LIFE IN VANCOUVER

FINDING A HOME, SETTLING IN, GETTING AROUND AND EXPLORING THE CITY

GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES
2019
# LIVING IN STUDENT RESIDENCE AT UBC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winter Session Housing</th>
<th>Year Round Housing</th>
<th>Family Housing</th>
<th>Graduate Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• September – April</td>
<td>• May – April</td>
<td>• May – April</td>
<td>• Green College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Full-time status</td>
<td>• Shared and private rooms</td>
<td>• Maximum 4 year tenancy</td>
<td>• St. John’s College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Must submit a new application if you wish to continue living on campus after winter session contract ends.</td>
<td>• Studios and 1-bedrooms</td>
<td>• Couples</td>
<td>• Membership required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Once you have a year-round contract, you can stay as long as you are an eligible full-time student</td>
<td>• Single adults with one or more dependent children</td>
<td>• Mandatory meal plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Family Housing:
  - • May – April
  - • Maximum 4 year tenancy
  - • Couples
  - • Single adults with one or more dependent children
  - • Acadia Park

- Graduate Colleges:
  - • Green College
  - • St. John’s College
  - • Membership required
  - • Mandatory meal plan
# LIVING IN STUDENT RESIDENCE AT UBC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Monthly fees</th>
<th>Meal Plan - monthly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year Round Residence</td>
<td></td>
<td>En suite kitchens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser Hall</td>
<td>$811 - $1271</td>
<td>Optional meal plans:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>UBCcard Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Savings Plus Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Drive</td>
<td>$893-$1167</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponderosa Commons</td>
<td>$899 - $1108</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iona House</td>
<td>$887 - $1331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunderbird</td>
<td>$800 - $1286</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallwood House</td>
<td>$924 - $1117</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Colleges</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mandatory monthly meal plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green College</td>
<td>$745 - $1238</td>
<td>$470 / month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John’s College</td>
<td>$816 - $1068</td>
<td>$458 / month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td>En suite kitchens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Park</td>
<td>$1108 - $1969</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER CAMPUS HOUSING OPTIONS

**MBA House:** Graduate Student Housing, single & double occupancy  
[https://www.mbahouse.ca/](https://www.mbahouse.ca/)

**Westpoint:** Chancellor Place [http://bastion.ca/residential-leasing/westpoint/](http://bastion.ca/residential-leasing/westpoint/)

**University MarketPlace:** University Village [http://universitymarketplace.net/](http://universitymarketplace.net/)  
**Axis:** studio and 1-bedrooms in Chancellor Place [http://www.concertproperties.com/rentals/axis](http://www.concertproperties.com/rentals/axis)

**Wesbrook Properties** [https://www.wesbrookproperties.com/](https://www.wesbrookproperties.com/)  
Greenwood Commons: Wesbrook Blvd  
Granite Terrace: Wesbrook Village  
Vista Point: Thunderbird Blvd  
Mews: Wesbrook Village  
Village Square: Wesbrook Village  
Central: University Blvd on campus
THE WEST SIDE

Point Grey
Kitsilano (Kits)
Dunbar-Southlands
Kerrisdale
Arbutus
South Granville
Fairview
Cambie
Oakridge
Marpole

Map, Tracy Charlton Realty
NEIGHBOURHOODS

West side

“April in Vancouver” by iwona_kellie;
http://www.flickr.com/photos/iwona_kellie/8663677472/in photostream/

East side

Photo by Dennis Sylvester Hurd
http://www.flickr.com/photos/dennissylvesterhurd/2619116195/
DOWN TOWN N E I G H B O U R H O O D S

West End
Coal Harbour
Yaletown
Gastown
Chinatown
False Creek
Fairview

Map, Condo In Vancouver
WHEN TO SEARCH FOR HOUSING IN VANCOUVER

• Rentals available for September are usually posted in July and August.

• BC laws specify a 30 day notice to vacate a property
  • Most rental agreements start on the first day of the month.

• The turn around time for rental units is fast.
  • Keep an eye out for For Rent or Vacancy signs

• Vancouver is a popular city, it can take some time to find an apartment/room.
FINDING ROOMMATES AND RENTALS

- community.grad.ubc.ca
- students in your program
- Facebook groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online apartment and house-sharing resources</th>
<th>Short-term rentals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craigslist</td>
<td>Airbnb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RentHello</td>
<td>Homestay.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kijiji</td>
<td>Make Yourself at Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rentbc</td>
<td>Roomorama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padmapper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easyroomate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roomatesvancouver</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UV Rentsline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkscore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL Rent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Facebook: UBC Graduate Student Housing Group, UBC Roommates and Housing, UBC Families, UBC students searching for roommates/house/apt/rent/sublet, For Rent Vancouver, Vancouver Rent/Buy/Sell a room/apartment/house/condo/property/flat/roommate
NOTES ON FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE IN VANCOUVER

Be cautious and beware of scams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OK</th>
<th>NOT OK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference or credit check</td>
<td>Credit card or bank account info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-signer</td>
<td>Passport, SIN or SSN #s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First month’s rent upfront</td>
<td>Application fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security or damage deposit</td>
<td>Discrimination*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture or Pet deposit</td>
<td>Photocopy of your Driver’s License or Photo ID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Renting it Right: free online course from the Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre which can help you find rental housing and understand your rights. [http:tenants.bc.ca/renting-it-right/](http:tenants.bc.ca/renting-it-right/)
ADDITIONAL HOUSING COSTS

Utilities  Laundry  Deposits & Insurance  Household Items  Parking

Always ask: what is included in the rent?

## ADDITIONAL HOUSING COSTS: UTILITIES & LAUNDRY

### Utilities
- Electricity (BC Hydro)
- Gas (Fortis BC)
- Heat
- Hot water
- Internet
- Cable TV
- Phone service

### Laundry
- In-suite
- In-building
- Laundromat?
- Coin-operated or free?
DEPOSITS & INSURANCE

Damage or Security Deposit

- A deposit to ensure that you maintain and leave your apartment in good condition.
- A maximum of half a month’s rent
- May be refunded when you move out
- Pet deposit
- Ask for a receipt

Renter’s (or Tenant’s) Insurance

- Coverage for personal property; liability coverage for injury and property damage
- Highly recommended
- Minimal monthly cost
- Otherwise you are liable for things like fire, theft, flood, etc.
## ADDITIONAL HOUSING COSTS: HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Used</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craigslist &amp; Kijiji</td>
<td>Ikea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garage sales</td>
<td>Dollar store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
<td>Shopper’s, London Drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Village</td>
<td>Canadian Superstore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook!</td>
<td>Wal-Mart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Facebook: [UBC Buy and Sell Items](https://www.ubc.ca/buyandsell), [UBC Families](https://www.ubc.ca/ubcfamilies)
## COST OF LIVING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>Rent, deposits, utilities</td>
<td>Scholarships, Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>PhD Minimum Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living alone or with a partner / family</td>
<td>Health insurance</td>
<td>TAschip, RAship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of accommodation</td>
<td>Student fees</td>
<td>Loans/Bursaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing location</td>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>Savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car?</td>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>Other income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GROCERY STORES

Organic/vegan/gluten-free
Whole Foods, Choices, Greens

Mediterranean & European
Parthenon, Minerva, Jasmine Foods
Various Italian bakeries, grocers, delis on Commercial Drive

Asian
Chinatown, Korean H-Mart, Fujiya, T&T
Filipino groceries/bakeries along Joyce Street

Southeast Asian
Punjab Food Center, Persia Foods

South Asian
Kingsway
GETTING AROUND

L – R: Clker-Free-Vector-images, Eric1k98, OpenClipart-Vectors, OpenClipart-Vectors, GermanLopezR: CC0 Creative Commons
PUBLIC TRANSIT

U-Pass / Compass Card
- ubccard.ubc.ca/u-pass-and-compass-card
- included in your fees
- good for all zones

Trip planning
- Translink and Google Maps can plan transit trips
PUBLIC TRANSIT

Major express buses that travel EW to/from UBC:

- **99 B-line**: To/From Commercial Station along Broadway (9th Ave)
- **84**: To/From VCC-Clark Station along 4th Ave
- **44**: To/From Waterfront Station (downtown) along W 4th Ave
- **43**: To/From Joyce-Collingwood Station along 41st Ave
- **258**: To/From West Vancouver
- **480**: To/From Bridgeport Station (Richmond)
CYCLING IN VANCOUVER

• Helmets & bells are mandatory; lights are required after dark.

• Get a good lock and lock your bike properly. A U-lock is best.

• **Bike Sense** safety and operations manual for cycling in BC.

• Great bike trails: Stanley Park Seawall, UBC Loop, North Shore mountains…

• **The City of Vancouver** website is a great resource for bike routes and maps.

• **Mobi** public bike share program

• **Dropbike** campus-wide public bike share program
The **AMS Bike Co-Op** and the **Bike Kitchen**

- Learn how to maintain, repair and build your own bikes
- Kids Bike Library
- Purple and Yellow Bike Share
- Workshops
- Register for free access to secured, shared bike cages

**UBC Campus and Community Planning’s Cycling Tips**

- Getting started, maintenance, rules, safety

**It’s easy to combine cycling and transit.**

- Buses have bike racks on the front and the Canada Line has designated spaces for bikes.
CARSHARING

Vancouver has several car sharing programs, each with different policies on membership requirements. These companies also have cars on campus.

 modo.

Accepts international driver’s licences, but not International Driving Permits

An out-of-province/out-of-country licence may be ok if you meet their driving requirements

zipcar

Accepts international driver’s licences

CAR2GO

An out-of-province/out-of-country licence may be ok if you meet their driving requirements
TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT BY TAXI
TO & FROM THE AIRPORT BY PUBLIC TRANSIT

3 Skytrain lines:

**Canada Line**: downtown to Richmond + airport along Cambie St.

**Expo Line**: Surrey, New Westminster, Burnaby, East Van + Downtown

**Millennium Line**: Coquitlam, New West, Burnaby, East Van + Downtown
UBC YEAR ROUND
**MOUNTAINS**

- **Grouse Mountain**
  - 23 km from UBC
  - 16 km from city center

- **Cypress Mountain**
  - 39 km from UBC
  - 32 km from city center

- **Mt. Seymour**
  - 36 km from UBC
  - 28 km from city center

- **Whistler**
  - 132 km from UBC
  - 124 km from city center

Whistler photo credit: Ruth Hartnup, [CC BY 2.0 creativemoms.org/licenses/by/2.0], via Wikimedia Commons
Science World

CC0 Creative Commons, gtriay

The PNE

CC BY 2.0, Ruth Hartnup. The wooden roller coaster at Playland
www.flickr.com/photos/ruthanddave/29393069330d

Reifel Bird Sanctuary

CC0 Creative Commons, zachjmorton

Stanley Park

Pumpkin Patches
LIVING IN VANCOUVER

Embrace other cultures, share your own
Vancouver is located on the traditional territories of three First Nations: Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh

Religion & Spirituality – UBC chaplains
Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Bahá’í and Christian (Anglican, Baptist, Brethren Tradition, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and United Churches)

Reduce, reuse, recycle
Vancouver is an eco-friendly city and UBC is aspiring to be a zero-waste campus.

Get outdoors & explore, despite the rain!
Go for a hike, lounge on the beach, take a walk…

The FNHL is located in the First Nations Longhouse on the Point Grey campus.
OTHER RESOURCES

- **Cost of Living Calculator** can give you a rough idea about how much living and studying in Vancouver will cost

- **UBC’s off-campus housing guide**

- Take a free workshop from **Graduate Pathways to Success**

- Other ideas for places to go and things to do: **Tourism Vancouver, Daily Hive Vancouver, Bored in Vancouver, Trip Advisor**

- **Vancouver is Awesome**

- **Miss 604**

- **Georgia Straight**
Engage in the forum and win prizes!
UPCOMING PRE-ARRIVAL WEBINARS

LIVING IN VANCOUVER
July 3

PRE-ARRIVAL INFO SESSION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
June 5, July 4

BUDGETING, STUDENT LOANS, & TUITION
June 6, July 5

PRE-ARRIVAL INFO SESSION SUITE (Student financing, Living in Vancouver, International Students)
June 10, July 10

orientation.grad.ubc.ca/events