

## New York Tech-Vancouver Response to Institution-Led Expert Review Panel Recommendations

Updated January 2025

1. **Recommendation:** Help students develop their networking skills; incentivize or sponsor students to attend local industry events.

**Response:** We continue to make efforts in this area. Additional Career Services support through the newly-created Experiential Learning Coordinator full-time staff position will help identify more opportunities and develop networking workshops. The new Talkmasters and Conversation clubs will help students build confidence and networking skills; and the new revamped Graduate Communications course is now required for everyone and will ensure everyone builds some skills.

**UPDATE Jan 3, 2025:** Graduate Communications is a mandatory course that all NYIT international students must take. The syllabus has been updated and now includes a module entitled Preparing for the Graduate Workplace. Topics covered are:

- Workplace standards and safety regulations
- Resume and cover letter genre analysis
- Leveraging academic experience as professional experience
- Professional networking strategies

2. **Recommendation:** Ensure part-time faculty have training and awareness of EDI and Indigenous topics; provide support for integrating EDI and Indigenous issues into their course content.

**Response:** New York Tech-Vancouver's Indigenization Committee has been made aware of this recommendation and is working to ensure this is implemented.

**UPDATE Jan 3, 2025:** The campus at Broadway Tech Centre continues to be Indigenized, with Indigenous art throughout. We are scheduling professional development for part-time faculty on Indigenous topics in the next six months.

3. **Recommendation:** Hiring TAs for longer terms so that they can develop deeper knowledge of the material, teaching skills, and help maintain consistency across course sections.

**Response:** Recommending that students complete the program in four or five semesters will give students a longer amount of time to be TAs. New York Tech-Vancouver is also reviewing its student employee hiring process to explore hiring TAs as soon as they begin their studies, rather than waiting for them to complete one semester.

**UPDATE Jan 3, 2025:** NYIT Vancouver has revised its Student Employment Handbook and allows Teaching Assistants to be hired in their first semester.

4. **Recommendation:** Teaching and applying systems-level thinking/integrated design such that students understand how to connect multiple course topics.

**Response:** New York Tech-Vancouver Energy Management faculty are exploring ways to demonstrate in the practicum that students are able to connect ideas and apply the knowledge they gained in earlier courses.

**UPDATE Jan 3, 2025:** Effective Spring 2024, students have been provided with industry project options to select based on their interests. Exposure to real industry projects helps students understand system-level thinking required in industrial applications.

5. **Recommendation:** Having more opportunities for adjunct faculty to integrate into the program. Some reported feeling somewhat isolated.

**Response:** New York Tech-Vancouver has now instituted two Faculty Development Days per year where adjuncts are invited and encouraged to attend, in addition to other events such as the holiday party. New York Tech-Vancouver has changed its processes to ensure all adjunct faculty members get invitations for other on-campus events.

**This response is complete.**

6. **Recommendation:** Teaching about policies (e.g., incentives programs) so that students have practical knowledge that they can integrate early into their careers.

**Response:** Faculty members are already encouraged to do this; this will be reinforced during the next and subsequent Faculty Development Days.

**This response is complete.**

7. **Recommendation:** Using a living lab approach to teaching, whereby the campus building(s) themselves are used to help provide experiential learning (e.g., energy bills, equipment, etc., can be studied).

**Response:** Dr. Bonakdarpour is developing a relationship with the Broadway Tech Centre landlord (Quadreal) so that we can get more access to building information, starting with a tour in November 2023. Dr. Keen is part of the Quadreal Sustainability Committee, which can also lead to student activities, such as the visit to our bee hives.

**This response is complete.**

8. **Recommendation:** Include Capstone type group project with industry support in the curriculum.

**Response:** Dr. Storey has just been given release time to continue building relationships with industry partners to increase the number of industry projects we have. New York Tech-Vancouver has renegotiated our contract with [Riipen](#), an experiential learning platform for educators, to provide additional industry-supported project opportunities for our students.

**UPDATE Jan 3, 2025:** Career Services has engaged an independent consultant to identify new industry partners for all NYIT Vancouver programs.

9. **Recommendation:** Provide more hands-on experience/activities for the students.

**Response:** We are now offering ENGY 615: Energy Equipment Assessment every semester, which is a lab-based course. Dr. Bonakdarpour is also working on obtaining new lab equipment that would be suitable for course labs in other courses as well.

**UPDATE Jan 3, 2025:** Effective Spring 2025, we are offering ENGY 775: Alternative Energy Systems and ENGY 710: Power Plant Systems which include software-based labs and exercises. To expand hands-on learning opportunities throughout the program, we are integrating more lab-based activities into other core courses as well.

10. **Recommendation:** Consider options to provide certificates/micro-credentials.

**Response:** Faculty are working on developing a presentation (for February 2024) to discuss the different certificates that could be of value to Energy Management students. Career Services has brought in industry partners to present on the Energy Advisor credential, and is planning on having EGBC in to present on P.Eng.

**UPDATE Jan 3, 2025:** NYIT is an independent school authorized under the BC *Degree Authorization Act*. The Act does not specifically allow private universities and institutions to deliver certificates or micro credentials. NYIT would have to apply for authorization under the *Private Training Act*. NYIT may consider that option at a future date.

11. **Recommendation:** Providing more internship placements for students and/or more support to help them to find placements.

**Response:** More resources are being provided to Career Services in order to help find more internship placements for students. New York Tech-Vancouver is in the process of hiring an Experiential Learning Coordinator.

**UPDATE Jan 3, 2025:** NYIT has hired an Experiential Learning Coordinator and an independent consultant tasked with identifying internship opportunities for students from all programs.

12. **Recommendation:** Increasing availability of courses so that students are able to choose from the full list of courses offered.

**Response:** We offer as many as nine energy management electives, plus as many MBA courses per semester that students can take; we don't offer every course every semester. Recommending that students complete the program in four or five semesters will increase the chances that students get the opportunity to take the elective they want during their program.

**UPDATE Jan 3, 2025:** As of Spring 2025, NYIT Vancouver will allow EM students to take the following Cybersecurity courses as electives:

INCS 618 Risk Management and Legal Issues  
INCS 741 Cryptography  
INCS 810 Special Topics in Computer Sciences

As of the Summer 2025 term (launch date of Master of Data Science Degree), EM students will be allowed to take the following Data Sciences Courses as electives:

CSCI 657 Introduction to Data Mining  
DTSC 630 Data Visualization  
DTSC 610 Programming for Data Science  
DTSC 620 Statistics for Data Science  
DTSC 615 Optimization Methods for Data Science

**New York Tech-Vancouver agrees with every point in the "Continue" category and commits to continuing those activities.**