

SCOTT WILKINSON

PhD Candidate • University of Victoria • [Personal Website](#) • [ADS Publications](#)

Education

PhD Physics with Concentration in Astronomy University of Victoria, Canada	Expected May 2026
MSc Physics with Concentration in Astronomy University of Victoria, Canada	May 2023
BSc Combined Major Physics and Astronomy (with distinction) University of Victoria, Canada	May 2021

Leadership and Community Engagement

Graduate Student Representative <i>UVic Physics and Astronomy Academic Program Review</i>	April 2025
Academic Representative <i>UVic Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association</i>	September 2022 – October 2024
Committee Member <i>UVic Associate Dean Academic Search Committee</i>	May 2024 – July 2024
Co-organizer <i>UVic Galactic Astronomy Reading Group</i>	September 2023 – May 2024
Organizing Committee Member <i>UVic Astronomy Summer Seminar Series</i>	April 2023 – September 2023
Seminar Coordinator <i>Students in Physics and Astronomy Communication Enrichment</i>	March 2023 – August 2023
Student Affairs Officer <i>UVic Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association</i>	January 2022 – August 2022
Committee Member <i>UVic Physics and Astronomy Department Chair Selection Committee</i>	January 2022 – May 2022
Narrator of Electronically Assisted Astronomy Observation <i>Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory</i>	April 2021 – August 2021
Astronomy Interpreter <i>UVic Observatory</i>	April 2019 – August 2021

Mentorship Experience

Summer Student Supervisor (Ben Harvey) <i>NSERC USRA Summer Student</i>	April 2025 – August 2025
New Graduate Student Mentor (Isaac Gaudreau) <i>Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association Mentorship Program</i>	September 2023 – May 2024
New Graduate Student Mentor (Aydan McKay) <i>Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association Mentorship Program</i>	September 2022 – May 2023
Student Mentor <i>Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation</i>	May 2019 and May 2021

Academic Awards and Funding

Total funding awarded: 230,622 CAD

CASCA Board Prize for Best Talk (runner-up) – \$100	June 2025
President’s Research Scholarship – \$5,000	May 2024
ESA Visitor Funding – \$1,710	September 2024
Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement – \$6,000	September 2024
President’s Research Scholarship – \$5,000	May 2024
NSERC CGS-D – \$113,333	May 2023 – 2026
President’s Research Scholarship – \$5,000	May 2023
John and Myrtle Tilley Graduate Scholarship – \$5,200	December 2022
David F. Strong Research Scholarship – \$1,461	December 2022
NSERC CGS-M – \$17,500	May 2022 – 2023
President’s Research Scholarship – \$5,000	May 2022
Graduate Entrance Award – \$5,000	September 2022
B. W. Pearse Science Scholarship – \$282	July 2021
Robert S. Evans Memorial Scholarship in Astronomy – \$736	July 2021
Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award – \$1,500	September 2019
UVic Faculty of Science Dean’s List	July 2018 – 2021
UVic Excellence Scholarship – \$20,000 (Fully renewed for four years)	September 2017 – 2020
UBC Centennial Scholarship – \$10,000 (Declined)	September 2017
SFU Major Entrance Scholarship – \$24,000 (Declined)	September 2017
BC Achievement Scholarship – \$1,250	August 2017
Delta Agriculture Award – \$1,000	June 2017
Tom Fuchko Memorial Scholarship – \$700	June 2017
Delta Grad Scholarship – \$750	June 2017

Accepted Observing Proposals (PI)

Total hours awarded: 40.2 h

Mapping molecular gas in a statistical sample of post-starburst galaxies (2025.1.00118.S) – ALMA, 18.9h, Grade B

Mapping molecular gas in a statistical sample of post-starburst galaxies (2024.1.00181.S) – ALMA, 21.3h, Grade C

Accepted Observing Proposals (Co-I)

Total hours awarded: 462.2 h

Revealing the hidden signal of AGN feedback in PG Quasars: Molecular Gas Concentration and Clumpiness at 100-pc scale (2025.1.01304.S) – ALMA, 10.1h, Grade B

The evolution of molecular gas fraction with time in post-merger galaxies (2025.1.01152.S) – ALMA, 30.8h, Grade C

At the End of the Line: Testing the Dense Gas Bottleneck in Post-Starburst Galaxies (2025.1.00978.S) – ALMA, 31.0h, Grade C

Testing the (non-)universality of the dense gas-SFR scaling relation (2025.1.00316.S) – ALMA, 40.1h, Grade B

The molecular gas fraction evolution in post-merger galaxies (182-24) – IRAM, 58.2h, Grade B

A complete and systematic survey of gas in post-starburst galaxies II (180-24) – IRAM, 48.9h, Grade A

A complete and systematic survey of gas in post-starburst galaxies II (081-24) – IRAM, 59.8h, Grade B

A complete and systematic survey of gas in post-starburst galaxies (077-24) – IRAM, 73.8h, Grade A

The molecular gas fraction evolution in post-merger galaxies (076-24) – IRAM, 70.9h, Grade C

The evolution of the atomic gas fraction in post-merger galaxies (SQB-2024-0001) – FAST, 10.0h, Grade A

A systematic survey of atomic gas in post-starburst galaxies (SQB-2023-0065) – FAST, 14.8h, Grade A
Resolved gas properties of merger-triggered AGN (2022.1.00607.S) – ALMA, 13.8h, Grade C

Conference Presentations

Leveraging CANFAR and the ALMA archive to create SALVAGE – CASCA General Assembly – June 2025, Halifax, Canada ★

A semi-resolved perspective on global scaling relations – KILOGAS Collaboration Meeting – May 2025, Cardiff, United Kingdom

Quantifying the contribution of mergers to rapid quenching in the local Universe – Framing the Big Picture of Galaxy Star Formation Quenching with JWST & Euclid – September 2024, Madrid, Spain

The role of mergers in rapid quenching: a comprehensive analysis of post-starburst galaxies and merger identification – The processes shaping the stellar and gaseous histories of galaxies (GASPISA) – May 2024, Pisa, Italy

Quantifying the Completeness of Detected Galaxy Mergers in Large Photometric Surveys – Surveys 2 Discoveries – May 2023, Montreal, Canada

Do Galaxy Mergers Quench Star Formation? – The Epoch of Galaxy Quenching – September 2022, Cambridge, United Kingdom (joint presentation with Sara Ellison)

The Merger Fraction of Post-Starburst Galaxies – CASCA General Assembly – May 2022, Virtual Conference (flash talk presentation)

Looking Deeper into Post-Starburst Galaxies with CFIS – UNIONS CFIS/Pan-STARRS/WISHES Collaboration General Assembly – August 2021, Virtual Conference

★ **Runner-up best talk, as voted by the CASCA board members**

Seminar Presentations

Inferring the mechanisms that halt star-formation in galaxies with ALMA – ARC Horizons – March 2025, Victoria, Canada

Does it take two to tango? The combined role of mergers and AGN in halting star formation in galaxies – Observatorio Astronomico Nacional (OAN) Faculty Seminar – December 2024, Madrid, Spain

Going out with a bang: the life and death of galaxies through the merger sequence – European Space Astronomy Centre (ESAC) Science Seminar – November 2024, Madrid, Spain

The role of mergers in rapid quenching – Astronomy Research Rendezvous – August 2024, Victoria, Canada

The role of mergers in rapid quenching – University of Edinburgh – June 2024, Edinburgh, Scotland

Are post-starburst galaxies caused by mergers? An investigation into the triggering of rapid quenching. – UVic Astronomy Summer Seminar Series – August 2022, Victoria, Canada

The Early Bird Gets the Alpha-Elements: Re-Analyzing the IFU Spectroscopy of Virgo Dwarf Galaxies – National Research Council of Canada Student Seminar – August 2020, Virtual Seminar

Poster Presentations

The Merger Fraction of Post-Starburst Galaxies – CASCA General Assembly – May 2022, Virtual Conference

Merger Fraction of Post-Starburst Galaxies – Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award Poster Session – March 2020, University of Victoria

Outreach Presentations

From Big to Biggest: The Brief Introduction to All Things Astronomy – Delta Secondary School, January 2023

From Big to Biggest: The Fields of Active Research in Astronomy – Delta Secondary School, June 2022

The Swiss Army Science – UVic Observatory, August 2020

Galaxy Morphology and Evolution. – UVic Observatory, June 2020

Press Coverage and Media Exposure

[Playing hide-and-seek with colliding dying galaxies.](#) Astrobites, July 2022 (article)

[When two galaxies collide they often stop making stars.](#) NewScientist, September 2022 (article and interview)

Work and Teaching Experience

Substitute Instructor: ASTR 150, University of Victoria	March 2025
Teaching Assistant: Astronomy Lab Instructor, University of Victoria	September 2023 – December 2023
Teaching Assistant: Physics Aid Service, University of Victoria	September 2022 – April 2023
Teaching Assistant: Physics Lab Instructor, University of Victoria	September 2022 – December 2022
Junior Research Assistant, National Research Council of Canada	May 2020 – August 2020

Key Skills

- ❖ Reducing interferometric data at scale (e.g. Wilkinson et al. 2025)
- ❖ Generating synthetic images from cosmological simulations (e.g. Wilkinson et al. 2024)
- ❖ Experience with optical spectra and derived data products (and combining with sub-mm)
- ❖ Handling very large data sets (e.g. 200+TB of archival ALMA data, 20+TB of optical images)
- ❖ SQL database management experience (e.g. SDSS, CFIS, SALVAGE and KILOGAS)
- ❖ High performance computing interfacing (e.g. 25.1 CPU-years of computation on [Cedar](#) in 2023)
- ❖ Computing/interpreting (non-)parametric morphology statistics (e.g. Wilkinson et al. 2022)
- ❖ Writing convincing proposals for the acquisition of new data (see Accepted Observing Proposals)
- ❖ Effective communication of science results (see Conference, Seminar, and Outreach sections)

EDI Statement and Actions

Barriers to education and professional success for marginalized groups are not only immoral, but counterproductive to the progression of scientific discovery. In my personal and professional life, I believe small actions (not necessarily measurable as CV items) make a big difference in creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space for everyone. However, I recognize that change must occur at the administrative level and I make an effort to provide support for such initiatives when opportunities arise. Lastly, I hold myself accountable to lifelong learning (and unlearning) to ensure that my role in this complex system is a positive one. Here are some of the actions I've taken to make astronomy an inclusive and equitable field:

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| ❖ Social and Professional Competency workshop attendee | April 2025 |
| ❖ ESAC LGBTQ+ workshop attendee | November 2024 |
| ❖ UVic PAGSA student affairs officer | January 2022 – August 2022 |
| ❖ Completed the UVic <i>Increasing Equity in Decision Processes</i> course | January 2022 |
| ❖ Mentor for Indigenous high school students | May 2019 and 2021 |