LIVING IN VANCOUVER

We’ll get started in just a few minutes.

Zoom recording

• This session will be recorded and publicly shared.

• If you wish to remain anonymous throughout the recording, you may use an abbreviated or different name. Your camera and audio will be turned off.

• If you have a question, please use the Q&A feature.
Life in Vancouver
Finding a home, settling in, getting around and exploring the city

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, UBC
Vancouver is on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples: **Musqueam** (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), **Squamish** (Skwxwú7mesh) and **Tsleil-Waututh** (Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh).
INTRODUCTIONS
Agenda

Accommodation
Neighbourhoods
Getting around town
Fun things to do
Resources
# UBC Student Housing

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Winter Session Housing</th>
<th>Year Round Housing</th>
<th>Family Housing</th>
<th>Graduate Colleges</th>
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<td>September – April</td>
<td>May – April</td>
<td>May – April</td>
<td>Green College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-time status</td>
<td>Shared or private rooms</td>
<td>Maximum 4 year tenancy</td>
<td>St. John’s College</td>
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<td>Must submit a new application if you wish to continue living on campus after winter session</td>
<td>Studios and 1-bedroom</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>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Acadia Park</td>
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</table>

**UBC Student Housing**
Other campus housing options

• MBA House
• **Westpoint**: Chancellor Place
• **University MarketPlace**: University Village
• **Axis**: studio and 1-bedrooms in Chancellor Place
• **Wesbrook Properties**
  • Greenwood Commons: Wesbrook Blvd
  • Granite Terrace: Wesbrook Village
  • Vista Point: Thunderbird Blvd
  • Mews: Wesbrook Village
  • Village Square: Wesbrook Village
  • Central: University Blvd on campus

Note: There are also on-campus housing that are not UBC provided residences, learn more about student residences and market rentals on our [housing page](#).
UBC-V campus neighbourhoods
Public schools near campus
Living Off Campus: Neighbourhoods
North Vancouver ↗

Richmond ↘

Burnaby, Coquitlam, Surrey, Langley, etc →
Housing & Cost of Living
When to search for housing?

- Rentals available for January are usually posted in November and December.
- Rents 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
Where to search for housing?

Online resources
• Craigslist
• Kijiji
• Padmapper
• Roomatesvancouver
• Walkscore
• RentHello
• RentBC
• UV Rentsline
• ESL Rent

Short-term rentals
• Airbnb
• Homestay.com
• Make Yourself at Home
• Roomorama
Tips for securing housing

• Competition is high in Vancouver, if you are asked to come for a viewing, it would give you a higher chance if you are able to view it that day
• Give yourself enough time to find the right fit
• Ask questions and show interest!
• There’s new listings every day, and they go fast! Check back daily
• AMS Housing Support
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
- 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.
Additional housing costs

- Utilities
- Laundry
- Deposits & Insurance
- Household Items
- Parking

Be sure to ask what is included in the rent?
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**
- to ensure you maintain and leave your apartment in good condition.
- A maximum of half a month’s rent
- May be refunded upon move-out
- Pet deposit
- Ask for a receipt

**Renter’s (or Tenant’s) Insurance**
- Highly recommended
- Coverage for personal property; liability coverage for injury and property damage
- Minimal monthly cost
- Otherwise you are liable for things like fire, theft, flood, etc.
Household items

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

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

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<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>Rent, deposit, utilities</td>
<td>Scholarships, Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>PhD minimum funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living alone or w/ 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>
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<tr>
<td>Housing location</td>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>Savings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Car?</td>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child care</td>
<td>Other income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other expenses</td>
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Grocery stores

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

**Mediterranean & European**
Parthenon, Jasmine Foods, Niche Market Cafe
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
Food security options at UBC

- **UBC Food Bank** (Emergency food relief for UBC students)
- **Acadia Food Hub** (Community project at UBC supporting households with food and baby supplies)
Getting Around
Public transit

**U-Pass / Compass Card**
- included in your fees
- good for all zones

**Trip planning**
- Translink, Google Maps, Transit app and City Mapper 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
• **R4**: To/From Joyce-Collingwood Station along 41st Ave
• **80**: To/From Cambie to Marine Drive
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 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 & ride hailing

Vancouver has several car sharing programs and ride-hailing options.
To and from the airport by taxi
Skytrains
Life in Vancouver

The city of Vancouver
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…
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

The PNE

Reifel Bird Sanctuary

Stanley Park

Pumpkin Patches

CC0 Creative Commons, gtriay

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

CC0 Creative Commons, zachjmorton
Upcoming Webinars

• International student info sessions | May 11
• Graduate students with families | May 17
• Budgeting and finances | June 7

orientation.grad.ubc.ca/events
Questions?
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**