2025 ECONOMIC INNOVATION IMPACT REPORT

SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACTS



Since opening its doors in 1965, Simon Fraser University (SFU) has become an invaluable economic and innovative hub in BC. Through advanced university research, spin-off companies, the co-op program, university procurement, student and visitor spending, and the SFU graduate education premium, the impacts of SFU on the BC economy are significant.

$1.9 Billion
to the BC GDP from SFU research

$936 Million
in research funding from various sources including companies and non-profits (FY2020/21-FY2024/25)

Venture Creation

SFU has a strong entrepreneurial culture. The figures at right highlight some of the outcomes of SFU's venture creation.

500+
Ventures created and supported

$1 billion +
Funding raised from investors

1,200+
Jobs created, based on available data

$120 million+
Revenue by supported ventures since 2020

4,500+
Researchers trained by the SFU Innovation Ecosystem

Moment Energy, Lungpacer, Quantum Technology, Ionomr Innovations (L-R)

Co-operative Education

SFU has 14 different co-op programs, which have supported SFU students as they completed more than **19,000 distinct co-op placements between FY 2020 and FY 2025**, many of which were in BC.

19,000+
Co-op placements completed by SFU students since 2020

$280 million+
Earned by SFU co-op students since 2020

Procurement

SFU's capital expenditures are a major source of investment into the BC economy. Since 2020, **over 75% of SFU spending stayed within BC**.

$6.7 billion+
Spent by SFU between 2020 and 2025, on projects such as the Cedar Supercomputer Renewal

Student and Visitor Spending

SFU is home to a variety of different events, from sports matches to conferences. These events bring revenue to the university and support local vendors and suppliers.

$32 million+
Spent by students and visitors at SFU events between 2020 and 2025

12,000+
Events hosted by SFU Meetings, Events, and Conference Services between 2020 and 2025

Education Premium

The Education Premium is the difference in income that an individual receives as a result of obtaining a post-secondary degree or certificate.

$9,075
Average per-degree premium of SFU alumni as of 2025

$1.8 billion+
Total education premium for SFU alumni in 2025

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS THROUGH INNOVATION



SFU fosters innovation, creativity, and sustainability throughout the whole community. SFU supports sustainable life and work across all three campuses, while SFU spin-off companies provide novel and innovative solutions to real-world problems. In 2024, SFU was ranked 1st in Canada and 15th in the world for innovation by the World University Rankings for Innovation.

Currently, SFU is home to:

40 Canada Research Chairs

3 Canada Excellence Research Chairs

60+ Research Centres & Institutes

Supercomputer Renewal Project

Canada's largest, fastest, and most sustainable academic supercomputing centre is located at SFU, in the Water Tower Building. Throughout 2025, renovations were underway to upgrade the old Cedar system to a new, faster, system. The new system, called Fir, came online mid-September 2025. The project is a crucial step towards maintaining Canada's digital sovereignty.

24,000+
Researchers and industry experts use the supercomputer

50%
Increase in the number of CPUs from Cedar to Fir

100,000+
Compute jobs run daily at the Cedar Supercomputing Centre

40%
Increase in each CPU's efficiency from Cedar to Fir.

Innovative Infrastructure

To protect the planet, SFU builds all new student housing and residence buildings to comply with LEED building standards, WELL building standards, or Passive House design principles.

2,453
Students can currently be accommodated in SFU residence and housing

3rd
In Canada in SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities (2025)

3rd
In the world in SDG 13 - Climate Action (2025)

Venture Creation

SFU's supported ventures have significant impacts on the world, not only through economic benefits, but also the cutting-edge technologies whose potential they unlock.

#1 In Canada for Innovation
World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI 2025)

SFU's Venture Creation & Entrepreneurial Pathways			
Technology Licensing office	**i2I Research & Innovation Institute**	**Charles Chang Institute for Entrepreneurship**	**SFU VentureLabs**
IP Protection & commercialization	Entrepreneurial Training for STEM Grads, Post Docs & Faculty	Entrepreneurship Education for Undergrads, Eco-op & eGrads, Mentoring & Incubator program	Business Acceleration & Scaling, Workshops, National & International Networking Events
1,100+ IP Assets Managed	650+ Researchers Trained	600+ Founders Incubated	300+ Companies Accelerated