



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND

UPEI FUTURE DIRECTIONS
Vision Document



MAY 2012



UPEI's vision is one of fulfilling potential and succeeding through transformation—on a student level, a university level, and a community level. To achieve our vision, we are committed to discovering our greatest strengths and potential through a shared sense of purpose and direction.

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INTRODUCTION

The University of Prince Edward Island exists to better our communities by developing people to their full potential. Central to all our efforts is our commitment to educate students through high-quality teaching and access to experiential learning opportunities such as, but not limited to, cooperative work terms, internships, external relations, and community-based service learning. By offering a transformative educational experience, UPEI strives to provide a learning environment in which our students develop fully as active citizens, eager to contribute to our communities and to society.

UPEI recognizes its role in advancing civic engagement, as well as a learning and discovery institution. With this sense of purpose, we work in a sustainable and accountable manner to align our University priorities with those of our communities to help address complex issues and create new knowledge.

UPEI's *Vision Document* is neither a strategic plan nor a business plan. Rather, it provides a foundation for broader planning and decision-making at UPEI over the next five years. It will, in essence, be a compass to help guide our institutional direction and keep us on track when developing strategic plans to help us navigate economic, demographic, and other emerging post-secondary education challenges.

Guided by our vision, we endeavour to shape the future of higher education in Prince Edward Island and UPEI's impact around the world.

VISION

The University of Prince Edward Island will be a leader in delivering outstanding experiential learning opportunities that encourage our students to develop to their full potential in both the classroom and the community. Driven by discovery, UPEI will be a destination for those eager to advance our world by creating new knowledge. Together, we will foster the development of tomorrow's leaders who will emerge from their studies ready to excel and contribute to the betterment of our local and global communities.

MISSION

The University of Prince Edward Island, founded on the tradition of liberal education, exists to encourage and assist people to acquire the skills, knowledge, and understanding necessary for critical and creative thinking, and thus prepare them to contribute to their own betterment, and that of society, through the development of their full potential. To accomplish these ends, the University is a community of scholars whose primary tasks are to teach and to learn, to engage in scholarship and research, and to offer service for the benefit of our Island and beyond.



OUR VALUES (in alphabetical order)

ACCOUNTABILITY & INTEGRITY » As individuals and as a community, we are accountable to those we serve, as well as to our key partners, for the quality of education we deliver, and the transparency of our operations. We will conduct ourselves with integrity, employing our expertise to serve others and benefit society.

EXCELLENCE » We aspire to excel in education, research, and service through an unwavering pursuit of the highest endeavours envisioned by our community of scholars.

RESPECT & COLLEGIALLY » Respect for self, others, and the process of discovery is the hallmark of our community. Through respect, collegiality, and reciprocity, we welcome the opportunity to openly exchange ideas and implement decisions.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY » Through shared responsibility, faculty, staff, and students are called to a duty of creating an enriched learning environment that fosters student success through engagement.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS PILLARS

As we work towards an exciting and sustainable future, UPEI will focus energies and resources on four core strengths—Student Experience, Vibrant Communities, Exploration and Discovery, and Living Sustainability. Based on this *Vision Document*, UPEI will develop strategic action plans to fully develop and realize the opportunities that lie within these four pillars.

Core to UPEI's existence is providing outstanding student experiences to underpin overall student success. To prepare our students to be thoughtful and productive citizens, our focus on transformative learning experiences places strong emphasis on high-quality teaching, collaborative engagement in scholarly activities, and providing access to experiential learning opportunities that translate theory into practice.

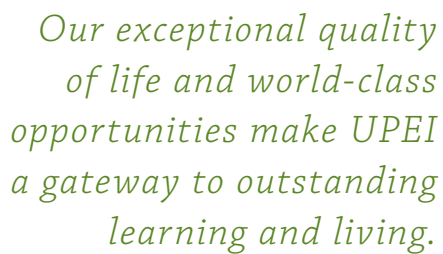
» Student Experience Challenge

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To meet this challenge, UPEI will work to:

- Ensure each UPEI student participates in an experiential learning opportunity through pathways such as cooperative work placements, internships, service learning, community interaction opportunities, global experiences, and external rotations.
- Further foster a culture of collaborative engagement, integrated learning experiences, and mentorship that provides students with well-rounded, value-added educational experiences.
- Explore a global passport option for students to build global experiences, awareness, and appreciation.
- Encourage and facilitate opportunities for students to engage in original research and original projects with faculty supervision throughout a student's time at UPEI in a "student-as-scholar" model of learning.
- Better understand and meet students' evolving expectations around their university education and experiences.
- Transform students, as faculty and staff transform themselves, to be champions of a true learning environment built upon respect and the continual development of our individual and collective potential.





Set against the inspirational backdrop of one of the world's most beautiful islands, UPEI provides a vibrant, welcoming, and safe environment that provides a unique culture of learning that benefits students, faculty, and staff alike. Our exceptional quality of life and world class opportunities make UPEI a gateway to outstanding learning and living.

» **Vibrant Communities Challenge**

UPEI provides a gateway to exceptional educational opportunities in an intimate learning environment. To build increasingly relevant educational offerings and a greater level of connectivity, UPEI will develop fully integrated, interdisciplinary programs that increase the value of learning, research, and service for our campus and communities.

To meet this challenge, UPEI will work to:

- Move beyond traditional boundaries (geographical, cultural, and organizational) to provide students with new perspectives on traditional disciplines while preparing them to help address complex issues and create new knowledge. This includes encouraging and supporting team-teaching through inter- and cross-disciplinary programs in a variety of fields.
- Foster an evolving culture of learning, participation, and interaction that maximizes the educational and social benefits of an ever-increasing diverse and globally enriched campus.
- Achieve a higher level of involvement between our University and Island communities to better communicate, share knowledge, and serve the needs of the public.
- Explore new models of open learning and improve our use of technology as an enabler to enhance access, encourage a higher level of discourse, and foster innovation.
- Build a service-oriented culture that consistently delivers positive front-line interactions for students and a client-focused approach that anchors our interactions on campus and in the community.
- Develop UPEI as a four-season hub of activity for academic, campus, and community activities.
- Work daily to build a resurgence of pride in UPEI both within our University and communities through the strength of our academic programs, the impact of our research, the spirit of our athletics, the cultural richness of our performing arts, and the experiences of our alumni.



Society's increasing dependence on innovation requires us to think broadly and prepare our students to successfully contribute to life beyond university. In this respect, we must work with great dedication and diligence to prepare the next generation of researchers, innovation leaders, critical thinkers, and cultural forerunners for their roles in shaping and creating the world around us.

UPEI will work to implement a novel model of discovery for undergraduate and graduate students that will move them forward as generators of new knowledge and leaders of tomorrow.

To meet this challenge, UPEI will work to:

- Encourage undergraduate and graduate students to pursue their curiosities as the next generation of researchers, innovation leaders, and critical thinkers.
- Further build partnerships and collaborative opportunities that identify, address, and benefit the physical, social, cultural, and economic health of our communities.
- Work to better promote the impacts of our research outcomes in meaningful ways to a wider audience.
- Recognize and reward innovation in areas ranging from research and operations, to programs and sustainability.
- Offer cross-disciplinary learning opportunities at undergraduate and graduate levels to provide a more integrated and interdisciplinary perspective to complex challenges.
- Prepare our students for jobs that have not yet been created.



To meet this challenge, UPEI will work to:

- Model positive behaviour and initiatives.
- Apply knowledge to real-world challenges, needs, and complex issues.
- Further develop research constellations that provide new knowledge in environmental, social, and cultural sustainability.
- Enhance our use of resources—intellectual, physical, and cultural—that are close at hand on our campus and in our communities.
- Embrace the proximity of our Island resources, information, and infrastructure in an innovative manner to promote our Island as “a living lab” that fosters the incubation and insight needed to solve local and larger world issues.



STRATEGIC PLATFORMS

The four pillars of Student Experience, Vibrant Communities, Exploration and Discovery, and Living Sustainability reflect core strengths that will be developed to support and achieve UPEI's vision. To ensure the strength and integrity of these pillars, several broad cultural and operational platforms will be reviewed to ensure they effectively support strategic-action planning.

These platforms will play a critical role in maximizing long-term success for UPEI, its people, and partners. They also assist in maintaining the focus of our efforts, building synergies between resources and initiatives, and meeting stakeholder expectations. Strategic platforms include:

- Continual development of our faculty and staff.
- Building pride in our University and people.
- Celebrating the experiences and intellectual energy of our alumni.
- Cultivating a service-oriented and mentor-minded campus culture.
- Fostering a deeper level of community connectivity and engagement.
- Ensuring sustainability in all we do.

CONCLUSION

UPEI's *Reflections and Future Directions* process has provided an unprecedented opportunity for our community to be involved in charting the future of our great University. A commitment to consultation and collaboration have set a positive tone that we are eager to build upon and will continue to employ in our planning. With the input of our stakeholders, we will work to develop a thriving, sustainable future for UPEI, our people, and province.

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