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
Vancouver is on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples: **Musqueam** (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), **Squamish** (Sḵwx̱wú7mesh) and **Tsleil-Waututh** (Səíl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh).
INTRODUCTIONS
Agenda

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

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<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>
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<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-bedrooms</td>
<td>Couples</td>
<td>Membership required</td>
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<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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<td></td>
<td>Acadia Park</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Green College
Marine Drive Residence
Other campus housing options

• MBA House
• **Westpoint**: Chancellor Place
• **University MarketPlace**: University Village
• **Axis**: studio and 1-bedroom 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

- Chancellor Place
- University Village
- East Campus
- Hampton Place
- South Campus
- North Campus
- Hawthorn Place
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
• UBC student groups on Facebook
• 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.
Also: Webinar from TRAC under [https://orientation.grad.ubc.ca/resources/](https://orientation.grad.ubc.ca/resources/) > Pre-arrival webinar resources and recordings > Tenant’s rights
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
- Should! 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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<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>
</tr>
<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>
</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, 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)
• UBC Sprouts
• Agora Café
• FoodHub market
Getting Around
Public transit

Fare Zone Map

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
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
Mike Helsby

• **Car apps:** Need access to a car for a short period? In Vancouver, that’s no problem. Download the Evo or Car2Go apps to rent a car by the hour. There is a small fee to join, from that point on you pay for what you use. This is a great way to get out into the beautiful areas around Vancouver (or to make a big grocery run a lot easier!).

• **Taxes and Tipping Culture:** If you are looking at the price on the menu or a clothes price tag, be aware that this is not the end price. You will have to add a tax on top of it to get the correct pricing. Also, depending on where you have moved from you may find a tipping culture strange to get used to. However, it soon becomes second nature. Tip the standard 10-20% easily when paying by card for any service by adding it before entering your pin number.

• **Harm Reduction and the Unhoused:** Vancouver and BC have embraced a [harm reduction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harm_reduction) approach to the unhoused members of our community, especially those struggling with the social, health, and criminal problems associated with the Overdose Crisis. Make sure you are familiar with the policies and cultural attitudes that inform this situation so that you can operate safely and compassionately in the most impacted areas of the city.
Bhoomika Sharma

- **Rental Agreements:** Always look for places with proper lease/rental agreements. I had a place with only a "Roommate Agreement" which did not turn out to be in my favour as there's no or limited protection available for the tenants on those agreements.

- **When it's sunny, go out!:** No matter how busy your schedule is, step out of your rooms as much as possible during summer. Soak in the sun. You won't get it during winter.

- **Utilise UBC Resources:** We have plenty of options on-campus free for students, like the swimming pools at aquatic centre, fields, borrowing CDs (Yes, Koerner's library has CDs for Game of Thrones and Lord of the Rings) and Books from the libraries, etc. Use them till you can.
Meet Upadhyay

• **Step outside your comfort zone:** Whether it’s in terms of your research or the friends you make! You won’t get a chance to interact with such a diverse body of people again!

• **Have a plan:** What you end up doing finally may change, but having a plan gives structure to the self-directed free-form mess that is grad school.

• **Get involved:** Your department student body, student clubs, the Graduate Student Society – you’ll meet new people, make friends and
Questions?
Upcoming Webinars

• Coming to Vancouver: A Black Grad Student Edition | June 24
• Ask Me Anything: a grad student peer panel | July 17
• Preparing excellent fellowship applications | July 24

orientation.grad.ubc.ca/events
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**