STUDENT SUPPORT & ADVISING: BUDGETING, STUDENT LOANS, AND PAYING TUITION

Important information from the Student Support & Advising Team in Enrolment Services at UBC
Who are the Student Support and Advising Team? What do we do?
- Budgeting resources
- Needs-based funding options
- Tuition and Student Fees
- Awards and Scholarships
- Working as a GTA, GRA or GAA
- How you can contact us
STUDENT SUPPORT & ADVISING TEAM: WHO ARE WE?
STUDENT SUPPORT & ADVISING TEAM: WHAT DO WE DO?

- Budgeting
- Needs-based financial options (Canadian and US student loans, UBC Bursary)
- Tuition and student fee questions
- Referrals to campus resources
BUDGETING RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate cost of living estimator

https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/tuition-fees-cost-living/cost-living
BUDGETING RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

UBC Spending Plan template
https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/funding-studies/financial-planning

- Excel budget sheet – enter estimates for expenses

- Check your budget regularly and enter actual figures a couple of times a month

- Adjust your discretionary spending and/or try to increase your income as needed
NEEDS-BASED FUNDING OPTIONS – CANADIAN STUDENT LOANS

- Apply to your home province
  https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/student-loans
- Links to loan websites and steps
- Apply termly if your living situation might change
- Apply for your loan by 31 July to have tuition date deferred for one month
- Loans can take up to 4 – 6 weeks to be processed
- Apply for interest-free status if you have a previous student loan and are not taking out a loan this year.
  https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/student-loans/previous-loans
NEEDS-BASED FUNDING OPTIONS – UBC BURSARY

- Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada
- Many graduate programs are eligible for the UBC Bursary program – non-repayable funds!

https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/awards-scholarships-bursaries/ubc-bursary-program

- Apply for your Canadian student loan by 31 July
- If you have assessed **Provincial** Unmet Need, you may be eligible for UBC Bursary
- Submit your UBC Bursary application through the SSC between 15 August and 15 September – if you apply for your loans termly, apply for the UBC Bursary termly too!
NEEDS-BASED FUNDING OPTIONS – UBC BURSARY: DESIGNATED GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- If your program is considered a Designated Graduate Program, bursary funding *may* be available

https://academic.ubc.ca/bursary-support-designated-graduate-programs

- Apply to the UBC Bursary through the SSC

- Bursary funding is *not guaranteed* for students in Designated Graduate Programs, so you should look for other funding sources.
NEEDS-BASED FUNDING OPTIONS – STUDENT LOANS - US

• Links to loan websites and steps:

  https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/student-loans/funding-us

  ▪ Apply Sept-Dec, Jan-Apr and May-Aug
  ▪ Apply by 31 July to have tuition date deferred
  ▪ Additional step after completing FAFSA: UBC US Loan Request form
  ▪ Loans can take up to 4 – 6 weeks to be processed
  ▪ Contact usloans.inquiry@ubc.ca if you need a Financial Aid Estimate
  ▪ Apply for in-school deferment if you have previous US loans and are not taking out a loan this year.
SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- Searchable database of scholarships
  https://www.grad.ubc.ca/scholarships-awards-funding/award-opportunities

- Most scholarships are restricted to domestic students – international students will need to look for funding in their own country.
  https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/awards-scholarships-bursaries

- Scholarships and awards external to UBC
  https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/awards-scholarships-bursaries#external-awards
SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS

• Indigenous students

  https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/awards-scholarships-bursaries/awards-indigenous

  Applications open online 14 August-16 September

• Students with disabilities

  https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/awards-scholarships-bursaries/awards-disabilities

  Applications open online 3 August-15 September
TUITION: HOW IS TUITION ASSESSED?

- Tuition is organized into ‘steps’ or installments, and the number of steps will depend on your program.
- There is a minimum number of steps for each program. Enrolment is continuous unless you take a leave of absence, or are on financial hold.
- To review the number of steps you’re responsible for, whether you complete your program early or take longer than expected – click on masters or doctoral:

  https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/tuition-fees-cost-living/graduate-tuition-fees
TUITION: WHEN IS TUITION DUE?

- You will only see your tuition and student fee assessment after you have registered in courses.
- UBC has two Sessions: Winter and Summer.
- Each Session has two terms. You are starting in 2020 Winter Term 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Registration opens</th>
<th>Tuition Due first week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Term 1</td>
<td>Sept-Dec</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Term 2</td>
<td>Jan-Apr</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Term 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>May-Aug</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Graduate tuition is assessed in 3 installments (or steps) per year: September, January and May
WHAT ARE STUDENT FEES?

• Services offered by the student unions, including:
  ✓ membership fees
  ✓ athletics and recreation fees
  ✓ monthly transit (U-Pass)
  ✓ AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan (extended health insurance)

  Most student fees are mandatory

http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=14,267,784,0
AMS/GSS HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN

- Extended health insurance is mandatory for all UBC students.
- Policy covers partial costs for prescription drugs, massage therapy, chiropractic, eye glasses, dental treatment etc.


- If you have extended health insurance under another policy, you can apply for an exemption during the change of coverage period 8 – 29 September 2020.


TUITION AND STUDENT FEES – HOW DO WE VIEW AND PAY?

- Student Service Centre ➔ Finances ➔ Financial Summary ➔ Tuition History and select “2020W” to see your balance

- Pay online – methods include:
  - ✔ Canadian online bank account
  - ✔ Western Union through the SSC
  - ✔ Credit card through SSC

https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/paying-tuition

- Beware of paying by credit card! There is a 1.75% convenience fee.
HOW ARE AWARDS APPLIED TO MY ACCOUNT?

- Awards/scholarships usually assigned to students’ accounts in late August
- Pay tuition and student fees first
- Remainder pays out to you at the start of each term i.e. September, January and May
- Sign up for direct deposit via the SSC, under "Finances" to receive your award money directly into your Canadian bank account.
- Awards are managed by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Awards office – contact your program first, then for any additional questions: graduate.awards@ubc.ca
- If you receive award money and then withdraw from the program, you’ll be required to repay the award money.
WORKING AS A GTA, GRA OR GAA AT UBC

- Contact your program for information about Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA), Graduate Research Assistant (RA) or Graduate Academic Assistant (GAA) positions. [https://www.grad.ubc.ca/scholarships-awards-funding/research-teaching-assistantships](https://www.grad.ubc.ca/scholarships-awards-funding/research-teaching-assistantships)
- If you are employed at UBC as a GTA, GRA or GAA payment schedules are different from awards and scholarships.
- UBC Payroll pays employees twice a month, on the 15th and the last day of the month.
- GTA’s and GRA’s and can apply for Tuition Deferral online – apply between 15 July – 31 August [https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/paying-tuition](https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/paying-tuition)
HOW CAN YOU CONTACT US?

By phone:

604-822-9836

By email webform, search “ask UBC”:

https://www.askme.ubc.ca/form/s/

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30am – 4pm

Tuesday: 10am – 4pm