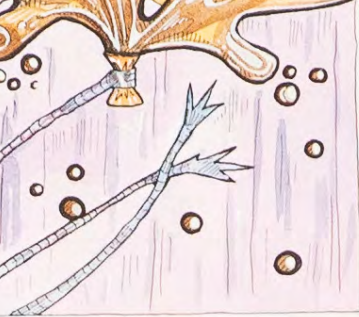


# Teen Programs







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# Emily Carr University of Art + Design

Founded in 1925, Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECU) is a world leader in art, media and design.

Merging studio practice, research and critical theory in an interdisciplinary and collaborative environment, ECU encourages experimentation at the intersections of art, design, media and technology. We're ranked as the top university in Canada for art and design and 29th in the world.<sup>1</sup> With more than 1,800 students enrolled in graduate and undergraduate programs and thousands more taking workshops, certificate programs and individual courses every year, ECU's faculty, staff and alumni are internationally recognized as award-winning creators and thought leaders whose work consistently advances the resilience and potential of both cultural sectors and the economy.

<sup>1</sup>QS World University Rankings for 2024 Subject: Art + Design

Emily Carr University is situated on unceded, traditional and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwx̱wú7mesh úxwumixw (Squamish) and sə́ilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.



Artwork by  
**Delphine Lu**

"I'm Sorry"  
SIT, Painting



## Teen Programs

Preparing youth for the next step in their creative journeys

Teen Programs at ECU Continuing Studies offer excellent preparation for post-secondary education and future careers.

Through hands-on art making, students will have access to experienced instruction taught by industry artists, designers, professionals and ECU's amazing studios, equipment and community.

## Continuing Studies

Come learn with us and take the next step in your personal and professional growth

Be a part of ECU's exciting learning community. Expand your knowledge, develop your creative vision and grow your skill sets.

Whatever path you choose, ECU is a place to pursue your creative practice and enhance your career.






Photo by  
**Perrin Grauer**

JAI, Experience  
+ Interaction Design  
Group activity mapping a day in the life of a high school student, practicing using a designer's mindset. (Something introduced to the students in the course.)

## Registration + Student Services

Register with us online, by phone, or in person

To register online, visit our webpage at [ecuad.ca/teens](https://ecuad.ca/teens) and click on the "Register Now!" button located on our program pages.

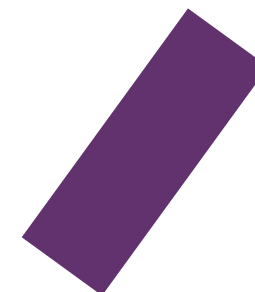
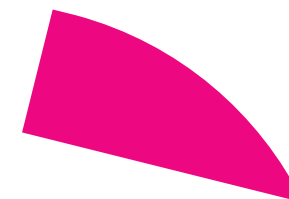
Our Registration Team is here to help. Feel free to call us at **604-844-380** or email at [teens@ecuad.ca](mailto:teens@ecuad.ca).

We are located on campus in **Student Commons** at 520 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5T 0H2.

## Admissions

Teen Programs are open to students beginning ages 12+. Please check the specific age requirements of the program you are interested in to learn more. There are no pre-requisites or previous learning experiences required to attend Teen Programs.

Seats in our programs are limited and registration is first come, first served. When registration is complete and payment received, students will be sent a registration statement by email including course information, dates, times and location. This statement is also available to students through their myEC accounts.



## Tuition + Fees

All tuition prices and fees are listed in Canadian dollars (CAD). Individual tuition prices and fees will be listed under each program on our website. Tuition fees cover the cost of the course, plus GST.

Courses will require students to purchase and bring their own materials and supplies. Before registering for a course, we recommend students factor the supply costs into their budget, in addition to tuition fees.

Tuition is reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis.

## Scholarships

ECU Continuing Studies offers tuition scholarships. Scholarships may only be used towards the cost of tuition; it does not apply to costs associated with transportation, accommodation, supplies or meals. **Please visit our website for more information.**

## Withdrawals + Refunds

All course withdrawal requests must be received in writing by the Registration team within seven (7) days before the course start date, in order to be eligible for a refund. Requests that are eligible for a refund will be subject to a \$35.00 administrative fee per course. Requests for switching courses are treated as a course withdrawal and new registration.

Exceptions are only considered for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis, supported by appropriate documentation or subpoena. Requests for refunds, course transfer, or other special requests will not be granted if received after the course has started or completed.

Please note that the **Spring Break and Summer Teens** programs have separate refund and withdrawal policies. For more information, please contact us at [teens@ecuad.ca](mailto:teens@ecuad.ca).





# Courses + Workshops

Be inspired! Engage with other youth and practicing professional artists in weeknight and weekend courses. Our workshops are open to students ages 15-18yrs, or who are currently enrolled in Canadian grades 9-12.

## Drawing

Drawing centers on observation, fostering creativity through imagination and the visual communication of ideas. Start an artistic exploration like no other, where traditional, technical and experimental drawing techniques converge to help you perceive the world around you in exciting new ways. Through various exploratory in-class assignments and projects, students will learn different drawing techniques to expand their creative potential. From graphite and charcoal to pastels and mixed media, students will discover how to bring their vision to life through drawing, evolving from quick sketches to completed compositions that reflect their own style.

## Perspective Drawing

Perspective drawing allows artists and designers to create realistic and three-dimensional representations of objects, scenes and spaces. It adds depth and dimension to flat surfaces, making artwork and designs more lifelike and immersive. Perspective can also be used to experiment with unique viewpoints, distortions and artistic effects, pushing the boundaries of creativity. Students will elevate their drawing skills in this hands-on, immersive workshop and delve into fundamental one-point, two-point and three-point perspectives through practical exercises and real-world projects. From simple shapes to more elaborate interior and exterior scenes, this course will teach students essential skills to advance their drawing, illustration or design practice. This workshop is an excellent complement to Drawing or Life Drawing and a helpful stepping stone to Environment Concept Art, Industrial Design and Animation.

## Life Drawing Workshop

Life drawing allows artists to study the human body in detail, gaining a deep understanding of anatomy, proportions and the nuances of form. This skill is invaluable for creating believable representations of the human figure, whether the goal is realism or creative expressions infused with students' unique artistic voice and style. Students will develop their observational and life drawing skills in this immersive life drawing workshop. Through a range of exercises, students will learn how to use gesture, line, proportion, composition, volume and form to draw from a life model. This workshop is equally about experimentation of style and technical skill building. An excellent complement to drawing, illustration and animation practices, as well as an important practice on its own, this workshop will help students build confidence in their drawing skills.

"It was so motivational to be with other artists my age and to learn at ECU. I would wholly recommend the program to any creative teen."

- Summer Institute for Teens Student

## Painting

Painting is a rich part of human history and culture. Through the practice of painting, artists develop a heightened ability to observe the world around them, offering a powerful outlet for self-expression and unique perspectives. In this course, students will embark on a journey of self-discovery, where observation, creativity and visual storytelling merge to elevate their creative abilities.

Through a series of guided exercises and hands-on progressive projects, students will learn essential acrylic painting techniques and experiment with innovative mixed media approaches. Starting from the basics, unlock the power of colour, texture and form to transform your unique style and artistic voice into captivating paintings. Whether you're a budding artist or looking to explore a new medium, our Painting course is the gateway to a world of creativity and expression.

## Expanded Painting

Embrace a spirit of experimentation as you push the boundaries of your creativity! Building on the fundamental principles explored in Painting, this dynamic course expands the practice of painting, inspiring young artists to broaden their horizons and explore the possibilities of artistic expression. Working with acrylic paint and mixed media approaches, this course offers a versatile toolkit for creative experimentation and a broader artistic vocabulary to play with gesture, line, colour, composition and form.

Supported by in-class exercises and assignments, students will engage in progressive projects that encourage innovative approaches, enabling them to break free from conventional painting norms and unleash their full artistic potential. Students will discover the unique challenges and opportunities of an expanded practice, allowing them to express themselves with greater impact and creative depth.

## Illustration

Illustration is a dynamic and versatile method of communication that transcends language barriers, making it a valuable means of conveying ideas, stories and concepts. Illustration is all about storytelling and in this course, students will explore various methods of visual storytelling, using traditional hand-drawn illustration techniques. Develop skills in observation, line drawing, shading, colour application and storytelling and discover how to convey emotions, messages and concepts through your artwork. Proficiency in illustration opens doors to diverse creative opportunities, including graphic design, animation, comics, concept art and more.

Whether you dream of illustrating children's books or working on animated productions, this course will introduce students with the knowledge and techniques to turn their ideas into captivating illustrations.



Photo by  
Paige Neufeld

SIT, Students are using the Cintiqs to create text to image posters, exploring how to visually represent the underpinnings of their chosen piece of text.

*From the instructor:*  
"Throughout our careers as cultural producers, we will draw upon the work and output of our fellow creatives. This is a vital aspect of our belonging to a broader community that works across disciplines, cultures and spaces. The ability to draw upon and develop another idea is crucial in the progression of those ideas and ideals...We will look at text as an expansive discipline that can be drawn upon in many different fields."

## Environment Concept Art

Bring imaginary worlds to life through environment concept art! If you're passionate about illustration, live-action films, animation and video games, this course is the perfect opportunity to begin creating captivating, fantastical worlds and spaces through illustration and visualization. Through interactive and hands-on learning experiences, students will explore various styles and aesthetics, delve into lighting, composition, perspective and colour and bring their creative ideas to life from concept to reality.

Our experienced instructors will guide students, providing personalized feedback to enhance their skills and support their creativity and exploration. By the end of the course, students will have worked on exciting projects to turn their vision into new realities and build skills relevant to a future in creative industries.

## Character Illustration

Characters are at the heart of storytelling. Giving them depth, personality and a visual narrative can influence how they resonate with audiences. Discover how narratives and personality traits breathe life into characters, shaping their design and evolution. Drawing on principles of anatomy, proportions, scale and context, students will learn how to develop characters that can express personality and mood, capturing the essence of their character's story. Whether students dream of creating the next iconic superhero, beloved animated character or memorable brand mascot, character illustration can help shape the stories that captivate hearts and minds.

Our experienced instructors will guide students, providing personalized feedback to enhance their skills and support their creativity and exploration. By the end of the course, students will have created characters that captivate the imagination and developed skills relevant to a future in creative industries.



Art by  
**Nanami**

## Architecture + Environmental Design

Design a better world through architecture and environmental design. If you are curious about how spaces, buildings and landscapes are designed and how they influence the wellbeing of communities and the environment, then this course is for you!

The design of spaces and places play crucial roles in shaping our communities. It influences how people interact with their surroundings, move through spaces and navigate the environment and the overall wellness and sustainability of communities. This course offers a glimpse into the dynamic field of spatial and environmental design, providing opportunities for further exploration in architecture, environmental sciences, sustainability and beyond.

Through hands-on activities and projects, students will learn to transform conceptual ideas into spatial designs, discuss relationships between people and the natural and built environment and explore how spaces and landscapes can promote sustainability and enhance quality of life. Our experienced instructors will guide students, providing personalized feedback to enhance their skills and support their creativity and exploration. By the end of the course, students will have worked on exciting projects that build skills relevant to diverse industries and career paths.

## Portfolio Development

Applying to art school means developing a portfolio of work that showcases your best and most current work; it should show the range of your creative practice and highlight your skill and creativity. Portfolio Development for Teens aligns itself with the ECU Admissions Guidelines and helps students start building a portfolio that best reflects who they are as an artist or designer. This course will explore different prompts to help jumpstart your creativity, the value of experimentation and risk taking, best practices for documenting your work and how to write about yourself as an artist or designer.

This course can be taken alongside any of our other courses for teens and is best suited for those still in the early stages of building their portfolio.

## Portfolio Review Workshop

Our Portfolio Review for Teens aligns itself with ECU Admissions Guidelines and helps students showcase who they are as an artist or designer. This workshop will offer strategies, prompts and insights to ensure your intent is clear, your voice comes through and your work best reflects your creative identity.

Guided by ECU instructors and complemented by peer-to-peer feedback, this workshop is ideal for students ready to apply to study art and design at the post-secondary level. This workshop does not focus on the creation of new work; students will need to bring examples of work they are considering for their portfolio that is already prepared.

**Not sure which course to take?  
We're happy to help!**

**Email us at [teens@ecuad.ca](mailto:teens@ecuad.ca)**





Photo by  
**Kamila Bashir**

SIT, Painting  
Student is creating a still life painting using a prop in the centre of the room (flowers in a vase).

# Spring Break Art Camp

Our Spring Break Art Camp is designed to inspire creativity, provide a space to explore and opportunities to meet other young creatives. We've curated a range of courses so that students can explore popular studio practices in art and design in hands-on courses taught by practicing, professional artists, designers and educators.

With a focus on foundational skills and creative process, courses are open to students at all levels of experience. We want to make Spring Break fun, memorable and inspirational! Studio courses are offered as week-long, full-day sessions and students are welcome to sign up for both to join us for a Spring Break full of creativity! This program is for students ages 15-18yrs, or enrolled in Canadian grades 9-12.

## Spring Break Art Camp Schedule

Please visit our website for more information.  
Registration opens mid-Nov 2025

### Week One

March 16 - 20, 2026  
Full Day Studios

### Week Two

March 23 - 27, 2026  
Full-Day Studios

Photo by  
**Khim Hipol**

JAI, Experience  
+ Interaction Design  
Students are practicing applying a designer's mindset and developing a phone app with their peers, outlining the user experience steps.





# Preparing youth for the next step in their creative journeys

"I really liked the program. The activities were fun and helped me explore other styles of art while still letting me have my own style. I enjoyed these two weeks and I have no negative experiences with anything. The instructor was very kind and helpful, this was the best two weeks ever and I wish I didn't have to leave!"

- Junior Arts Institute Student





# Summer Teens

Explore new passions and pathways during the summer at ECU! Summer Teens is an extensive collection of programs for students ready to challenge themselves and their emerging or evolving artistic practice.

Inviting students of all levels of experience, Summer Teens is more than summer camp, it's where students bring their curiosities, interests and passions for art and design, engaging with their creative peers and distinguished artists, designers, educators and industry professionals, all within a university environment.



Artwork by  
**Zihan Huang**

JAI, Animation/Digital Illustration

## Junior Arts Institute

**This program is for students ages 13-15yrs, or who have completed Canadian grade 7 by July 1, 2026**

### Program Schedule

Please visit our website  
for more information.

Registration opens mid-  
Nov 2025

#### **Block One (2 weeks)**

June 29 – July 10, 2026  
Monday to Friday

#### **Block Two (2 weeks)**

July 13 – 24, 2026  
Monday to Friday

The Junior Arts Institute (JAI) opens doors to meaningful experiences and connections with peers across all interests and experience levels.

Each course is taught by artists, designers and industry professionals with rich experience in their field – providing young creatives with peer engagement, mentorship opportunities and a look at potential career paths. Students will be welcomed into a diverse, accepting community where each student's individuality is honoured and celebrated. Whether new to art and design or having a goal of attending art school, JAI is a two-week, immersive program that builds foundational knowledge, explores a wide range of creative skills and helps prepare students for the Summer Institute for Teens.

Students will have the option to showcase their work in a public exhibition in ECU's Michael O'Brian Exhibition Commons, with the show opening on Friday, July 24, 2026.





"I absolutely loved this course, it was really well planned, first covering the basics and then being given the opportunity to apply them in either a collaborative or individual project. Sharing everyone's work at the end of the day was extremely helpful, I learned a lot from the constructive criticism given to both me and others. Thank you!"

- Summer Institute for Teens Student

## Summer Institute for Teens

This program is for students ages 16-18yrs, or who have completed Canadian grade 10 by July 1, 2026

The Summer Institute for Teens (SIT) is an immersive, 4-week art and design program that provides unique, hands-on learning experiences to young creatives. Each course is developed by Emily Carr University's team of expert instructors and creative practitioners, carefully curated to cater to a range of learning styles. Connect to your imagination and intellect in new, impactful ways. This is a safe space to ask big questions that will evolve your practice, whether painting, illustration, or animation.

Students will be exposed to new perspectives, mediums and methods that will challenge conventional ways of thinking and broaden their creative horizons. Whether new to art and design or fast-tracking to their dream art school, students will be immersed in a vibrant learning environment where their thoughts and ideas are valued and taken seriously. The program culminates in a public exhibition and celebration of student work in ECU's Michael O'Brian Exhibition Commons.

### Program Schedule

Please visit our website for more information.

Registration opens mid-Nov 2025

June 29 – July 24, 2026  
Monday to Friday



# Partnership Programs

Emily Carr University of Art + Design is pleased to partner with the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Richmond Art Gallery to create community-based learning opportunities for youth and teens. As centers of public engagement with art and design, the university and gallery both present formal and informal education opportunities, inviting the public to engage with the co-creation of knowledges and meaning making through visual culture. Our partnerships create unique programs for youth to participate in an inclusive, collaborative community of curiosity with art and design, under the direction of university educators and gallery staff.

## Teen Art Group

In partnership with Vancouver Art Gallery

Teen Art Group is an exciting partnership between Emily Carr University of Art + Design and the Vancouver Art Gallery, designed to deepen participants' understandings and expand perceptions and worldviews through the exploration of art and visual culture. By working closely with practicing artists, designers, educators, archivists and curators, youth ages 15-18yrs will engage in a rich, immersive learning experience that advances their knowledge and appreciation of the arts and encourages collaboration with peers from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Participants will work with Emily Carr University's studio spaces, classrooms and labs and gain behind-the-scenes access to the Vancouver Art Gallery's extensive collections and exhibitions. Youth in this program will have the opportunity to expand their understanding of visual culture, archival and curatorial practices and participate in hands-on art-making workshops supported by professional, practicing artists in a studio setting.

**Vancouver**  
Artgallery

### Program Schedule

14 sessions

Oct 16, 2025 - Feb 12, 2026  
Thursdays  
4PM - 7PM

## Youth Art + Culture Lab

In partnership with Richmond Art Gallery

Youth Art + Culture Lab is an exciting partnership between Emily Carr University of Art + Design and the Richmond Art Gallery. The program provides youth ages 12-14yrs with an opportunity to build confidence and develop diverse creative skills through hands-on and interactive sessions with local and international artists, gallery educators and Emily Carr University instructors. Students learn through behind-the-scenes access to artists and exhibitions, participate in art-making workshops, explore a wide range of media and deepen their understanding of art. Sessions alternate between the Richmond Art Gallery and Emily Carr University, concluding with a student showcase of their works for family and friends.

**RAG** RICHMOND ART GALLERY

### Program Schedule

15 sessions

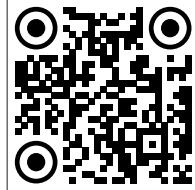
Oct 19, 2025 - Mar 8, 2026  
Sundays  
1PM - 3PM





Photo by  
**Perrin Grauer**

SIT, Traditional Illustration Class is having a discussion about how they want to present their work together on the exhibition walls, before installation.



[ecuad.ca/teens](https://ecuad.ca/teens)  
Register Now!

# Contact Us

For more information regarding our Teen Programs, please visit our website at [ecuad.ca/teens](https://ecuad.ca/teens)

If you have any questions about our programs, please email us at [teens@ecuad.ca](mailto:teens@ecuad.ca)



Photo by  
**Khim Hipol**





**Emily Carr University  
of Art + Design  
Continuing Studies**  
520 1st Ave. E  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V5T 0H2, Canada



1-604-844-3800



[www.ecuad.ca](http://www.ecuad.ca)



[teens@ecuad.ca](mailto:teens@ecuad.ca)

@emilycarru



Artwork by  
**Ella Rouleau**

A page from her sketchbook  
Summer Institute Teens, Painting

