

Conversational Scottish Gaelic Immersion

June 5 – 9, 2017

Victoria, BC

1) Registration: – first come, first served.

Cost - \$325 Canadian per student (for folks in the US, at this moment that would around \$250 in US\$)

To register, send me an email and let me know your method of payment. Your seat is reserved when I receive your deposit of \$50.

The remaining \$275 is due by May 15. (If you have a concern about having to rush to get the money to me , let me know and we'll see what we can do to work it out.)

I can handle Paypal, email bank transfer or cheque.

For cheques, mail to Nickie Polson, 3832 Sutil Road, Campbell River, BC V9H 1J5

For Paypal or email bank transfer, use my email: nickiepolson@shaw.ca

2) Venue: The Victoria Edelweiss Club Hall, 108 Niagara St. in the James Bay area

<https://www.google.ca/maps/place/Victoria+Edelweiss+Club/@48.4168463,-123.3845936,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x90124a42977afdef>

- Great location within walking distance of Victoria's Inner Harbour, just a block away from the cruise ship terminal and the Ogden Point Breakwater
- A very nice room with the usual array of tables and chairs, and good windows for some natural light.
- Lots of free parking by the building
- A couple of blocks from the Breakwater Café and Bistro (and other eateries within walking distance)

3) Lunches, etc:

Bring your own or visit one of the eating places nearby. There's a very good Thrifty's grocery store a few blocks away that offers a number of deli options.

Coffee, tea and ice water provided, plus ice chests in the room for keeping your lunches cool

4) Schedule

Monday – orientation at 9:30 am

Monday – Friday

10:00 am – noon	Gaelic class
Noon – 1:00 pm	Bring your own brown bag lunch
1:00 – 3:00 pm	Gaelic class
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Gaelic song workshop

5) What will the class be like?

The intention of this immersion class is to help people gain ability and comfort with conversational Gaelic. Previous knowledge of the language is useful but not essential.

Although we have called it an immersion, it's actually more like a language intensive. A lot of the day will be conducted in Gaelic, but students will be supported with English explanation when it will help individuals avoid feeling lost ... or when it will help students internalize some concept they struggle with.

Fiona and Angus understand that this is a very concentrated experience for their students. They want the learning to be fun and memorable, and they want to avoid having a student go home with some sort of misunderstanding.

Note-taking is not encouraged during the main part of the classes, since this is a time for listening and speaking. Angus and Fiona make time for discussion in English of the concepts at the end of each class. So making note of questions to ask later on is welcomed.

A note to beginners: a big part of this style of learning is listening and figuring out the meaning of what you are hearing. That takes a reasonable level of tolerance for not knowing what is being said at times.

This puzzle-solving aspect can tire out the brain, but it also opens the door to building a deeper feeling for the language.

Learning will take place through games and activities. Beginners will be well-supported. Intermediates will find lots of opportunity to expand their abilities with the language. Advanced learners will get the chance to spend time immersed in conversational Gaelic (kitchen Gaelic).

There are no tests, and people are not put on the spot or expected to answer questions they don't know the answer to. The class is small so each person's comfort level can be taken into account.

6) Two Instructors

This will be the third year that Angus and Fiona teach immersions together, both in Victoria and in Cape Breton.

They are a remarkable team, with a deep respect for their students and a taste for fun. They innovate and get better every year. They are quick to respond to student interests, ready to explore and experiment.

Students will have the opportunity to work with each instructor. The students spend some time in the larger group and then split into two smaller groups. Usually two groups are formed along the lines of the amount of experience the speakers have. The groups trade teachers in the afternoon.

But students may also choose which group they want to be with. If one teacher is going to work on a topic that a student wants to pursue, then the student can choose to be with that group for that time. It's quite fluid.