



## 2019/2020 TUITION CONSULTATION FAQ:

### 1. Why is tuition for international students increasing at a higher rate than for domestic students?

UBC's international student tuition rates are benchmarked against peer institutions' rates and are established to reflect the value of a UBC degree. Beyond that, several factors affect the rates of tuition for domestic and international students at UBC:

- Domestic student tuition increases are mandated by the provincial government not to exceed 2% per year. In recent years, that has not kept up with the financial investment required for UBC to continue to deliver excellence in teaching, lead globally in research, and support the university's additional strategic goals, while also managing the annual inflationary pressures facing the institution.
- The provincial government provides an operating grant for UBC to support the delivery of education to domestic students. In addition to the operating grant, over UBC's more than 100-year history, the university has received hundreds of millions of dollars in public funds for the development and maintenance of infrastructure on both UBC campuses. These contributions allow UBC to provide domestic tuition rates that are below the national average. International students, conversely, are not supported by provincial funding.

### 2. How does UBC advocate to provincial and federal governments for improved access and equity in postsecondary education?

As a public university created by provincial legislation and funded in large part by the provincial government, the university's executive and administrators are in continuous contact with the provincial government. Those discussions include the university's teaching and research mandate, university policies, UBC and government priorities, UBC's broader social and economic contributions, and how the university's finances enable these.

The university regularly discusses matters of student financial support, accessibility and affordability with the provincial government, and has long-advocated for measures that would make university education more accessible while also allowing UBC to achieve excellence in education and research and remain fiscally sustainable. In recent years, for example, the university and its partners in the BC post-secondary sector have sought: increases to the provincial operating grant (which is what allows domestic tuition to remain at comparatively low levels), expanded seats in highly competitive programs, improvements to student financial support programs, graduate and undergraduate student scholarships, new research funding, Indigenous student supports, new ways to enable more student housing, and capital funding for academic buildings.

Nationally, UBC, with its post-secondary sector partners, also advocates for measures that make higher education more accessible and affordable, including improvements to student grant and loan programs, graduate and undergraduate student scholarships, Indigenous post-secondary education funding, support for work-integrated learning, student mobility programs, and research funding, among others.



### 3. How will UBC communicate to students how funds from tuition increases are used and how these developments and improvements are expected to benefit students?

UBC has traditionally sought to provide tuition details with students as early as possible in accordance with Policy LR4: Tuition Consultation Policy (formerly referred to as Policy 71) [https://universitycounsel-2015.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2019/08/Tuition-Consultation-Policy\\_LR4.pdf](https://universitycounsel-2015.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2019/08/Tuition-Consultation-Policy_LR4.pdf), and works closely with the elected student leadership (AMS, GSS, UBCSUO) on a wide variety of topics including how tuition revenues are allocated.

For the 2020/21 consultation, UBC has provided additional information to help inform current students of the university's considerations when deciding how tuition fees are determined, and of investments being made — in the areas of student support and an enhanced student experience, both inside and outside the classroom.

UBC is committed to continuing to work with the elected student leadership to ensure that students have visibility into, and a voice in, the allocation of funds derived from tuition.

Students can view the current UBC budget materials on the UBC Finance and Operations website: <https://vpfo.ubc.ca/financial-reporting/current-budget/>

In addition, Board of Governors budget discussions are webcast: [https://bog.ubc.ca/?page\\_id=15425](https://bog.ubc.ca/?page_id=15425)

### 4. Does UBC intend to increase tuition every year?

The maintenance and improvements of existing services and programs, in combination with the development of new services and programs in support of delivering against UBC's strategic goals, do contribute to ongoing operational costs. Despite that, UBC is committed to keeping tuition costs as low as possible for our students. Currently tuition increases are determined on an annual basis by the Board of Governors after considering the input of the administration, your elected student leadership, and your comments as an individual student.

### 5. What is UBC's commitment to understanding and addressing issues of affordability for students?

UBC recognizes the issue of affordability for students, and actively works to address the issue:

- UBC administers a large student financial support program. In 2018/19, almost 28,500 students received financial assistance. Approximately \$99M was delivered through the university's operating fund (an increase of 13.5% over 2017/18).

Students can view the 2018/2019 Student Financial Support Annual Report here:

[https://bog3.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2019/05/2\\_2019.06\\_SFS-Annual-Report.pdf](https://bog3.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2019/05/2_2019.06_SFS-Annual-Report.pdf)

- In 2017, UBC launched the Blue & Gold Campaign, the largest fundraising campaign ever launched for students. To date, the campaign has raised over 100 million dollars and resulted in the creation of 320 new awards. In September 2019, the university announced the extension of the Blue & Gold Campaign for Students — doubling the target to \$200 million by 2022. This extension will ensure more students have the financial help they need to succeed.



Students at both the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses can view awards available at UBC using the Awards Search Tool: <https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/award-search>

- UBC continues to work on implementing a Government Business Enterprise for Student Housing. This initiative would allow UBC to increase the number of student residences more rapidly on both campuses, as well as help to manage the costs of student housing through opportunities for lower borrowing costs for the university. Under the current student housing operating model, housing for students is below Vancouver rental marketplace rents (CMHC data) and in the middle of the range relative to peer institutions across Canada.
- As mentioned above, UBC regularly engages with the provincial and federal governments to discuss the importance of ensuring that post-secondary education is accessible and affordable.

Vancouver students: If you are facing financial difficulties or have questions, please contact your Enrolment Services Advisor directly. If you don't have an assigned advisor, they're still available to help. <https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/enrolment-services-advisors>

Okanagan students: If you are facing financial difficulties or have questions, please contact Student Services. <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/contact.html>

## 6. How will UBC improve the consultation process?

The tuition consultation is an important contributor to decisions on tuition rates, and to shaping student support and experience investments at UBC. The University is committed to consulting with students and student leadership in a transparent and holistic manner, in accordance with Policy LR4.

For last year's consultation (for 2019/20 tuition), a broadcast email was sent to all students informing them of the consultation process and encouraged them to provide feedback. There were 7,770 page visits to the consultation materials, which led to UBC receiving 1,357 individual responses. These verbatim responses/feedback were shared with the UBC Board of Governors in advance of their discussion and decision about tuition increases.

For this year's consultation (for 2020/21 tuition), UBC has provided additional information to help inform current students of UBC's considerations when deciding how tuition fees are determined, and of investments being made in the areas of student support and the student experience, both inside and outside the classroom.

UBC is working to strengthen its communications and engagement infrastructure to ensure that all students have the chance to be engaged in the consultation process, and other topics and opportunities of importance to them.