

The Collegiate Landscape in British Columbia

Being a student-athlete is an experience like no other. You have the opportunity to compete at a high level, while also pursuing higher education. Essentially, everything is a level up: training, competition and academics. But then you ask yourself the question: What university/college do I go to?

Understanding the collegiate track and field landscape, the options, and opportunities available to you can help you narrow down your university/college choices. There are over 1,700 schools with track and field and/or cross country programs in North America across a variety of associations and divisions. With Streamline Athletes you can [browse](#) these different colleges and associations to find the one that is right for you.

In this article, we will cover your options in British Columbia, Canada, if you are looking to stay local. This means either attending a school within [U SPORTS](#), one of the two different athletic associations within Canada. That being said, Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC is Canada's only NCAA school, competing in the [NCAA Division II](#) within the [GNAC](#) conference.

For context, U SPORTS is the national governing body of university sport in Canada and is spread over four regional conferences nationwide. Canada West is the conference based within Western Canada specifically, and has 12 member schools, five of which are located in British Columbia. On the other hand, the [Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association](#) (CCAA), is the coordinating body for college sports in Canada. There are 94 member institutions that include colleges, universities, technical institutions and cégeps located throughout four conferences (Alberta Colleges Athletics Conference, Atlantic Collegiate Athletic Association, Ontario Colleges Athletic Association and the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec); however there are no track and field/cross country specific CCAA schools located in BC.

Let's get into more detail.

U SPORTS only has two varsity seasons: cross-country and indoor track and field. The U SPORTS indoor track and field season runs from November to March, providing athletes with the chance to compete in numerous indoor meets and then properly switch gears to a summer outdoor season with their home clubs and countries. The 12 Canada West member schools include:

- [MacEwan Griffins](#) (Alberta)
- [Alberta Golden Bears & Pandas](#) (Alberta)
- [Calgary Dinos](#) (Alberta)
- [Regina Cougars](#) (Saskatchewan)
- [Thompson Rivers Wolfpack](#) (**British Columbia**)
- [British Columbia Thunderbirds](#) (**British Columbia**) * UBC also competes in the NAIA

- [Lethbridge Pronghorns](#) (Alberta)
- [Saskatchewan Huskies](#) (Saskatchewan)
- [Trinity Western Spartans](#) (**British Columbia**)
- [British Columbia Okanagan Heat](#) (**British Columbia**)
- [Manitoba Bisons](#) (Manitoba)
- [Victoria Vikes](#) (**British Columbia**)

If the CCAA is of interest to you, it is important to note that this conference is cross country focused. That being said, some conferences do have indoor track programs offering middle-distance events. As for the National College Athletics Association (NCAA), it is an American organization with over 1000 colleges and universities and 102 athletic conferences spanning over three divisions: D-I, D-II and D-III.

What now?

As you can see, within British Columbia itself there are various options, but within Western Canada and the rest of the country there are even more options available to you! But it is important to do your own research and understand what you are looking for in a university or college. Streamline Athletes knows what student-athletes and their families want and need to know about collegiate recruitment. When looking at schools through their platform you will be provided with all the information you need to know such as tuition, academic rankings, student body population, coaching staff, and more. Start your own unique recruitment journey today at StreamlineAthletes.com!