

# Sarah Shumanski

## Undergraduate Student

---

### Sarah Shumanski

3218 Keats St.  
Victoria, BC V8P 4A9

250.580.1906

[sarah.shumanski@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.shumanski@gmail.com)

---

10 FEBRUARY 2021

### Dr. Ralf St. Clair

Dean, Department of Education  
University of Victoria (MacLaurin A243)  
38000 Finnerty Rd.  
Victoria, BC V8P 5C2

To Dr. St. Clair,

I am excited to put forth my application to the Post-Degree Professional Program for Secondary Education. As a long time student with the intention to always learn and grow, I am highly invested in the education system from beginning to end, and would love to use this passion to help students in the earlier years of their education. I enjoy working with others, especially those of different ages and backgrounds, as it allows me to learn and grow as well. I believe my personal education in Gender Studies at the University of Victoria will help me bring forward my passion for education in an accessible and progressive fashion, understanding the intersectionality (understanding how gender, race, class, sexuality, and/or disability shape life experiences) that is present in the modern day classroom. I would now like to share with you some non-degree experiences that I think make me an ideal candidate for this program.

In the summer of 2016 I spent three weeks in various cities and villages around Guatemala with a group of like-minded people from my wider church community, working with a school, non-profit organizations, and providing needed essentials in small communities. This experience was done through World Pilgrims, an organization devoted to enriching, cultural trips. I was observed leading a workshop on crafts with the children of Chwitziribal, making connections with them, and to this day I continue to sponsor a young lady from the village through her education. The key learning through this experience was how to communicate with and understand those who speak a different language, and who come from different backgrounds and experiences. Through this experience I truly began to understand aspects of intersectionality such as race (Indigenous vs settler), class, and ability. This allowed me to see beyond the confines of my privilege and country, changed my perspective on the world overall, and inspired me to work towards change.

For various Sundays in 2016 through 2019 I led Sunday School for children aged 2-6 at Oak Bay United Church, in Victoria BC. I was observed organizing the space, making sure it was accessible and clean, sharing stories, leading discussions, and overseeing craft or activity time. The key learning through this experience was listening to and understanding viewpoints of others of different ages, backgrounds, abilities, and cultures. Doing this through the common factor of faith allowed me to grow in my faith, and gain more experience in working

with and understanding children, as well as seeing something I am familiar with through a different lens. This helped to change and keep my perspective updated as the community around my faith changes over time.

I believe that these experiences tie into my passion for education and making it accessible and progressive, as well as showcase why I am an ideal candidate for the Post-Degree Professional Program for Secondary Education! Looking back on these experiences with the new lens I have acquired through my education in Gender Studies I believe they are real life lessons in intersectionality, and are indispensable in terms of my education and growth as a person. I look forward to hearing your response!

Sincerely,

**Sarah Shumanski**