

Lead with clarity. Grow with purpose.

Our Design Leadership Micro-Certificates are short-format programs for creatives ready to expand their role, grow their strategic voice, and lead design work with greater impact. These programs help you grow the skills, mindset and confidence to lead.

Through focused, hands-on learning, you'll explore leadership frameworks, future-facing technologies, and the interpersonal tools needed to support others and navigate complex team dynamics. These programs support different stages of your leadership journey, whether you're leading a team, making the shift from execution to direction or running your own practice with a leadership lens.

With flexible formats and practical application, the Design Leadership Micro-Certificates offer a pathway to evolve your practice, lead with intention, and shape your next chapter as a creative leader.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

These micro-certificates are designed for mid-career professionals with 2–3+ years of experience in UI/UX, product design, or creative technology, who are growing into leadership roles. Whether you’re preparing to lead for the first time, advancing toward a senior position, or already managing teams and client relationships, this program supports experienced professionals ready to expand their strategic influence. You’ll develop the mindset, tools, and confidence to lead creative work with clarity, vision, and impact.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

This program combines strategic thinking, creative leadership, and hands-on design practice. Guided by experienced industry professionals, you’ll engage in a range of learning activities such as interactive lectures, collaborative workshops, peer critiques, and self-directed study, designed to help you apply what you learn to real-world leadership contexts.

Collaboration is central to the learning process. You’ll be encouraged to contribute your perspective, uplift your peers, and build strategies that support sustainable, values-aligned leadership for today’s teams and tomorrow’s challenges.

OUR MICRO-CERTIFICATES + DELIVERY

CUIL100 – UX/UI Design Leadership Essentials Micro-Certificate	
Tuition: \$3500 CAD	Delivery: Online

Bridge the gap between design execution and strategic leadership.

This micro-certificate builds the core capabilities needed to lead projects, manage relationships, and navigate emerging trends in digital design. Students will learn how to structure and oversee design work, communicate value to clients and stakeholders, and apply forward-looking tools and concepts such as generative AI and spatial design to their practice.

Designed for working professionals, this program offers a future-focused toolkit for product designers, freelancers, and emerging team leads preparing to take on more strategic, leadership-aligned roles.

You will learn to:

- Manage design projects successfully, from planning to execution, including budget and risk management
- Communicate and promote their personal brand effectively within the marketplace
- Navigate business relationships confidently, including negotiation and stakeholder engagement
- Demonstrate proficiency in applying emerging technologies strategically within real-world projects

COURSES

This 8-week program includes three curated courses, each 24 hours in length, for a total of 72 instructional hours. Classes run three times per week in 3-hour sessions.

CUIL 101 Project Management Essentials

Gain the tools and frameworks to manage design projects from start to finish. In this course, you’ll learn to plan, scope, and oversee UX/UI projects using industry-standard methodologies. Develop key skills in scheduling, risk management, team coordination, and translating user needs into clear, actionable design tasks.

CUIL 102 Design Business Essentials

Strengthen your business skills to support a sustainable and impactful design career. This course covers key areas like business models, budgeting, branding, and working with clients plus legal considerations like contracts, IP, and ethical practices. Learn how to promote your value, run effective sessions, and navigate the realities of freelance or team-based design work with confidence.

CUIL 103 Design Innovation & Emerging Tech

Explore how emerging technologies are reshaping UX/UI design. This course examines concepts like Zero UI, generative AI, and spatial interfaces, helping you understand both their potential and their limitations. Through critical discussion and practical exploration, you’ll develop a future-ready mindset to navigate technological change with creativity, adaptability, and ethical awareness.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE*

Start + End Dates	Weekly Schedule
January 26 – March 23, 2026	Mon + Tues: 6:30pm to 9:30pm Sat: 9am-12pm

**See the final section of this document for the full schedule.*

PRIOR LEARNING

Tailored for designers ready to elevate their skillset or careers, this program focuses on advanced design, leadership, and business practices. Ideal for professionals seeking to future-proof their skills, it prepares students for promotions and mentoring and leadership roles in their current or future organizations. Applicants should possess 2-3 years of experience in UX/UI design, including creating digital products and experiences. A foundational understanding of coding or web development is recommended.

MATERIALS

Download the PDF materials list you need to be prepared for the start of your program.

Ready to get started? Register Here.

CUIL110 – UX/UI Design Visioning + Team Leadership Micro-Certificate

Tuition: \$3500 CAD **Delivery:** On-Campus

Step into your next chapter as a design leader.

This micro-certificate equips experienced UX/UI professionals with the strategic, interpersonal, and visionary tools to lead high-performing design teams and influence the direction of their organizations. Through collaborative projects, leadership frameworks, and reflective practice, you'll learn how to guide teams, shape design culture, and define your personal leadership philosophy.

Ideal for professionals with 3+ years of experience in UX/UI or creative technology, this program is well suited for those looking to mentor others, influence design and organizational strategy, and transition into management roles with confidence and clarity.

You will learn to:

- Develop a personalized leadership philosophy and growth plan
- Confidently lead and inspire design teams towards innovation and creative excellence
- Formulate and implement effective leadership strategies for team performance management
- Align design work strategically with organizational and business objectives
- Clearly articulate their personal leadership philosophy and apply it effectively in professional settings

COURSES

This program includes two intensive courses, each delivered in a separate, non-consecutive week to support deep focus and reflective learning. Each course runs full-time for one week (30 hours), allowing students to immerse themselves fully in each area of study while maintaining flexibility in their schedules between sessions.

CUIL 111 Design Leadership: Pathways to Growth

Chart your next chapter as a design professional by exploring leadership tracks in management, entrepreneurship, and subject matter expertise. Examine these paths through multiple lenses, weighing each against your values, strengths, and long-term goals. Breakthrough constraints like creative blocks and uncertainty to build career longevity, and leave with a personalized growth plan to guide your leadership journey.

CUIL 112 Design Leadership: People & Processes

Develop the skills to lead teams and shape strategy in today's design-driven organizations. This course explores leadership through the lens of collaboration, creativity, and organizational culture.

Learn how to guide multidisciplinary teams, balance business and user needs, and advocate for the value of design while defining your own principles for impactful, people-centered leadership.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE*

Start + End Dates	Weekly Schedule
Week 1: February 2-6, 2026 Week 2: March 2–6, 2026	Mon to Fri, 9:30am – 4:30pm

**See the final section of this document for the full schedule.*

PRIOR LEARNING

Tailored for designers ready to elevate their skillset or careers, this program focuses on advanced design, leadership, and business practices. Ideal for professionals seeking to future-proof their skills, it prepares students for promotions and mentoring and leadership roles in their current or future organizations. Applicants should possess 2-3 years of experience in UX/UI design, including creating digital products and experiences. A foundational understanding of coding or web development is recommended.

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PAYMENT DETAILS

Full payment is required at the time of registration to secure your seat. Spaces are limited and registration is first-come, first-served.

REGISTRATION

We encourage you to register early as seats are limited. You must be at least 18 years old by the program start date.

If a seat is available, you can register online up to 2 business days before the program start date. If you are registering less than 2 business days before the program start date, please contact **CS Registration** during business hours. Our staff will assist you if there is a seat available.

NOTE: Before we can welcome you to your program, we need a bit of time to set up your account and system access. If you register for the program less than 2 business days before the program start date, access to your ECU email account, M365 or Moodle may be delayed. If you are attending an online course, your instructor will send a Zoom link to your personal email so you can join the first class.

TUITION SUPPORT

There may be tuition support available to help eligible students pay tuition for these programs.

For more information on available options and how to apply, [please visit our Tuition Support page](#).

WITHDRAWAL + REFUNDS

Please submit an [email](#) request for course withdrawal or program switch no later than seven (7) calendar days before the course start date for a refund, less \$150 administration fee.

[View other CS policies.](#)

PROGRAM COMPLETION

Courses are assessed as Pass or Fail, based on the completion of assignments, projects and participation in the course as set out in the course syllabus. You must pass all courses in the program to receive a digital credential for your micro-certificate. A passing grade is determined by meeting the learning outcomes, submitting all required coursework, and maintaining the minimum attendance requirement.

Upon successfully completing a micro-certificate, students will receive a digital micro-certificate through **Accredible**, a digital credentialing service. To opt out of receiving a digital credential for CS programs and courses, please [unsubscribe here](#).

**CUIL 100 UX/UI Design Leadership Essentials Micro-Certificate
2026 (SPRING Intake – ONLINE)**

Course #	Term	Course Title	Instructor	Dates	Day	Time	Sessions	Hours	Location
CUIL 101	SP01	Project Management Essentials		Jan 26 – Mar 23 No class on Feb 16	Mon	6:30-9:30pm	8	24	Online
CUIL 102	SP01	Design Business Essentials		Jan 27 – Mar 17	Tue	6:30-9:30pm	8	24	Online
CUIL 103	SP01	Design Innovation & Emerging Tech		Jan 31 – Mar 21	Sat	9:00-12:00pm	8	24	Online

**CUIL 110 UX/UI Design Visioning + Team Leadership Micro-Certificate
2026 (SPRING Intake – ON-CAMPUS)**

Course #	Term	Course Title	Instructor	Dates	Day	Time	Sessions	Hours	Location
CUIL 111	SP01	Design Leadership: Pathways to Growth		Feb 2 – Feb 6	Mon - Fri	9:30-4:30pm	5	30	C4240
CUIL 112	SP01	Design Leadership: People & Processes		Mar 2 – Mar 6	Mon - Fri	9:30-4:30pm	5	30	C4240

Subject to Change

