

Symbolism of the KPU Coat of Arms, Flag, and Badge



The Arms of Kwantlen Polytechnic University were presented in a ceremony on June 4, 1999 by His Excellency, the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, Governor General of Canada.

Arms (shield):

In the centre of the shield is Kwantlen First Nation artist Brandon Gabriel's design for the "Spirit of Kwantlen," which links one of the meanings of Kwantlen—tireless runner—with water and the people of the river. Also shown is the wolf, one of the most important Kwantlen crests representing teacher and guide. The salmon refers to new beginnings and new life with the man and woman being partners in the creation of the community. All these elements are included within the circle of life. Around this central shield are, from upper left to lower left, clockwise: a lion, a tiger, a Chinese dragon, and a jaguar facing inward and in gold. Between these are a book, the traditional heraldic symbol for learning, and the heraldic symbol for a computer chip, representing the new technology for learning in the new millennium.

The main colours are those recommended by the University College Tributes Committee: blue, white, gold, and black. The central shield honours the Kwantlen First Nation who have given the university permission to use the name. As well, the Gabriel design features elements that have a strong relationship with the mission and character of the institution: the circle of life and the idea of life-long learning, the men and women of the campuses, the notion of new beginnings, and the image of teachers and guides.

Crest (above the shield):

The salmon coronet links the university with the Kwantlen people and the Fraser River and reinforces the message of new beginnings.

Motto:

THROUGH TIRELESS EFFORT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. The motto links some of the key elements of the symbolism with a statement of the university's core values.

Compartment and Supporters (at either side and at the base of the shield):

The compartment represents the land of the various campuses. The white and blue wavy bars represent the Fraser River, ancient highway of the Kwantlen people, which flows past all the communities served by the university. The Douglas fir cones on the grass refer to the university's beginning in Douglas College and the wider concept of new ideas and fruitful discussion.

The supporters are the river doe, a mythic creature, and an eagle. The river doe blends the concept of transformation with a local animal which can aptly represent swiftness and tireless effort. The eagle is an ancient symbol for power, strength of purpose, and acuity of sight, and is the namesake chosen for the university's sport and recreation teams. It is also a symbol with strong First Nations meaning. The book and computer chip, resting on jade circles, symbolize learning and diversity.


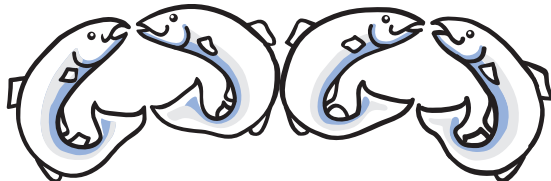






Flag:

The flag is a horizontal rectangle, a classic heraldic banner, containing the elements of the shield, rebalanced to fit the horizontal shape.

Badge:

This uses Brandon Gabriel's "Spirit of Kwantlen" design to symbolize "learning at KPU."

Herealdic Description	Plain English	
<i>Azure</i>	The background is blue.	
<i>an escutcheon Argent</i>	A shield shape, roughly triangular, point down in silver or white.	
<i>featuring the Spirit of Kwantlen emblem comprising a wolf a salmon and a river Azure as styled by Brandon Gabriel</i>	On the shield, artwork by Brandon Gabriel of a wolf, a salmon, and a river in blue and called “The Spirit of Kwantlen”	
<i>between</i> <i>in chief dexter a lion sinister a tiger respectant rampant</i> <i>and in base dexter a jaguar and sinister a Chinese dragon rampant respectant</i>	The white shield is surrounded by the following: At the top of the blue shield, on the left side a lion and on the right a tiger facing each other in the rampant position (standing upright on one hind leg with forelegs outstretched as if attacking) At the bottom of the blue shield, on the left a jaguar and on the right a Chinese dragon also facing each other in the rampant position	
<i>all Or</i>	All gold or yellow	
<i>in centre chief an open book Argent bound...Or</i>	At the top in the centre, an open book with silver or white pages, bindings in gold or yellow	
<i>and charged with a billet in fess bretessed Or;</i>	On top of the book, a gold or yellow horizontal (in fess) rectangle (billet) with square bites taken out of the long sides (bretessed—in modern heraldry, this item is meant to represent a computer chip)	

Herealdic Description	Plain English	
<p><i>Within a wreath Argent and Azure, this crest:</i></p>	<p>The crest appears above the shield, and is supported by a silver/white and blue twisted fabric wreath</p>	
<p><i>A coronet the upper rim set with four salmon respectant two and two Argent;</i></p>	<p>A simple silver crown, the upper edge decorated with four salmon, looking at each other in pairs</p>	
<p><i>And for a motto: Through Tireless Effort Knowledge and Understanding;</i></p>		
<p><i>On a grassy mount Vert set with Douglas fir cones Or</i></p>	<p>Supporting the arms is a green, grassy mound, scattered with gold/yellow Douglas fir cones</p>	
<p><i>rising above barry wavy Azure and Argent</i></p>	<p>The mound is rising from wavy horizontal bands of blue and silver/white (this is the traditional heraldic representation of water, either river or ocean)</p>	
<p><i>dexter a doe Or unguled Azure queued of a fish tail Argent fins Or</i></p>	<p>On the left is a gold/yellow female deer with blue hooves. Her bottom half is a silver/white fish tail with gold/yellow fins</p>	
<p><i>gorged with a wreath Argent and Azure pendant there from a pommeis charged with an open book Argent bound Or</i></p>	<p>On the right is a gold/yellow eagle with a silver/white head, blue talons, and blue beak</p>	
<p><i>sinister an eagle Or head Argent armed and beaked Azure</i></p>	<p>Around her neck is a wreath of twisted silver/white and blue cloth. Hanging from the wreath is a jade disk with an open book on it—pages silver/white, cover gold</p>	
<p><i>gorged with a like wreath pendant therefrom a pommeis charged with a billet in fess bretesed Or;</i></p>	<p>Around his neck is a wreath like the doe's and hanging from it is a jade disk with the heraldic representation of a gold/yellow computer chip</p>	