

Beyond the BSc 2021



Maisie Morsara

BSc in Biochemistry

Maisie Morsara graduated from UBC with a BSc in Biochemistry and immediately immersed herself in the biotech industry. In her last year of school, Maisie began her career in the Bioanalytical department of a large pharma company. After graduation, she garnered a laboratory production role in the medical device field, focusing on point-of-care testing for cardiac and infectious diseases. Her responsibilities became more specialized in streamlining manufacturing processes, ultimately reducing production costs.

More recently, she was a Quality Assurance Associate in a dental navigation start-up, where she maintained the quality management system, assisted in regulatory submissions, and wrote the product's user manual. Being inspired with mentoring post-secondary students, she made an exciting, yet drastic, career change and is currently working at SFU.



Lisa Frey

BSc in Mathematics

Lisa is an associate in the Vancouver office of Lawson Lundell LLP. Her practice is focused on real estate and condominium law. Lisa assists clients with a wide variety of real property matters including acquisitions and dispositions of commercial properties, real estate development and commercial leasing. She also has experience in various strata corporation matters, such as drafting bylaws, policies and resolutions, and providing practical advice to numerous condominium owner, section and strata corporation clients. Lisa received a B.Sc. in Mathematics (2007) and a J.D.

(2012) from the University of British Columbia and practiced at a large international law firm immediately prior to joining Lawson Lundell LLP. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking with fresh, local produce, and volcano tourism.



Roy Chen

BSc in Cell Biology and Genetics

Roy is an alumnus from UBC with a BSc in Cell Biology and Genetics, and a MSc in Experimental Medicine. He went through BCIT in the Medical Laboratory Science Program and became certified as a registered Medical Laboratory Technologist. He currently works at Vancouver General Hospital in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine as a Research Coordinator. He has been volunteering as a mentor for the past few years, and he enjoys sharing his career stories with everyone. So, come chat with

him if you are curious about how he survived through school, work, and life!



Antony Wang

BSc in Integrated Sciences

Antony Wang graduated from UBC in May 2018 with a BSc, majoring in Integrated Sciences and minoring in Commerce. As an ISCI alumni, he integrated Biomedical Health Sciences and Environmental Sciences. During his time at UBC, he was involved with the Science Undergraduate Society, Faculty of Science, UBC Orientations, UBC Welcomes You, UBC Canadian Liver Foundation Club, UBC Heart and Stroke Foundation Club, UNICEF UBC, and UBC Student Leadership Conference. Antony is currently a Financial Advisor at TD and is a winner of 2020 Regional Champions Club, which is TD's annual recognition program that celebrates the top Canadian retail branch banking performers. At TD, Antony is also a TD Ambassador by volunteering in the community and focused on community leadership by enriching the lives of TD's colleagues, clients, and communities.



Douglas Dang

BSc in Biology

Doug Dang graduated with a BSc in Biology and a BAsC in chemical engineering 1986/1991. He spent 13 years in the manufacturing sector employed as a chemical engineer, production supervisor, production manager and plant superintendent. With the changing employment dynamics and future of manufacturing, especially in the paper and related industry, Doug made a career change. He went back to UBC and became a licensed realtor. With the tools, goodwill and experience he had, Doug transitioned over to real estate sales and general contracting, and has been doing this for over a decade. He has a combined total of over 10 years of directorate experience and is currently a director for the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, Chinese Real Estate Professional Association and the Hoy Ping Benevolent Society. On top of this, he is the current and charter grand knight for the Knights of Columbus council 16692, St John the Apostle.



Farnaz Pournia

BSc in Biology

Farnaz received a BSc in Biology, Cell and Genetics Option, from UBC in 2011 and her MSc in Cell and Developmental Biology in 2015. She is currently a PhD Candidate in the Cell and Developmental Biology program at UBC. Her research focuses on studying the immune cells of our body and their cellular responses upon encountering germs. These cellular responses are important for the body to initiate an effective immune response and defense against harmful germs. She has acquired great research, teaching and mentoring experience during her years in graduate school, and is seeking a career in research and academia, Biotechnology and teaching in higher education upon finishing her PhD degree.



Christine Simone

BSc in Biology

Christine grew up in Toronto and moved out west to complete her B.Sc in Biology at UBC. Outside of her academic commitments, she was known for her involvement with the Recreation Intramurals Program for 3 years, growing from an Assistant Director position, to Director of the Ice Hockey League, to then leading the ambitious group of over 100 volunteers in her last year as Program Developer. After graduating, Christine took a less conventional path by working in various sales, operations, and client experience roles at numerous health tech startups, and, in the middle of the pandemic, she jumped on the opportunity to start her own business in the healthcare industry. Christine is a city girl - and unfortunately, an avid Leafs fan - but she comes back to Vancouver frequently to ski, hike and see friends!



Louie Dinh

BSc in Computer Science

Louie Dinh graduated with a BSc in computer science at UBC in 2012 and currently works as a data scientist. His career has focused on using data to make decisions effectively. After graduation, he joined A Thinking Ape Technologies - a mobile gaming company. His time there sparked an interest in how to accurately measure impact when a product decision touches millions of people. Returning to UBC for further studies, Louie picked up a MSc. focusing on statistics and machine learning. Now, he now uses those quantitative tools to improve the media consumption experience at the news aggregator app Flipboard.



Kimberly Noble

BSc in Biology

Born and raised in North Vancouver, Kimberly went on to complete her B.Sc. in Biology (2011) at UBC. With a keen interest in languages, medicine and teaching others she set off to Australia to complete her Masters of Speech-Language Pathology (2014) at the University of Sydney. Kimberly now works at Vancouver General Hospital as a Speech-Language Pathologist assessing and treating patients with a variety of communication and swallowing needs from the intensive care unit to palliative care and everything in between. She enjoys working alongside the physicians, nurses, and allied health team to provide the best patient care as well as acting as a clinical educator for the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences at UBC. Kimberly has been involved in several frontline research endeavours as well as quality improvement projects. In her spare time Kimberly can be found hiking, playing field hockey, and competing in triathlons. When she's not feeling so adventurous Kimberly loves to bake and cook for friends, or curl up on the couch with a great book.



Fabian Tam

BSc in Microbiology and Immunology

Born and raised in Vancouver, Fabian is currently based in Tokyo, Japan working as a software engineer for a market-leading messaging app company. He first graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Microbiology & Immunology (2014), doing co-op placements in both the pharmaceutical industry, and in academic research doing molecular biology and genomics assay development. He initially intended to go into medicine and interviewed with UBC Medicine but ultimately pursued the second-degree Bachelor of Computer Science (2017) program. During his time at UBC, he volunteered for the Science Peer Academic Coaches, UBC Orientations, and several other organizations. After graduation, he worked for SAP, a German multinational software corporation. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, playing badminton, and moral philosophy.



Sarah Leong

BSc in Integrated Sciences

Sarah graduated from UBC in 2017 from her Bachelor of Science (Integrated Sciences, Physiology & Neuroscience) with a minor in kinesiology, and recently completed her UBC Master of Physical Therapy in 2019. Sarah is a registered physiotherapist currently working in neurological and pelvic floor rehabilitation, and is passionate about exercise and mental health. Her current project is a research project affiliated with ICORD's Krassioukov Lab about the impact of COVID-19 (tele-rehabilitation and wellness) on individuals with SCI. Feel free to ask about her social psychology volunteering, neuroscience work at the University of Calgary, her Integrated Sciences Student Association involvement, and about her current work with patients!



Jonathan Lam

BSc in Chemistry

After graduating from UBC in 2007 (B.Sc. – Hons. in chemistry), Jonathan pursued graduate studies, obtaining a master's degree from The Scripps Research Institute and his doctorate from the University of California, Irvine. He then moved to the East Coast to pursue postdoctoral training at MIT and subsequently began his scientific career as a medicinal chemist at the biotech/pharmaceutical company Amgen. In 2020, he moved back to California where he is currently a medicinal chemist at Takeda Pharmaceuticals, based in San Diego. In his day-to-day professional activities, Jon spends time in the lab designing and synthesizing new molecules that might become life-saving medicines. Off the clock, he enjoys spending time in the kitchen synthesizing new dishes that might become delicious meals



Jamil Rhajiak

BSc in Geological Science

Jamil grew up in North Delta and started his BSc at UBC in 2004. He completed the Honours stream in Geological Science and was involved with the Science Undergraduate Society, UBC Recreation, AMS, and the VP Students office. After graduating in 2009, Jamil began work in the UBC Faculty of Science with Student Development. Over the years Jamil had moved between different roles and is now working for UBC's Brand and Marketing department where he supports digital communications and

manages special projects.



Nimaya Fernando

BSc in Biology

Nimaya graduated in 2017 from UBC Science with a degree in Biology. Throughout her undergrad, Nimaya volunteered and worked for various education programs, including Geering Up at UBC. Combining her interests in education and science, she went on to complete the Bachelor of Education at UBC, specializing in teaching Secondary Science in 2018. Within K-12 education, her interests are in creating low-barrier, skills-focussed experiences in order to make science education accessible and enjoyable, especially to students with "science anxiety". She works to engage students in critical and community-minded thinking, where they learn to apply and appreciate Science beyond simply accruing textbook knowledge. She is

currently teaching high school sciences at Kitsilano Secondary in Vancouver.



Bryant Lee

BSc in Biology

Bryant Lee graduated in 2018 with a major in Biology and a minor in Commerce. He is currently working at UBC at the Centre for Student Involvement & Careers as a First Year Experience Coordinator. He works directly on the planning and implementation of UBC's orientation programs, including Jump Start, Imagine, and Collegia. Throughout his undergrad, he was always very interested and involved with student affairs, having held multiple positions across campus in different programs. The UBC Science community provided a great network for him to learn about careers and involvement positions outside the BSc, and he met many students, staff, and

faculty who helped him to explore his curiosity in careers that didn't directly relate to his studies. He takes a systematic and analytical approach to the work he does on a day to day basis. Given the heavy logistical nature of orientations, he found that the skills he learned throughout his undergrad showed up in how he did his work, even if it wasn't necessarily in a lab



Kirsten Bale

BSc in Physics

Kirsten moved from Calgary to Vancouver to study science at UBC in 2013. After six years of study (including a year in Brighton through UBC's Go Global program), she graduated with a degree in physics in May 2019. She then took a short break to enjoy a summer working for a watersports centre before returning to UBC in September 2019, where she has since worked as a Scanner Operator in the UBC MRI Research Centre. Working in the preclinical MRI world, Kirsten's work centers around rodent and cadaver studies carried out using a 7T MRI. She is responsible for running the scanner, and is also involved in processing data for research studies on spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and epilepsy. She enjoys working with a variety of researchers on their projects and has recently transitioned into some project management for the centre.



James Jong

BSc in Biology

James Jong graduated UBC in 2006 with a General Biology Degree. Since then, he did not pursue any further education but instead, entered the Consumer Electronics industry and worked with global brands like Sony and currently Samsung. His experience was predominantly in Sales managing National Accounts across Canada. He first started as a Field Rep and worked his way into Sales Rep roles that were responsible for BC and Western Canada. The higher level of education he obtained during his time at UBC helped propel him to his current role as Director of National Accounts overseeing a National Sales Team for Samsung Canada driving over half a million dollars in consumer sales with Best Buy Canada and Amazon.ca. James lives in North Vancouver and enjoys exploring the mountains and trails this beautiful province has to offer. He is always open to making new connections and inspiring individuals who want to know more about the Retail and Electronics industry in Canada which has been a fruitful path post university graduation for him.



Paloma Corvalan

BSc in Environmental Science

Paloma Corvalan graduated from UBC with BSc (Hons) in Ecology and Environmental Science and followed this up with a PhD in Animal Behaviour from the University of Queensland. Paloma is now working as the Programs Manager at Sea Smart and is the President of the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology. With Sea Smart, Paloma manages and delivers STEM educational programs that connect children and youth to nature, inspire them to pursue their love for STEM, and empower them to protect our environment. Paloma strives to lead a sustainable lifestyle and, in her spare time, loves camping, mountain biking and snowboarding.



Rob Kim

BSc in Biopsychology

Currently working as a career strategist at UBC in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems. Rob is passionate about the transformative effects of education, which has led to working as a high school science teacher and a college instructor for 14 years. Rob decided to return back to UBC in 2016 to work first in student engagement, overseeing the UBC Collegia Program before pivoting into the career education world. Rob uses his science background everyday as a lens to approach his work with curiosity and a focus on his processes, like any inquisitive scientist. Rob graduated with a BSc in Biopsychology in 1998, BEd in 2000 and MET in 2008. Rob also likes Star Wars, movies, and his children, but not necessarily in that order.



Pavin Takhar

BSc in Environmental Science

Pavin graduated from UBC in 2015 with her Bachelors of Science degree majoring in Environmental Science and minoring in International Relations. Following graduation, Pavin attended the University Of Alberta Faculty Of Law graduating in 2018. Pavin is a corporate insolvency and restructuring lawyer in Calgary, Alberta practicing at a global law firm. As part of Pavin's practice she regularly appears before the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, and has been involved in appeals before the Court of Appeal of Alberta. Although Pavin is no longer in the area of science, she contributes the skills she built during her time in UBC

science to her career in private practice



Matei Stoian

BSc in Psychology (Behavioural Neuroscience)

Matei graduated from UBC in 2016 with a BSc in Psychology in addition to a BA in Philosophy. He went on to study Medicine at McMaster University (grad. 2019), and is currently finishing a Family Medicine Residency in North Vancouver at Lions Gate Hospital. He was recently accepted to a fellowship program in Emergency Medicine at St. Paul's Hospital in Downtown Vancouver. He is a member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and his research and advocacy interests are centered on the impact climate change has on human health. In his free time he likes to hike, rock climb, surf, and play team sports



Katherine Tourigny

BSc in Behavioural Neuroscience

Born and raised in Vancouver, Katherine jumped at the opportunity to study at UBC. She competed on the Varsity Track and Field Team, was a House President in Totem Park, and volunteered as a Squad Leader with UBC Orientations. The skills she learned from her peers in these roles were invaluable and are applicable to all aspects of life. She has a keen interest in the environment, doing research in Antarctica then later working at the UN Climate Change Conference in Peru. She enjoys teaching and was involved in several groups that taught science in the community. Her final undergraduate years were focused on neuroscience and she completed research projects studying Alzheimer's Disease, brain MRI, and neural circuitry and plasticity. After her BSc, Katherine

graduated from UBC Medical School and is currently training to be a neurosurgeon with the Dalhousie Neurosurgery Residency Program in Halifax, Nova Scotia. When not in the operating room, she can be found running, camping, or drinking (a lot) of tea. Her advice to undergraduate students is to take advantage of what UBC Science has to offer, don't be afraid to try something new, and pursue what you love.



Sandra Wan

BSc in Biochemistry

Sandra completed her BSc in 2015 (majoring in Biochemistry and a minor in Commerce) and most recently, completed her Master of Education in Adult Learning and Education in 2020. After graduating from her undergraduate degree, she has been working at UBC in different student affairs roles ranging from supporting students academically to implementing large scale events that enhance the overall student experience. Prior to starting her current role as the Manager for the Master of Business Analytics and Bachelor + Master of Management Dual Degree programs at the Robert H. Lee Graduate School (Sauder School of Business), she worked as the Program Coordinator, Workplace

Learning, facilitating work and undergraduate research opportunities on campus, contributing to students' career learning and interest in research.



Siong Ng

BSc in Physics

Siong Ng holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Physics, specializing in experimental particle physics. He joined the bandwagon into the IT industry during the dot-com heyday and started his professional career as a Software Test Engineer with ALI Technologies. After a few years, he changed focus to business management; first by completing a Master of Business Administration and began pursuing management roles in high tech companies. He is currently working at Change Healthcare as Director Product Management.

Brenna Leitch

BSc in Biology

Brenna graduated from UBC in 2015 with a Bachelors of Science in Biology. During her time at UBC, she was involved in UBC REC and spent a semester on exchange in the UK. After graduating, she returned to the West Kootenays to attend UBC's rural teacher education program. Since becoming a teacher, she has taught everything from kindergarten socials to French 8 to Biology 12, although she now has a grade 4/5 class. Through teaching she has combined her passions of being outside, sports, math, and science. She has coached soccer and volleyball teams, chaperoned multi-day canoe trips, led elementary outdoor education programs, facilitated K-12 art exhibits, hosted math fights, and created YouTube science videos. She is known throughout the school for her dad jokes and making her students go outside even when it's freezing.