

GenOne

First Generation and Low Income Students' Conference 2021





UBC Vancouver is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam) people.

We are grateful to live, learn, and advocate for students on this land. We acknowledge the systemic, persistent, and historic discrimination against Indigenous and First Nations communities that has limited their access to higher education.

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FIRST GENERATION AND LOW INCOME STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

The GenOne Conference



This is an event run by the UBC First Generation Students' Union (FGSU). It advocates for equity and inclusion in higher education, specifically for students who are among the first in their families to attend university. This one-day conference will feature the theme 'Pave the Way' which will be divided into three streams: Inclusion, Impact, and Justice. These streams will be the lenses through which we dissect the conference's theme and missions. Through these lenses, we will explore topics such as food insecurity, financial and mental wellbeing, academic challenges and sociocultural barriers faced by *first-generation, low-income* (FGLI) students.

Purpose

Our objectives are: (1) create a safe space for discussions on inequities within higher education, to provide a platform for a nationwide collaboration on creating support for FGLI university students, (2) to encourage the sharing of resources, information, data, and intervention plans across different Canadian universities to address issues faced by FGLI university students, and (3) to empower FGLI and other marginalized students to advocate for a more equitable and inclusive higher education.



FGLI Students



FGLI students are among the first members in their families to attend university and/or are low-income. FGLI students are more likely to be BIPOC, socio-economically disadvantaged, or belong to other marginalized communities. First-generation students in Canada can also be students whose parents attended university abroad but did not have their degrees recognized in Canada or those who have university-educated siblings but not parents. As a result of the intersecting identities such as those listed above, FGLI students often struggle with navigating through university and face obstacles in accessing resources that may or may not be offered by the university.

Who We Are

We are FGLI student leaders affiliated with University of British Columbia's First Generation Students Union. We are hosting the GenOne Conference, the first conference in Canada to address FGLI issues and offer a collaborative space for other universities to come together to destigmatize the FGLI identity. We have operated within UBC for 1.5 years in which we directed a podcast called The Torchbearers and ran many collaborative advocacy initiatives with different university partners and departments. However, we want to broaden this conversation and support more students to advocate for themselves and for an equitable and more inclusive educational system.



Digital Conferencing



We will be hosting the conference on Brella, a digital conference tool that supports networking among attendees by matching them using artificial intelligence. We will provide a tutorial on how to navigate the platform on the day of the event, and we will also have an online help desk to assist with your technical issues during the conference. Brella and its artificial intelligence feature are in compliance with BC's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and Canada's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Our Funders

The GenOne Conference initiative is funded by UBC's Equity and Inclusion Office as well as the Global Resource Systems program in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems. We are truly grateful for the grants offered by our campus partners as well as the support of FGLI community on campus.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

February 20, 2021

Please note that the times below are in Pacific Standard Time (PST).

Time	Event	Description
9:00-9:15	Opening Ceremony	Welcome address by Pioneer of the GenOne conference Ms. Zahra Fazal (on behalf of the FGSU organization)
9:15-9:30		Keynote speech by Minister of Advanced Education Honorable Anne Kang
9:30-10:00		Keynote speech by Indigenous Educator Ms. Carolyn Roberts
Transition Time 10:00-10:05		
10:05-10:25	Conference Orientation	Brella user workshop hosted by conference planning committee
10:30-11:30	Stream 1*: Pave the Way for Inclusion	Mind and What Matters in Student Mental Wellbeing
		More Money, No Problems (Financial Wellness Guide for FGLI Students)
		Speak Up: Community Building with Respect
Lunch and Learn Sessions** 11:30-12:00		
Lunch Break 12:00-13:00		
13:00-14:00	Stream 2*: Pave the Way for Impact	Triumphs and Trials: Academic Journeys as FGLI Scholars in STEM
		Community Action: Self Exploration
		Food and Finances: Tuition or Dinner?
Transition Time 14:05-14:55		
14:05-14:55	Networking	A 10-minute power chat that connects you with other attendees based on shared interests, powered by Brella's artificial intelligence feature
Transition Time 14:55-15:00		
15:00-16:00	Stream 3*: Pave the Way for Justice	Against All Odds: Breaking Down Barriers for Refugee and Internally Displaced Students
		The Cost of Surviving Sexual Violence as a Low-Income Student
		Climate Change and Racial Justice - The Deep Links in Canada
Transition Time 16:00-16:05		
16:00-16:15	Closing Ceremony	Final Remarks by Planning Committee
16:15-17:00		Reflection Circle & Commitment Statements
17:00-17:30		Optional - Photo Op & Networking

*Attendees can choose 1 out of 3 workshops offered within each stream.

**Lunch and Learn sessions are available for drop-in. Attendees can choose any session that interests them.

Note: There will be a virtual help desk available at all times to support you in navigating your personalized agenda

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Honourable Anne Kang

Newly appointed Minister for Advanced Education and Skills Training B.C

Anne Kang was elected as the MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake in 2017. Anne is the Minister of Citizens' Services. She immigrated to British Columbia as a child, and has lived in Burnaby for over 30 years. She has been an active community volunteer since the age of 8.

Anne was a three-term Burnaby City Councillor before becoming an MLA, and has been a leader in many organizations that build community and support those who are vulnerable. Anne's commitment to community was recognized when she was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 for her contribution to Canada.

Anne has a passion for life-long learning. She completed her post-secondary education at UBC, receiving a Bachelor of Music, a Bachelor of Education - Elementary, a Diploma in Special Education - Learning Disability, and a Master degree in Special Education - Gifted and Creative Learner, and completed two levels of Montessori Certification. Before being elected MLA of Burnaby-Deer Lake, Anne was a music teacher in the Burnaby school system. Anne lives and works in Burnaby and has two young children, who attend school in Burnaby.



Carolyn Roberts

Indigenous Educator

Carolyn Roberts uses her voice to support Indigenous resurgence through education. She is a Coast Salish woman belonging to the Squamish Nation, her birth Mother is Janet Baker from the Thevarge family of the N'Quatqua Nation and her birth Father is Ed Kelly, Sto:lo from the Tzeachten Nation. Carolyn is an Indigenous academic who holds two degrees from UBC, a Masters in Aboriginal Education and Leadership and a Bachelors of Education. She also holds a Bachelors of Jazz Studies from Capilano University. Currently she is a Doctoral Candidate at Simon Fraser University in the eTAP Program. She has been an educator and administrator for over 20 years and is currently a Faculty Member and Indigenous teaching Fellow in the Department of Education at Simon Fraser University.

Carolyn's work at SFU is grounded in educating new teachers and other faculty about the legacies of colonialism that can still be felt on this land today. These legacies that continue to affect the traditional caretakers of these territories is what motivates her to be an active participant of change in educating those around her about the true shared history of this land.

A pivotal moment in her educational journey was when Carolyn was working alongside the Squamish Nation towards revitalizing the Squamish language and culture by beginning the conversion process of their elementary school into a Squamish language immersion school. She believes it is a critical time for Indigenous people to remember who they are, and where they came from, using traditional indigenous ways of knowing as a foundation. Carolyn is a strong voice and leader for the resurgence of Indigenous people reclaiming their languages, their history, and their cultures.

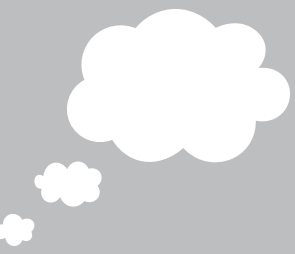
Carolyn's work is about educating others around her in the importance of Indigenous culture and ancestral ways of knowing, to work towards a brighter future for all Indigenous people and the seven generations yet to come.




WORKSHOPS & SCHEDULE

Three workshops run concurrently under each stream. Attendees will register for only one workshop within each stream. Times are all listed in PST. See the appendix (pg. 14) for more details on the workshops.

Stream 1: Pave the Way for Inclusion | 10:30-11:30



Mind and What Matters In Student Mental Wellbeing



More Money, No problems
(Financial Wellness Guide for FGLI Students)



Speak Up! Community Building with Respect


Stream 2: Pave the Way for Impact | 13:00-14:00



Triumphs and Trials: Academic Journeys as FGLI Scholars in STEM



Community Section: Self Exploration




Food and Finances: Tuition or Dinner?

Stream 3: Pave the Way for Justice | 15:00-16:00



Against All Odds: Breaking Down Barriers for Refugee and Internally Displaced Students



The Cost of Surviving Sexual Violence as a Low-Income Student



Climate Change and Racial Justice - The Deep Links in Canada

DIGITAL CONFERENCE PLATFORM: BRELLA

WHAT

Brella is a virtual event platform and networking software. You can join the conference by clicking on the event invite URL, which you will receive after completing the event registration on our website (<https://www.ubcfgsu.org/>).

WORKSHOPS

There are three streams incorporating our conference theme, of which each contains three workshops that will run simultaneously. When signing up to attend the conference, be sure to choose one workshop from each stream. If the workshop capacity is full, you will be notified during registration so that you can select a second preference.

NETWORKING

In addition to the workshops our conference offers, you will also have access to a networking session that uses Artificial Intelligence matchmaking. Brella will suggest attendee matches based on mutual interests and goals. Once you receive the event invite, you will be able to sign in using any of your social media information or create a new account on Brella. Then, you will be asked to provide your availability and interests. These interests will be used to suggest your networking match for a 10 minute power chat that is in-built in our conference schedule.

LUNCH AND LEARN

GenOne also offers "Lunch and Learn" sessions, which is an opportunity for participants to drop in for any of the sessions to learn something new. Some of these sessions will be hosted by our community partners to explore the FGLI identity more while others will allow attendees to relax and decompress by joining activities like meditation, art therapy and music sessions.

DATA PROTECTION

Brella is in compliance with both BC's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) as well as Canada's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which is considered the gold standard for data protection.

INFO SESSION

We will host an information session to guide our conference participants on how best to optimize their experience while using Brella and how to navigate the different features offered on this platform.



Scan the QR code to watch a [tutorial](#) that might be helpful to you in navigating the GenOne conference.

PIONEER SPOTLIGHT: Zahra Fazal



I am in my fourth year studying Global Health & Nutrition at UBC. I am passionate about equity, justice, health promotion and research. I have mainly worked within infectious disease research from tuberculosis in Tanzania to COVID-19 in individuals with various forms of immunosuppression in Canada. While at UBC, I have founded the First Generation Students Union to advocate for the inclusion of first-generation and low-income students within higher education systems. I have also directed The Torchbearers, a podcast that brings to light the obstacles faced by students at UBC who identify as FGLI. I am a proud recipient of the Karen McKellin International Leaders of Tomorrow award and the 2020 Community Achievement Award. I have also received a nomination for the 2020 Vancouver Excellence Award in the category of Diversity and Inclusion.

What is the Pioneer Spotlight?

The pioneer spotlight showcases the mind behind the GenOne conference. The first of its kind in Canada, this initiative is unique in its efforts for seeking inclusion of FGLI students within higher education systems. The person behind this initiative has lived experiences as a FGLI student and is hopeful for the conference to serve as an empowering space for marginalized students for years to come.

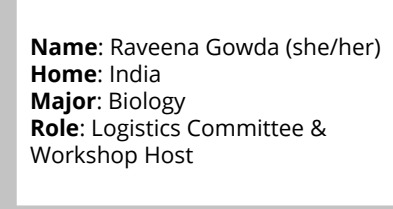
Hosting Institution:
University of British Columbia

Hosting Student Organization:
AMS First Generation Students Union

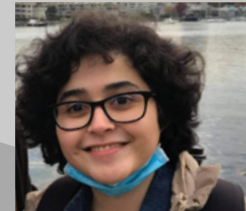
MEET THE CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM



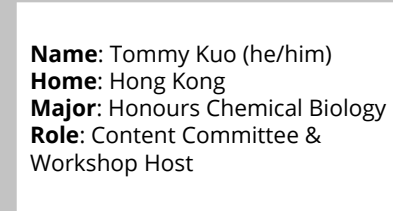
Name: Jaskirat Malhi (he/him)
Home: Canada
Major: Microbiology and Immunology
Role: Workshop Host & Coordinator for Lunch and Learn Sessions



Name: Raveena Gowda (she/her)
Home: India
Major: Biology
Role: Logistics Committee & Workshop Host



Name: Laila Shaheen (she/her)
Home: Syria
Major: Faculty of Arts
Role: Content Committee & Workshop Host



Name: Tommy Kuo (he/him)
Home: Hong Kong
Major: Honours Chemical Biology
Role: Content Committee & Workshop Host



Name: Gagan Daliaho (she/her)
Home: Canada
Major: Honours Chemical Biology
Role: Finance Director & Workshop Host



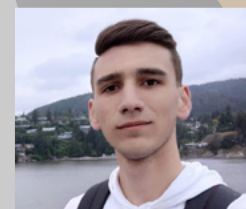
Name: Alyssa Yu (she/her)
Home: Philippines
Major: Environmental Science and Political Science
Role: Logistics Committee & Workshop Host



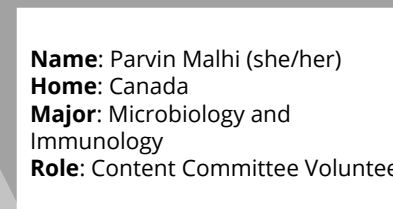
Name: Shahla Gulistani (she/her)
Home: Afghanistan
Major: International Relations and French
Role: Marketing Director & Workshop Host



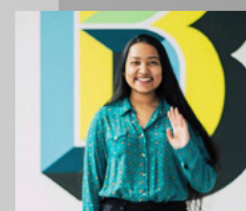
Name: Wilson Tu (he/him)
Home: Taiwan & Canada
Major: Integrated Sciences (Computer Science and Immunogenetics)
Role: Tech Volunteer



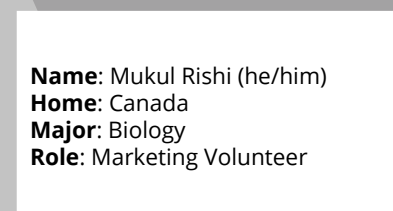
Name: Denis Lalaj (he/him)
Home: Albania
Major: Computer Engineering
Role: Tech Volunteer



Name: Parvin Malhi (she/her)
Home: Canada
Major: Microbiology and Immunology
Role: Content Committee Volunteer



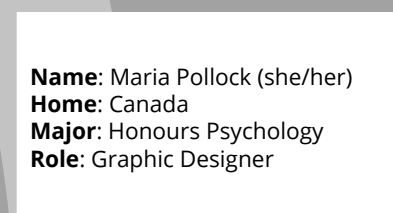
Name: Tasnia Naim Anika (she/her)
Home: Bangladesh
Major: Chemical Engineering
Role: Content Committee Volunteer



Name: Mukul Rishi (he/him)
Home: Canada
Major: Biology
Role: Marketing Volunteer



Name: Madison Pinder (she/her)
Home: Bahamas
Major: Food Nutrition and Health
Role: Web Designer

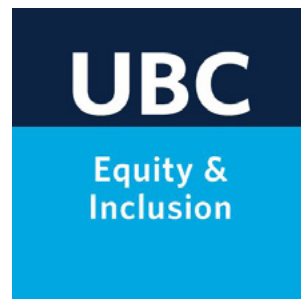


Name: Maria Pollock (she/her)
Home: Canada
Major: Honours Psychology
Role: Graphic Designer

OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

The GenOne conference initiative is funded by UBC's Equity and Inclusion Office and the Global Resource Systems program in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems. We are truly grateful for the grants offered by our campus partners as well as the support of FGLI community on campus.

Funders



Community Partners



SVPRO



Charitable Impact



freshprep

USEFUL LINKS

FGSU Website

<https://www.ubcfgsu.org/>



GenOne Conference Workshops

<https://www.ubcfgsu.org/workshops>



Brella Conference Platform

<https://www.brella.io/>



The Torchbearers Podcast

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4gaxM2o-mYAz8S5ySZTr6qT?si=eWR8uRg7QM65oQYZ1dzmiA>



Charitable Impact Portfolio

<https://my.charitableimpact.com/groups/low-income-student-support>



APPENDIX: STREAMS & WORKSHOP DETAILS

Stream	Name	Description	Guests	Sensitive Themes
Pave the Way for Inclusion	Mind and What Matters in Student Mental Wellbeing	Join us for a flipped classroom style workshop that is geared towards busting myths around mental health within the FGLI student community! You will have access to student and staff speakers who are at the forefront of advocating for FGLI wellbeing. End the session with an open, unfiltered, but respectful discussion on why our institutions often fail to protect FGLI students.	Karen Woughn Director for International Student Initiatives at UBC Vancouver Asante Haughton Activist, Youth Worker and one of 150 leading Canadians for Mental Health Habon Ali MSc Global Health UofT, Member of the Prime Minister's Youth Council) Jimmy Aitken Indigenous Engagement Advisor, Vancouver Community College	Discussions on mental health and suicide. A mental health professional will be available online throughout the session in case you need to take a step back or need support.
	More Money, No Problems (Financial Wellness Guide for FGLI Students)	As students, financial security is an important part of our wellbeing and can affect our academic performance and mental health. Join us for a discussion led by guest speakers from UBC Enrolment Services and Financial Wellness Peers. Together, we will learn how to navigate the system and identify different financial resources available to help students. Come ask questions, collaborate with students from all over Canada, and address financial issues facing students today.	Kimberly Sicoli UBC Enrolment Services Advisor	Discussions on poverty/income inequality.
	Speak Up! Community Building with Respect	Hosted by the UBC Equity and Inclusion Office, this workshop tackles hard questions that students face at university. As students, you are leaders in building community on campus. But how does a question like: "But where are you REALLY from?" and the belief that, "I treat everyone the same" negatively impact experiences of your members and the success of your student club/group? This workshop will explore how microaggressions and unconscious bias can impact the student experience. We will explore how as student leaders you can support your diverse peers to make them feel respected and included. Successful students are welcoming and inclusive because of their leadership and it starts with you.	UBC Equity and Inclusion Office	
Pave the Way for Impact	Triumphs and Trials: Academic Journeys as FGLI Scholars in STEM	FGLI university students often face academic challenges when transitioning from high school to university, such as connecting with professors, accessing academic resources, and finding employment and research opportunities. Join our panel discussion featuring a first-generation UBC Physics professor and a low-income Engineering student (Rhodes Scholar 2021) to hear the triumphs and trials they faced throughout their academic journeys. We will also take a look at some statistics on the academic challenges faced by first-generation university students. Lastly, to remind you that STEM is fun and rewarding, we will offer a short coding workshop so that you leave the workshop with a new skill.	Prof. Douglas Scott Professor, Department of Physics and Astronom Brendon Tankwa Engineering Physics Student and Rhodes Scholar 2021	
	Community Action: Self Exploration	Hostd by the Center for Community Engaged Learning, this workshop will focus on understanding individual viewpoints by reflecting on personal values, skills and identities as a basis for community action. Participants will explore community action as a space, opportunity and personal journey.	Centre for Community Engaged Learning	
	Food and Finances: Tuition or Dinner?	Food security is a necessity for students' wellbeing. How does food insecurity happen and what can we do to address it on campus? Join in on this interactive workshop led by the UBC Food Security Initiative to learn about food security and how to acquire it!	Sara Kozicky Food Security Project Manager, UBC Wellbeing, The University of British Columbia	Discussions on low-income students and struggles related to food security.
Pave the Way for Justice	Against All Odds: Breaking Down Barriers for Refugee and Internally Displaced Students	In addition to the challenges faced by typical university students when transitioning to their university career, FGLI students' higher education path is filled with further obstacles. In this interactive workshop, participants will be introduced to the multi-layered issues of socio-cultural barriers that impact FGLI students. These barriers will be broken down into four main themes: gender inequality, racial issues, language barriers, and safety challenges in conflict zones.	Azuz Al-Rubaye Iraq, Baghdad, Student in Political Science Shaza Alshamsi Syria, Student in the Faculty of Arts	Discussions on political conflict/instability, refugee displacement, war.
	The Cost of Surviving Sexual Violence as a Low-Income Student	Why does sexualized violence continue to be so prevalent, and what can we do about it? Presented UBC's Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office, this workshop will explore root causes of sexualized violence and its intersections, including with racism and poverty, which can be key issues for FGLI students. Using social change theories to understand all of our agency, participants will explore their own influence, and our collective impact, towards ending violence.	Sasha Wiley-Shaw Educator, Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office (SVPRO) at UBC	Discussions on sexual violence and consent. A mental health professional will be present to support attendees.
	Climate Change and Racial Justice - the Deep Links in Canada	Presented by the UBC Climate Hub, this workshop allows participants to explore the intersectional nature of race and climate justice, how to celebrate and honour leadership by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) groups in environmental and climate justice. This workshop is a recognition that climate justice is strongly tied to racial justice.	Njoki Mbürü Board Member, Vancouver Farmers Market Adriana Laurent-Sieb Co-founder and Project Administrator, UBC Climate Hub	Discussions on systemic racism.

TOGETHER WE CAN



MADE WITH LOVE BY
@JAMIESMITHSTUDIO
MARCH 21, 2020

Gen  ne

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Photographs from UBC Brand & Marketing Flickr
Geometric Pattern by [@weissesrauschen](https://www.instagram.com/weissesrauschen)