- Ringling College of Art & Design (Sarasota, FL)
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
- University of the Arts, London (UK)

“At SMUS, I’ve learned to focus more on the artistic working process and incorporating different ideas and social issues into my work. Being here, I think my art became a lot more expressive.”

– Rin Audsabumrungrat, Thailand
SMUS to London College of Fashion

Unique Course @SMUS

Band, Choir and Strings

At SMUS, you're given opportunities within your timetable to learn and practice your musical skills. Our burgeoning music program allows you to perform in small and large ensembles as a musician or singer. SMUS has a dedicated music building with specially-designed band, choir and strings rooms that are acoustically ideal for your learning. Check out all of your course options at smus.ca/course-handbook.



JOIN THE JAGS

Unique Course @SMUS

Sport Science

As a student athlete or as someone who enjoys being active, our Physical and Health Education courses are designed to help you learn and perform at a top level. The innovative Sport Science course helps athletes learn about training, human anatomy, physiology, nutrition and more in a blended classroom and gymnasium setting. Check out all of your course options at smus.ca/course-handbook.



Whether you're an experienced athlete or just want to keep fit, you'll enjoy being on the SMUS team and taking advantage of athletic opportunities. Physical education is part of the curriculum, and you're also encouraged to play sports after school. Joining a team or a recreation sport is a great way to feel part of the Jags community, and research shows that keeping fit has a positive impact on your studies.

Competitive Sports

At SMUS you will be able to compete against other schools in local sports leagues – and even teams from across Canada and the U.S. Whether you're a new athlete just finding your way or an experienced competitor, SMUS's developmental and competitive teams receive expert coaching and training that help you become the best athlete you can be. You can play the following competitive sports:

- Badminton
- Basketballs
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Golf
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Soccer
- Squash
- Tennis
- Track and Field
- Volleyball

If you play a sport we don't offer, we'll work with you so you can continue to train and compete. As an urban school, there are many opportunities to play in a local league or train at nearby sports facilities.

Recreational Activities

You don't have to play a sport competitively to enjoy being active. The recreational program at SMUS is important for keeping fit and having fun with other students. There are many different activities for you to try, including dance, hiking, rock climbing, strength and conditioning, table tennis and yoga.

Athletic Facilities

- Four full-size playing fields
- Two gymnasiums, including three full-size basketball courts
- Fitness centre
- Squash courts
- Rowing centre
- Erg machines

Our school also benefits from being able to use facilities in Victoria, such as swimming pools, tennis courts, and all-weather pitches.

Sports After SMUS

We have a great track record of athletic scholarship offers from universities, and SMUS-trained athletes become instrumental parts of their university teams. Jags have graduated from SMUS and gone on and play for top-level universities and have represented their countries at international tournaments and the Olympics, including Steve Nash '92 (basketball), Nicole Bunyan '11 (squash), and Anna Mollenhauer '17 (field hockey).

“The coaches here are great. They really focus on helping us with our skill development and giving us feedback to improve. As I've grown as a rugby player, I've really enjoyed learning more about the tactical aspect of the sport to make me a better athlete.”

– Dave Duru, Ireland
SMUS to University of Cambridge

NATURE'S CLASSROOM

“Outdoor education is a milestone that every SMUS student gets to experience. It gives us the ability, every year, to immerse ourselves in what Vancouver Island has to offer and get the opportunity to try something new. It also helps build bonds with a group of people in ways that you wouldn’t be able to in a classroom.”

– **Alana Norie, Squamish, BC**
SMUS to Thompson River University

You'll experience the best of Vancouver Island as part of outdoor education at SMUS. The program provides you with hard skills like learning how to kayak and build a fire, as well as soft skills such as teamwork, creativity and determination. You'll be amazed how much you'll bond with your friends on an outtrip while experiencing new activities and adventures.

Outdoor Activities

If you love the outdoors, Vancouver Island will be your idea of paradise! The beautiful scenery and range of activities available are two of the main reasons people choose to live here (and why it's a major tourist destination). Going to school on Vancouver Island will give you the chance to try camping, canoeing, hiking, kayaking, sailing, skiing, snowboarding, surfing and so much more!

Vancouver Island

SMUS is in the city of Victoria (see pages 24-25) on the southern tip of Vancouver Island on the west coast of Canada. You can travel to the Island by ferry or airplane. Victoria has a well-serviced airport with direct Canadian and international flights.

Weather

When you think of Canada, you probably think of cold temperatures and snow, but Victoria's climate is one of the mildest in Canada. It rarely ever snows in the city; however, the Island's diverse landscape means you could ski in the morning and surf in the afternoon. Compared to the rest of Canada, the winter is much warmer (the lowest average temperature in Victoria is 4°C/39°F) and we also get much less rain than Vancouver or Seattle.

Unique Course @SMUS

Outdoor Leadership

Leadership skills are one of the core components of the outdoor education program, and our Outdoor Leadership course offers you a once-in-a-lifetime, hands-on learning experience. You will participate in a leadership and orientation training day, a wilderness first aid session and two multi-night outdoor trips before you take on the role of a student leader on an outdoor trip with younger students. Check out all of your course options at smus.ca/course-handbook.



HEALTHY MINDS, HEALTHY BODIES

As a university prep school, part of what you will learn at SMUS is how to balance your commitments to make sure you get the most from your educational experience. As you discover how to effectively learn, you will also gain the skills needed to ensure you are taking care of your physical and mental well-being.

Food and Dining

The Graves Hall dining hall in the Sun Centre is a community gathering place where you will come together to share meals and spend time between classes. The dining hall feeds both day and boarding students, providing breakfast, lunch and dinner. You'll have access to healthy and hot options at every meal, alongside a full salad bar, fruits, cereals and more. The kitchen staff will also work with you if you have allergies or dietary restrictions.

If you need a snack during the day, visit The Howard Café, our student-staffed coffee shop that serves lunch, hot and cold drinks and baked treats.

Health and Wellness

SMUS has a well-equipped, on-campus Health Centre, where nurses are on duty to provide medical assistance and a doctor comes to campus for appointments. If you need to see a specialist, the Health Centre will make an appointment and provide transportation. A hospital is only a five-minute drive from campus.

Your mental health is as important as your physical health, and staff at SMUS are committed to providing you with the support you need. You will regularly meet with your homeroom advisor who can guide you on academic or personal questions. You also have confidential, 24-hour support from our counselling team.

If you're involved in sports, you'll know that injuries happen, so SMUS also has a certified athletic therapist to help you safely get back to performing at your best.

Chapel

SMUS is a non-denominational school that welcomes all faiths and beliefs. The school has a Chapel where you'll join your classmates to reflect, listen and learn from other cultures, and build community. We base our gatherings on the school's Values, which are true to the school's aspirations and upheld within most cultures: respect, courage, honesty and service.

More than half of the Senior School gatherings are led entirely by students, giving you an opportunity to share in dialogue that is meaningful to you, your friends and your classmates.

“I really like the food in the dining hall. The menu gets switched up regularly and it's always good, fresh food. I know a lot of boarders who had never been exposed to so many different cuisines, and they loved how many new foods they got to experience at SMUS.”

– Amelia Nugent, San Francisco, CA
SMUS to Queen's University

Unique Course @SMUS

AP Psychology

Learn how to further find balance with a healthy mind in a healthy body by taking AP Psychology, one of our social studies courses. This exciting course will help you better understand your brain and different approaches to psychology. Through hands-on lessons, you'll learn why sleep is so important, why cramming for a test isn't effective, and you will develop a new lens for seeing the world around you. Check out all of your course options at smus.ca/course-handbook.



A DIVERSE, GLOBAL COMMUNITY

There's so much more to being at SMUS than your studies. This is a true community, and here you will be able to explore what matters to you.

You'll become a member of our community in and out of the classroom and build lasting friendships. The teachers will know you on such a personal level that you'll also want to keep in touch with them after graduation.

At SMUS, you can be who you are – no matter your faith, orientation or background – and pursue your interests with like-minded people. Everyone here wants to see you grow and succeed.

Urban Boarding School

You won't only meet Canadians when you're at SMUS. Your school community will be truly international – we have more than 50 nationalities represented on campus. If you're from a country other than Canada, you'll find that the boarding community will want to help celebrate your culture. Indeed, your roommate may be from a different country.

A Day Population

SMUS is both a day school and a boarding school, meaning that in addition to the boarding community, we have students from Victoria. This is a great advantage, because as a boarding student you will have more access to the local Canadian community and the Canadian experience than you would at an isolated boarding-only school. Our day students will be eager to broaden their horizons by getting to know you and your culture.

Cross-Grade Connections

The school you'll join is much more than a high school. Our day school program begins with Junior Kindergarten, meaning you'll have opportunities to build connections with students of all ages. You'll have the chance to work alongside younger students at our Junior School and Middle School to be a role model and to practice leadership skills. Their curiosity, sense of wonder and eagerness to learn with you will create unforgettable learning experiences for both of you.

“I love that SMUS brings together so many different mindsets, cultures and beliefs to shape a really unique and organic community. You're one of hundreds of teenagers coming in with your own version of 'this is my world' and now you all get to build a new world together. Students leave SMUS with a greater worldview and a deep appreciation and respect for people who come from different backgrounds.”

– **Wonjin Kim, Victoria, BC**

**SMUS to University of Victoria
Science teacher & rugby coach**

Unique Course @SMUS

English and Modern Languages

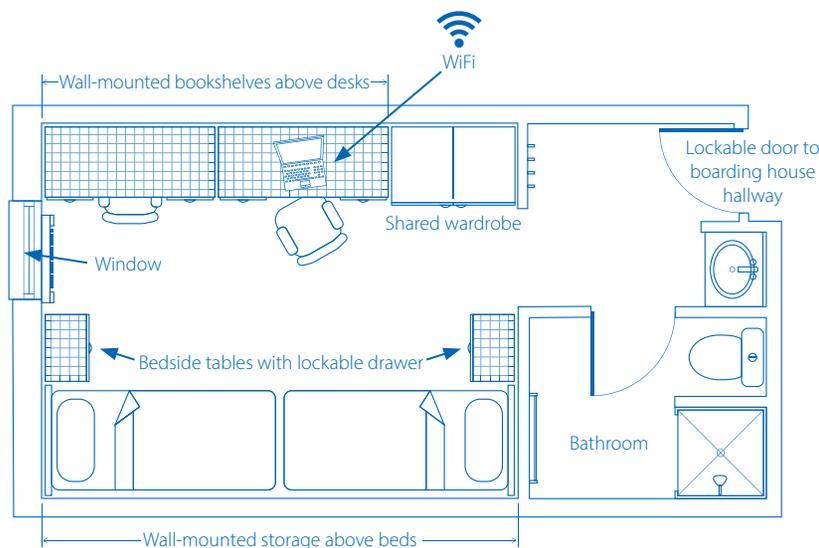
We place a priority on providing a variety of languages – English, French, Mandarin and Spanish – as part of our academic program. Speaking other languages and learning about different cultures enhance global awareness and understanding of the world. At SMUS, we think these are important aspects of character development which enable our students to become better global citizens. Check out all of your course options at smus.ca/course-handbook.



LIVE WHERE YOU LEARN



There are many reasons that students come to Victoria and live on campus as a boarding student. For some it's for the increased academic opportunities, while for others it's for the adventure and independence. Whatever your motivation, you'll find a community here ready to welcome you.



Your Room and House

SMUS boarders live in bright, furnished rooms that are shared between two roommates. We are serious about your privacy, so your room also has its own bathroom – that means no communal showers and no large dormitory bathrooms at SMUS – which is uncommon for a boarding school.

We have six boarding houses, with 21 rooms in each and shared common rooms where you'll find TVs, games, kitchens and lots of great friends.

Your Boarding Family

You will share a private room with just one other student. Having a roommate gives you an instant friend to experience boarding with. Many roommates become great friends during their time at SMUS, and remain so even after graduation. We pride ourselves on getting to know each student to ensure you and your roommate are well-matched to live together.

You will live down the hall from adults called houseparents. Their number one priority is caring for you. They keep track of you and support your well-being, and provide guidance with your schooling. Most houseparents are also teachers here! Houseparents make sure your time as a boarding student is positive and memorable.

Evenings and Weekends

On school days, you'll have a set daily schedule. After school, you will usually be involved in an extracurricular activity before dinner and at 7 pm you'll have prep time – two hours when all the students in the boarding houses are quietly doing schoolwork. See page 22-23 for an example of a boarding student's daily schedule.

On the weekend, there are fun and unique opportunities to try new activities, go on exciting trips, explore and volunteer in your community, as well as free time to enjoy everything living in Victoria has to offer (it's a lot!). In fact, your hardest job will be deciding which of the many activities you want to participate in.

A Weekend at SMUS

Below is a list of organized activities for one weekend at SMUS:

- Watch an ice hockey game downtown
- Trip for coffee and to the beach
- Guided naturalist hike
- Ice cream sundaes!
- Zip-lining through a rainforest
- Trip to the movies
- Trip to Seattle for a baseball game

On long weekends, the boarding community organizes optional trips to Disneyland, Whistler, Hawaii, New York and many other places.

“Roommate matching at SMUS is amazing! I love that the school gives you a questionnaire to ask about your habits and what you want your roommate to be like. We are a perfect match and she is a sister to me now; she really feels like part of my family!”

**– Sofia Megumi Cruz, Mexico City
SMUS to Ibero-American University**

LEARN WHERE YOU LIVE



It is no exaggeration to say that young people who go to boarding school are better prepared for the rigours of university and independent living – a fact to which many of our graduates attest.

SMUS is located in the heart of a suburban neighbourhood in the safe city of Victoria. You'll develop independence when you want to go to the movies, go shopping or have dinner off campus. Our students love the fact that living in Victoria means they can take a public transit bus and be downtown in 15 minutes, or just walk to the nearby mall – and our boarding system balances well-being with independence to allow students to leave campus safely.

Join an Inclusive, Welcoming and Authentic Community

We pride ourselves on providing the best possible environment, which for us is a diverse environment. The real world is made up of people of different genders, cultures and orientations, and a key part of preparation for life is learning to work, study and socialize with people who have different backgrounds and lifestyles.

This is why boarding at SMUS has common areas where all students can spend time together, and why we place emphasis on sharing experiences with the other houses. It's also why we are emphatic about making everyone feel welcome in our community.

Independence and Time Management

Being a boarding student at SMUS means developing the skills that will be invaluable at university and beyond. One of the most beneficial skills learned in boarding school is the ability to independently manage your schedule and demands. You'll get structured study time to make sure you hit your deadlines, but with the support of your teachers, houseparents and university counsellors, you'll also be given considerable freedom to manage your own time and find a routine that works for you.

Develop Leadership Skills

When you join a boarding house at SMUS, you'll get help from older and more experienced boarding students. As you live in boarding, you will also gain more leadership responsibilities so that by Grade 12 (when you have the opportunity to run for the position of Prefect or Head of House) you'll have developed a range of leadership skills that will be useful in university and in life.

“Boarding prepares you to take on new challenges every day and build skills you'll use for the rest of your life: being able to talk to people from different backgrounds and countries, self-confidence, independence, time management. By the time you're in Grade 12, the skills you learn from facing those challenges are going to shape you into a strong leader.”

– **Hugo Accad, Switzerland,**
Head of Harvey House

Example of a boarding student's schedule



Time	Activity
6:45-7:50 am	go for breakfast
8-8:30 am	Tutorial
8:30-9:50 am	AP French Language
9:50-10:10 am	Recess
10:10-11:30 am	Anatomy and Physiology 12
11:30-12 pm	Assembly
12-12:50 pm	Lunch and prepping for afternoon classes
12:50-2 pm	AP Comparative Government and Politics
2:10-3:20 pm	Pre-Calculus 12
3:30-5:30 pm	Girls rugby game
5:30-6 pm	Dinner
6-7 pm	Jazz band practice (music room)
7-9 pm	Study time in my room (prep)
9-10 pm	Hang out in the common room





VICTORIA
PAPER BOX
BUILDING

SMUS

BOARDING IS BETTER IN THE CITY

Located just outside the city's downtown core, SMUS's central location in the city of Victoria on Vancouver Island (you can read more about Vancouver Island on pages 14-15). You'll get to know Victoria very well. It's small, safe, easy to navigate and there are lots of fun things to do here.

Exploring the City

At SMUS, we think it's important you have the freedom to become more self-reliant. When you go to university, you will have to take buses and navigate a new place, so it's valuable prep to practice those skills in a small city like Victoria. Just like you would at home, when you leave campus you'll need to tell houseparents where you're going, who you'll be with and when you'll be back.

City of Gardens

One of the reasons you'll love living in Victoria is how beautiful the city is (we're known as the City of Gardens because of all the trees and green spaces). Victoria is almost completely surrounded by water so there are lots of beaches to explore. You'll also enjoy some great short hikes to get breathtaking views of the Olympic Mountains to the south and Mount Baker to the east.

SMUS and Hillside (Walk 10 mins)

Located in a quiet, tree-lined suburb, SMUS is a 10-minute walk to shopping, including Hillside Centre with clothes stores, a pharmacy, a bookstore and a grocery store. There are also restaurants, coffee shops, and a recreation centre nearby. Bus stops are located near campus.

Downtown Victoria (Bus 15 mins)

Downtown is on a direct bus route from SMUS and really has something for everyone. It's quite common for boarding students to head downtown on the weekend to shop, go to a board game cafe, eat out and watch a movie, or just relax in beautiful Beacon Hill Park. Downtown is also the cultural hub of Victoria, where you'll find museums, galleries and boutique shops.



Map of Victoria

“Boarding in Victoria is incredible. It's such a nice city. It's amazing to be able to go downtown, go to Fisherman's Wharf and the waterfront, see the government buildings and go to restaurants with friends. Hillside Mall's only a 10-minute walk away where you can get something to eat and go shopping.”

– **Malcolm Hull, Sydney Mines, NS**
The Best School Year Ever winner

To Learn, To Lead, To Serve

“To learn, to lead, to serve” is the Vision of St. Michaels University School and when you become a student at SMUS, these words will become part of your vision too. You will learn, but you will also become a leader and be asked to serve in your community. And like the thousands of graduates before you, these principles and the school’s Values of respect, courage, honesty and service will be with you after you leave SMUS and for the rest of your life.

School History

St. Michaels University School was founded in 1971 as an amalgamation of two boys schools: University School (founded in 1906) and St. Michael's School (1910). Building upon the traditions of a prestigious past, during the past half-century SMUS has grown to become one of Canada's very best independent schools. SMUS was the first school to offer Advanced Placement courses in Canada, in 1978, which was also the year that girls were admitted for the first time.

The Richmond Road Campus

When you arrive at our Senior School, you will arrive at the beautiful Richmond Road campus. The campus is a secure 17-acre site in the heart of Victoria, BC. School House (below), at the centre of our campus, was completed in 1910, and sits alongside modern facilities like the Monkman Athletic Complex, Schaffter Hall music building, and the Sun Centre, which houses our student commons and the majestic Graves Hall dining hall. You will also benefit from lots of green space on campus. We have four full-size grass fields and lots of spaces for students to relax outside and enjoy the British Columbia sunshine. If you join us for boarding school, you will also live on the Richmond Road campus in one of our purpose-built boarding houses.

Floreat

Top schools have great histories but to continue being successful you have to keep aiming higher. At SMUS, we are always looking to the future so our students benefit from the very latest ideas, teaching and facilities. This is why SMUS's strategic plan, Floreat (meaning 'let flourish'), is a key document which outlines the ambitious goals of the school. The direction and plans in Floreat, which you can read on our website, will give you a strong sense of the school you will be joining and the exciting opportunities you can expect in the future.



APPLY TO SMUS

Thank you for considering St. Michaels University School.

Choosing a school is an important decision and we hope this viewbook has answered your biggest questions. The Admissions team is here to guide you through the application process. Please contact us at any time if we can assist you.

We look forward to connecting soon.

The SMUS Admissions office

Phone: 1-250-592-2411

Toll-free in North America: 1-800-661-5199

Email: admissions@smus.ca

Web: smus.ca/admissions

How to Apply to St. Michaels University School

In order to benefit most from a SMUS education, we recommend applying to Senior School for Grade 9.

However, demand for places at our school is high. Students are only able to start at SMUS at the beginning of the school year in September. We strongly recommend you apply at least 10 months in advance.

Step 1: Complete an online application

You apply to St. Michaels University School on our website using SMUS's Admissions Portal. Start at smus.ca/apply and follow the instructions.

You will be asked to provide documentation that includes report cards, teacher references, transcripts and a verification of citizenship. There is a non-refundable application fee you will pay at the time of applying.

Step 2: Interview and testing

Your application is reviewed by the Admissions team, who invite select candidates to visit the school for standardized testing and interviews. For international families who are unable to travel to SMUS, Admissions will make alternative arrangements for testing and interviewing.

Step 3: Admissions notifies you of the decision

If you receive an offer of admission, you will need to accept the offer by the deadline provided by the Admissions office. To accept the offer and hold your place, you will also pay a non-refundable registration fee.

English Language Learners (ELL) Program

After interviewing and testing, the Admissions team may offer admission to the English Language Learning program. The ELL program is for boarding students going into Grades 9 or 10 who need additional assistance with English. ELL students take additional English classes to support their studies at SMUS.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

SMUS offers both financial aid and scholarships. More information including conditions and deadlines to apply is available on the website.

Financial aid is confidential, needs-based and open to all students. SMUS awards upwards of \$1.8 million in financial aid to help students attend SMUS who might otherwise not be able to due to financial circumstances. If you feel the cost of a SMUS education is prohibitive, you should ask about financial aid.

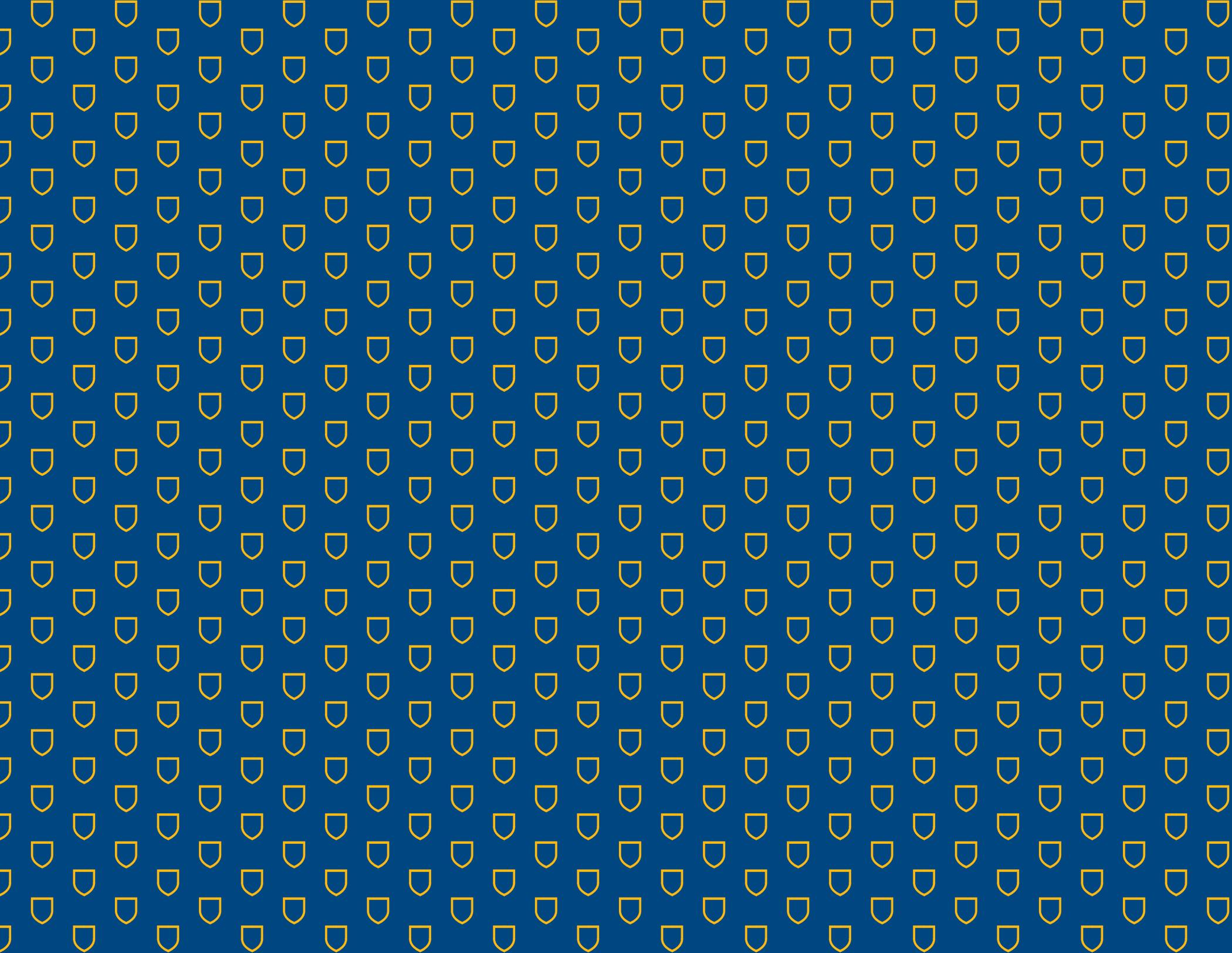
Scholarships are merit-based. SMUS offers a limited number of entrance scholarships for boarding students. To learn more, visit our website.

Fees

The cost of a SMUS education varies by the location of the primary residence, as do the options for paying your fees. Please see smus.ca/admissions for further information.



We can offer many of the opportunities in this viewbook because of the generous donations to our Annual Fund by parents, alumni, staff and friends. Our students benefit every day from this community giving. If you join our school, you will be asked to contribute at a level that's meaningful to you and your family. As a not-for-profit organization, we thank you for your support.





St. Michael's
University School

