Life in Vancouver
Finding a home, settling in, getting around and exploring the city
Agenda

Accommodation
Neighbourhoods
Getting around town
Fun things to do
Resources
# 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 or 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</td>
<td>Studios and 1-bedrooms</td>
<td>Couples</td>
<td>Membership required</td>
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<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>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acadia Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Costs for living on campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Monthly fees</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Monthly fees</th>
<th>Meal plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year Round Residence</td>
<td></td>
<td>En suite kitchens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Gage</td>
<td>$874 - $1591</td>
<td>Fraser Hall</td>
<td>$839 - $1314</td>
<td>Optional meal plans: UBCcard Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairview</td>
<td>$804 - $1379</td>
<td>Marine Drive</td>
<td>$933 - $1219</td>
<td>Savings Plus Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponderosa Commons</td>
<td>$939 - $1233</td>
<td>Ponderosa Commons</td>
<td>$939 - $1233</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Exchange</td>
<td>$701 - $1439</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thunderbird</td>
<td>$828 - $1331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tallwood House</td>
<td>$963 - $1166</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Colleges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mandatory meal plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green College</td>
<td>$763 - $1294</td>
<td></td>
<td>$489/month</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John’s College</td>
<td>$875 - $1145</td>
<td></td>
<td>$540/month</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>En suite kitchens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Park</td>
<td>$1195 - $2039</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marine Drive Residence
Other campus housing options

- **MBA House:** Graduate Student Housing, single & double occupancy [www.mbahouse.ca](http://www.mbahouse.ca)
- **Westpoint:** Chancellor Place [www.bastion.ca/residential-leasing/westpoint](http://www.bastion.ca/residential-leasing/westpoint)
- **University MarketPlace:** University Village [universitymarketplace.net](http://universitymarketplace.net)
- **Axis:** studio and 1-bedrooms in Chancellor Place [www.concertproperties.com/rentals/axis](http://www.concertproperties.com/rentals/axis)

- **Wesbrook Properties** [www.wesbrookproperties.com](http://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
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/
- Downtown
- West End
- Coal Harbour
- Yaletown
- Gastown
- Chinatown
- False Creek
- Fairview
Housing & Cost of Living
When to search for housing in Vancouver

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

• Rentals available for January are usually posted in November and December.

• 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 a place.
Finding roommates and rentals

**Online resources**
- Craigslist
- Kijiji
- Padmapper
- Roomatesvancouver
- Walkscore
- RentHello
- RentBC
- Easyroomate
- UV Rentsline
- ESL Rent

**Short-term rentals**
- Airbnb
- Homestay.com
- Make Yourself at Home
- Roomorama
Finding roommates and rentals

• Facebook groups
  • UBC Graduate Student Housing Group
  • UBC Roommates and Housing
  • UBC Families
  • UBC students searching for roommates/house/apts rental/sublet, For Rent Vancouver,
  • Vancouver Rent/Buy/Sell a room/apartment/house/condo/property/flat/roommate

• community.grad.ubc.ca
• Students in your program
A few things to note

**Ok**
- References or credit check
- Co-signer
- First month’s rent upfront
- Security or damage deposit
- Furniture or pet deposit

**Not ok**
- Credit card/bank account info
- Passport, SIN or SSN #s
- Application fee
- Discrimination
- Photocopy of your driver’s license or photo ID

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/]
Additional housing costs

Utilities  Laundry  Deposits & Insurance  Household Items  Parking

Be sure to 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?
Additional housing costs: 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

**Used**
- Craigslist & Kijiji
- Garage sales
- Salvation Army
- Value Village
- Facebook

**New**
- Ikea
- Dollar store
- Shopper’s, London Drugs
- Canadian Superstore
- Wal-mart
# Cost of living

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Tuition</td>
<td>• Rent, deposit, 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>• TAship, 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>• Sponsorhip</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
Public transit

Fare Zone Map

U-Pass / 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
- **HOPR** campus-wide public bike share program
Cycling on campus

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.
Ride Hailing

UBC has dedicated ride-hailing pick-up and drop-off spots, called “ride-hail spots.”
To and from the airport by taxi
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
Mt. Seymour
36 km from UBC
28 km from city center

Cypress Mountain
39 km from UBC
32 km from city center

Grouse Mountain
23 km from UBC
16 km from city center

Whistler
132 km from UBC
124 km from city center
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, zachmorton

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…
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](https://www.tourismvancouver.com), [Daily Hive Vancouver](https://dailyhive.com), [Bored in Vancouver](https://boredinvancouver.com), [Trip Advisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com)
- [Vancouver is Awesome](https://www.vancouverisawesome.com)
- [Miss 604](https://www.miss604.com)
- [Georgia Straight](https://www.georgiastraight.com)
Upcoming pre-arrival webinars
orientation.grad.ubc.ca/events

Living in Vancouver
May 12, June 30, July 22

Ambassador Welcome
May 7, June 1, July 8

Pre-arrival info session for international students
April 30, May 29, June 23

Budgeting and Finances in Grad School
May 5, June 3, July 30

Graduate Students with Families
June 4