

SUBJECT	NEW PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (COMBINED HONOURS) IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND FORENSIC SCIENCE
MEETING DATE	APRIL 13, 2017

Forwarded to the Board of Governors on the Recommendation of the President

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION



 Santa J. Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor

DECISION REQUESTED	IT IS HEREBY REQUESTED that <i>the UBC Board of Governors approve tuition of \$172.99 per credit for domestic students and \$1,163.76 per credit for international students for the new joint UBC-BCIT Bachelor of Science (Combined Honours) in Biochemistry and Forensic Science, which will commence in September 2018.</i>
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Report Date	March 17, 2017
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Presented By Angela Redish, Provost & Vice-President Academic *pro tem*
 Hugh Brock, Associate-Provost Academic Innovation
 Simon Peacock, Dean, Faculty of Science
 Jason Read, Instructor, Department of Biochemistry
 Jason Moore, Faculty member, Forensic Science and Technology (BCIT)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UBC's Faculty of Science Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the British Columbia Institute of Technology's (BCIT) School of Computing and Academic Studies are proposing to offer a joint Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree (Combined Honours) in Biochemistry and Forensic Science. This program will combine the strengths of UBC and BCIT to provide students with an exceptional interdisciplinary educational experience in Biochemistry and Forensic Science and to provide students with job ready skills and abilities to become the future leaders of the forensic science and biochemistry industries. This will be first such degree in western Canada and will streamline the current educational process, allowing graduates to enter the workforce sooner.

This program will benefit greatly from UBC's ability to excel at providing core science courses in the first and second year, combined with the excellent reputation of the UBC Biochemistry personnel who will provide the more advanced third and fourth year biochemistry courses. The B.Sc. will commence in September 2018 and will have limited seats (15-20) each year.

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES SUPPORTED

Learning Research Innovation Engagement (Internal / External) International
 or Operational

**DESCRIPTION
& RATIONALE**

The mission of this joint B.Sc. (Combined Honours) is to combine the strengths of UBC and BCIT to provide our students with an exceptional interdisciplinary educational experience in Biochemistry and Forensic Science and to provide students with job ready skills and abilities to become the future leaders of the forensic science and biochemistry industries.

The proposed four-year B.Sc. will have a total of 132 credits, with the Combined Honours program beginning in the second year. 91 credits will be delivered by UBC and 41 credits will be delivered by BCIT. Students take their first-year Science at UBC then apply to this program prior to starting their second year. Students will need to complete one of two research course options in their fourth year, to develop their ability to conduct theoretical and applied research, as well as further develop their presentation skills. The majority of classes will be face-to-face delivery, with some classes delivered either entirely online or in a blended format.

The design of this four-year program expedites the educational process, allowing graduates to enter the workforce sooner than with our current educational pathway. Graduates will be proficient at working in a laboratory setting and will have gained important critical-thinking and analytical skills. In addition, graduates will have conducted both academic and applied research, conducted forensic testing, and will be able to communicate their results effectively. Graduates will also have gained knowledge of the accredited laboratory environment, which will help expand their employability beyond accredited forensic laboratories.

Upon completion, graduates will have the skills, knowledge, and ability to:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, and forensic science, including the main principles, techniques, and latest developments.
- Perform with confidence a variety of laboratory procedures relevant to biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, and forensic science including the ability to operate analytical instruments.
- Apply and maintain quality assurance processes and safety standards in a scientific laboratory.
- Design and conduct research independently and in a team environment.
- Communicate complex scientific information and evidentiary findings in oral and written formats for academic or legal purposes.
- Apply critical-thinking, analytical, and problem-solving skills to the disciplines of biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, and forensic science.
- Demonstrate the communication and interpersonal skills needed to work effectively in a team environment.
- Develop lifelong learning skills to keep up-to-date with changing technologies and remain at the forefront of science.
- Exemplify the highest ethical standards and professional principles.

<p>BENEFITS Learning, Research, Financial, Sustainability & Reputational</p>	<p>The B.Sc. (Combined Honours) will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be truly interdisciplinary by involving two world-class institutions and specializations. • Streamline the educational process, allowing students to enter the workforce sooner than our current educational pathway. • Provide students with a variety of learning experiences with exposure to UBC professors with a wealth of teaching and research experience from industry-based BCIT instructors who are subject matter experts working in the field of forensic science. • Have an applied research component. • Allow students to gain a wealth of hands-on laboratory skills in both forensic science and biochemistry and, through BCIT's 'state-of-the-art' laboratories, be able to operate industry standard analytical instruments. • Emphasize technical communication skills.
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<p>RISKS Financial, Operational & Reputational</p>	<p>This program has minimal risks. BCIT has an established Forensics program and UBC has an established Biochemistry program. This program will not require the creation of new courses at UBC, rather existing Science courses will be repurposed. Furthermore, existing Biochemistry majors seats will be repurposed into this new program, so there will be no net increase in student uptake at UBC. There will be some challenges with students travelling between the two institutions during the same semester, however, the use of online courses, standard timetables, and running some BCIT courses at their downtown campus will help minimize these challenges. Another potential challenge will be in communication between the two institutions over records, student performance, advising etc.. Since this is the second joint program between BCIT and UBC (the BSc in Biotechnology being the first), the Registrar's offices at both institutions have already established procedures to deal with these issues. Each institution will have specific program advisers that will meet multiple times during the school year to deal with issues such as scheduling, student performance etc..</p>
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<p>COSTS Capital & Lifecycle Operating</p>	<p>This program will be cost neutral for UBC. No new courses will be created and existing Biochemistry majors seats will be repurposed into this program, thus there will be no net increase in students. There will be some increased advising load due to the complex nature of this program but this will be borne by the Biochemistry department. Additionally, there will be a slight increase in workload at the Registrars office to track students. However, as the program will be small (15 students per year, ~45 students in all three years of the program), this can be borne by the Registrars office.</p>
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FINANCIAL Funding Sources, Impact on Liquidity	No new funds are requested for this program and no additional fees will be charged. Proposed program tuition is \$172.99 per credit for domestic students and \$1,163.76 per credit for international students, effective 2018 Winter Session. On acceptance to the program, students will be required to pay a non-refundable acceptance deposit of \$500 for domestic students and \$1,000 for international students to be applied towards their first tuition instalment. Tuition and fee details are included at the end of this document.
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SCHEDULE Implementatio n Timeline	The program is scheduled to launch in September 2018. Students will apply for this program after completing their first year in the BSc degree.
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CONSULTATION Relevant Units, Internal & External Constituencies	Consultations have occurred with both UBC and BCIT stakeholders. At UBC, consultations have occurred with the Faculty of Medicine (Dean's office), the Faculty of Science (Dean's office, Curriculum Council), the Library, and the Registrar's office.
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At BCIT, consultations have occurred with the School of Computing and Academic Studies, Academic Planning and Quality Assurance, the Education Council, the Library, and the Registrar's office.

In addition, a needs assessment was conducted and included further consultations through:

- Surveys conducted during BCIT's Forensic Science and Technology program review including those from industry, alumni and current students
- Surveys conducted by forensic science and biochemistry industry specifically about this proposed degree
- Surveys conducted by current UBC Biochemistry students about their interest for this proposed degree
- UBC Biochemistry BSc 2010 Alumni Survey Results (BC Baccalaureate Outcomes, 2012)
- Industry interviews

Consultation with the Alma Mater Society (AMS), Science Undergraduate Society (SUS), and International Students' Association (ISA) took place over the period between February 15, 2017 to March 17, 2017. A face-to-face meeting was not requested by student leaders. The final consultation report is attached

Appendix 1 – Program Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

Program Description: Bachelor of Science with Combined Honours in Biochemistry and Forensic Science

Start Date of the Program: 2018 Winter Session Term 1 (September 2018)

	Domestic	International
Tuition Fees per Credit - Note 1	\$172.99	\$1,163.76
Application Fee – Note 2	\$68.00	\$114.00
Supplemental Application Fees	Not applicable	Not applicable
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Note 3	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
Faculty and Course Fees	Not applicable	Not applicable

Note 1 – Domestic tuition for 2017W and is subject to general tuition increase. Program intends to accept the first cohort of students for September 2018. Per credit tuition fee is subject to general tuition increases as approved by the University. The international per credit tuition fee follows the current standard rate for Science programs.

Note 2 - This is the current standard rate for the 2018W application cycle and is subject to annual increases.

Note 3 - The non-refundable acceptance deposits will be applied towards the first tuition instalment.

UBC/BCIT (BSc) DEGREE WITH HONOURS IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND FORENSIC SCIENCE

STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Faculty of Science, conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal for the UBC/BCIT (BSc) Degree with Honours in Biochemistry and Forensic Science. This report outlines the consultation process and summarizes student feedback including the student representatives' submission verbatim in Appendix 2.

Student Representative Bodies Invited to the Consultation

- Alma Mater Society (AMS)
- International Students' Association (ISA)
- Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)

Mode of Consultation

The consultation consisted of an e-consultation and a face-to-face meeting. Student representative groups were invited to the consultation through email, and asked to distribute the invitation to their constituents as they felt appropriate. Student representative groups were also offered a face-to-face meeting to discuss the tuition proposal. Student representatives did not request a meeting with faculty representatives.

Basis of Consultation: The consultation was based on a tuition proposal and rationale document created by the Faculty. Please see Appendix 1 for the invitation and tuition rationale document.

Timelines: The e-consultation was conducted over the period of February 15th, 2017 to March 17th, 2017.

Summary of Student Feedback: A submission was received from the AMS. The verbatim submission is in Appendix 2.

Organization	Summary
AMS student submission	<p>TUITION: "The AMS is pleased to see there are no additional program fees, and that the tuition is equivalent to current standard Science programs."</p> <p>JOINT PROGRAM: "...these students will also be travelling between BCIT and UBC for some of their terms, as well as paying student fees for both campuses. This may be a fairly large financial burden for some students, both through the additional campus fees, as well as through time lost while commuting between campuses."</p> <p>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID: "As such, the AMS would like to see a commitment from the proponents to providing program-specific awards..."</p>

No individual student submissions were received.

APPENDIX 1: INVITATION TO CONSULTATION AND TUITION RATIONALE DOCUMENT

Good afternoon,

There is a submission by the Faculty of Science to create the UBC/BCIT (BSc) Degree with Honours in Biochemistry and Forensic Science.

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to the **tuition proposal** for this program, the University is undertaking a consultative process to get your comments as student representatives, and provide an opportunity for students to provide individual comments on the tuition proposal if they wish. **Please note: the scope of this consultation process is limited to the tuition proposal.**

The consultation will consist of:

1. e-consultation

Please find attached a document which outline the details of the tuition proposal, including:

- an overview of the program,
- the student consultation that has happened to date,
- the tuition rationale for the program, and
- the proposed tuition.

Please share the document and this email as you see appropriate. **Comments on the tuition proposal and student submissions can be provided confidentially to: jenna.omassi@ubc.ca (Jenna Omassi, Advisor, Vice President Students Office).**

2. Face to Face meeting

If requested by student representatives, we can arrange a face-to-face meeting with the program leads regarding this tuition proposal. Please advise as soon as possible if you would like us to arrange a meeting.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WILL END ON MARCH 17, 2017

Confidentiality

Comments will be collected by the Vice-President Students Office, and only staff within that office will know the identity of individual students submitting comments. At no time will anyone outside of the Vice President Students Office know the identity of individual students who submit comments to this consultation. Your comments will only be used for the purposes of the tuition consultation.

Comments from individual students will be stripped of any identifying information to ensure confidentiality, but otherwise will be provided to the responsible program leads and Board of Governors verbatim.

Comments received from student organizations will be reported as coming from those organizations, and provided to the responsible faculty and Board of Governors as received. There will also be a summary report of the consultation developed for the Faculty and Board of Governors.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the process.

Thank you.

Jenna Omassi
Advisor, Strategic Support Team
Vice-President Students' Office
University of British Columbia
jenna.omassi@ubc.ca

NEW PROGRAM TUITION CONSULTATION PROPOSAL

UBC/BCIT (BSC) DEGREE WITH HONOURS IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND FORENSIC SCIENCE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Executive Summary of program

BCIT and UBC are proposing to offer a joint Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree with Honours in Biochemistry and Forensic Science. The degree will be awarded jointly by the School of Computing and Academic Studies at BCIT and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology through the Faculty of Science at UBC. The objective of this joint BSc (Honours) is to combine the strengths of UBC and BCIT to provide our students with an exceptional interdisciplinary educational experience in Biochemistry and Forensic Science and job ready skills and abilities to become the future leaders of the forensic science and biochemistry industries.

This program stands out from other forensic science Bachelor of Science programs in that graduates will have 27 credits of biochemistry and biology in the third and fourth years, which is more than in any of the other Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science programs from competing institutions in Ontario. In addition, these UBC courses are taught by faculty within the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology department at UBC who are active researchers in their fields. By partnering with UBC, students in this program will have the opportunity to conduct research for an Honours Thesis at UBC, which will provide them with valuable research skills and laboratory experience that may give them an advantage in gaining employment over graduates that do not have an Honours Thesis, and allow them to remain competitive with graduates of programs that do have Honours Thesis options (three of the five B.Sc. Forensic Science programs do have a thesis option).

Students of this program will benefit from having two specializations in that they will be able to find jobs in both the biochemistry and forensic science industries in addition to qualifying for numerous advanced education options.

Rationale for Partnership

While many BCIT graduates aspire to careers in public and private industry, the RCMP Forensic Laboratory, the largest public employer of forensic scientists in Canada, currently requires its employees to have a minimum of a Bachelor of Science degree and, unfortunately, the Bachelor of Technology does not qualify. This proposed Bachelor of Science degree, being more broadly recognized than a BTech, would also allow graduates to more easily transfer their credential to a graduate program in forensic science or another science discipline in Canada, the United States, or internationally.

After the program is developed we will apply for accreditation with the Forensic Education and Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). In order to be successful we need to meet their education standards, which include numerous natural science core courses and specialized science courses in first and second year. A number of these core and specialized science courses are not available at BCIT and to develop them would simply overlap what is already being offered at a very high quality at UBC.

Industry feedback has confirmed importance of graduates of this proposed program having a strong core science understanding upon which an applied education in forensic science can be built. The 27 credits of third and fourth year Biochemistry and Biology courses will help the graduates to gain employment within a forensic specialization (i.e., a biochemistry and forensic science education is tailor-made for a student to enter into a forensic biology/DNA position). In addition, these advanced courses in biochemistry and biology will also help graduates to excel in their career as forensic scientists after they gain employment. This program will benefit greatly from UBC's excellent core science courses in the first and second year, combined with the excellent reputation of the UBC Biochemistry personnel who will provide the more advanced third and fourth year biochemistry courses.

Program Strengths

The Bachelor of Science (Combined Honours) in Biochemistry and Forensic Science will excel in the following areas:

- **Interdisciplinary:** Involving two world class institutions and specializations. The curriculum will include courses in core science and a broad exposure in biochemistry, forensic science, chemistry and molecular biology. This proposed program is also perfectly positioned as the only Forensic Science Bachelor of Science degree offered in Western Canada.
- **Streamlined educational process:** Allowing graduates to enter the workforce sooner than our current educational pathway. The current BCIT forensics program frequently accepts B.Sc. graduates that then go on to complete our Bachelor of Technology or Advanced Certificate in Forensic Investigation. This current educational pathway (typically 6 to 8 years) delays an individual's career progression, compared to the proposed four-year joint degree.
- **Variety of learning experiences:** Students will learn from UBC professors with a wealth of teaching and research experience and from industry-based BCIT instructors who are currently subject matter experts working in the field of forensic science.
- **Research component:** Students will conduct independent and group research projects in their courses, including an Honours Thesis research course or an Advanced Biochemical Techniques laboratory course and an optional co-op program.
- **Hands-on laboratory skills:** In both forensic science and biochemistry and, through BCIT's "state-of-the-art" laboratories, students in the Honours Thesis research course will operate industry standard analytical instruments (including those used in forensic DNA and forensic chemistry/toxicology) gaining practical experience in a biochemistry research laboratory.
- **Communication:** Emphasising technical communication skills including the ability to understand and communicate academic and forensic topics, produce forensic reports, and testify in a court of law.
- **Numerous advanced education opportunities:** Such as into a master's or PhD program in Forensic Science, Biochemistry or any other life science program or at professional schools such as Law, Medicine, Dentistry, or Pharmacy.

This program will benefit greatly from UBC's ability to excel at providing core science courses in the first and second year, combined with the excellent reputation of the UBC Biochemistry personnel who will provide the more advanced third and fourth year biochemistry courses. These strengths that UBC will contribute to this joint degree will be well supported by the strengths of BCIT Forensic Science and Technology department, namely BCIT's ability to provide hands-on applied education in forensic science using advanced technologies and taught by subject matter experts. The curriculum and expertise provided by both departments in this program will ensure that both BCIT and UBC are viewed as equitable partners in delivering this joint Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree.

Delivery methods

The majority of classes in this proposed program will be face-to-face delivery, with some classes delivered either entirely online or in a blended format (classroom and online components). Of the classroom-delivered courses, a number of them at both UBC and BCIT are either laboratory-based or have a laboratory component. Students will be taking courses at both the UBC Vancouver Point Grey campus and BCIT's Burnaby and Downtown campuses.

Targeted students

The primary target audience is elite-level students who have a strong science foundation and would like to specialize in the exciting fields of forensic science, biochemistry, and molecular biology. Current UBC Biochemistry students were surveyed about the proposed program and the majority of students that

responded were interested in forensic science, enthusiastic about the potential of this program, and disappointed that the program does not currently exist.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this credential, graduates will have the skills, knowledge, and ability to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, and forensic science, including the main principles, techniques, and latest developments.
2. Perform with confidence a variety of laboratory procedures relevant to biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, and forensic science including the ability to operate analytical instruments.
3. Apply and maintain quality assurance processes and safety standards in a scientific laboratory.
4. Design and conduct research independently and in a team environment.
5. Communicate complex scientific information and evidentiary findings in oral and written formats for academic or legal purposes.
6. Apply critical-thinking, analytical, and problem-solving skills to the disciplines of biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, and forensic science.
7. Demonstrate the communication and interpersonal skills needed to work effectively in a team environment.
8. Develop lifelong learning skills to keep up-to-date with changing technologies and remain at the forefront of science.
9. Exemplify the highest ethical standards and professional principles.

Program Structure and Length

The proposed four-year Bachelor of Science Degree will have a total of 132 credits, with the Combined Honours program beginning in the second year. 91 credits will be delivered by UBC and 41 credits will be delivered by BCIT. Students take their first-year Science at UBC then apply to this program prior to starting their second year. Students will need to complete one of two research course options in their fourth year, to develop their ability to conduct theoretical and applied research, as well as further develop their presentation skills.

The design of this four-year program expedites the educational process, allowing graduates to enter the workforce sooner than with our current educational pathway.

STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

A needs assessment was conducted for the proposed degree in order to determine and validate the need for a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Biochemistry and Forensic Science offered jointly by BCIT and UBC. Information was collected through:

- A literature review
- Published employment statistical data
- Surveys conducted during BCIT's Forensic Science and Technology program review including those from industry, alumni and current students
- Surveys conducted by forensic science and biochemistry industry specifically about this proposed degree
- Surveys conducted by current UBC Biochemistry students about their interest for this proposed degree
- UBC Biochemistry BSc 2010 Alumni Survey Results (BC Baccalaureate Outcomes, 2012)
- Industry interviews

Strong support for the proposed joint program was expressed in a survey sent to current UBC Biochemistry students. The purpose of the survey was to gauge the student’s level of interest in forensic science and this proposed joint BSc (Honours) degree in Biochemistry and Forensic Science. Seventy-nine students answered the survey. Of those that answered the survey the majority responded that they are either very interested or interested in the field of forensics (52 of 79; 66 %). The majority (51 of 77; 66 %) also indicated that they would have been either extremely interested or interested in enrolling in this joint BSc (Honours) program after they had completed their first year of university if the program was available. As this program will have limited seats (15-20) each year we feel that there will be high demand to enroll in this proposed degree.

TUITION AND FEES RATIONALE

Benchmarking

The UBC/BCIT’s Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Forensic Science curriculum is considered a niche program globally and has been developed to meet the educational requirements of the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) established by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. FEPAC accredited programs which have been rigorously reviewed and found to meet the standards for quality forensic science education, are highly regarded by both US and Canadian employers for candidates with an undergraduate bachelor degree. UBC/BCIT’s Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Forensic Science is a very niche program within the current market with no directly comparable competing programs in the North American West Coast region.

Peer Comparators

In order to determine appropriate peer comparators, the following criteria were applied:

1. FEPAC Accreditation status
2. Comparability of location? Or Canadian?
3. Comparability of ranking (+ or – 15 spots from UBC’s position in the Times Higher Education ranking)
4. Program was identified by faculty members at UBC and/or BCIT as a peer comparator

The table below summarizes the universities found to have met at least one of the criteria above.

University Offering a Comparable Program	Accredited?	Canadian	Similarly ranked?
Laurentian University	*	*	
University of Ontario Institute of Technology	*	*	
Trent University		*	
The University of Windsor		*	
The University of Toronto (UofT) ¹		*	* (22)
Pennsylvania University ²	*		
The National University of Singapore (UNS) ³			* (24)

- It is important to mention that there are no FEPAC-accredited or comparably ranked competitors for this program on the West Coast of North America.
- In the US, there are 22 FEPAC-accredited schools. However, none of these programs are similarly ranked to UBC.

¹ UofT’s program is not-FEPAC accredited and eligibility for such accreditation would require a significant curriculum change

² This University was identified by faculty members and BCIT as a peer comparator

³ The NUS has a curriculum that includes an exchange arrangement with UofT

- The University of Toronto's appears to be the closest peer comparator to UBC's given that it is a Canadian university with a comparable ranking to UBC. However, even though UofT appears to be the most globally competitive university in terms of ranking among peer comparators, in terms of curriculum and location, UBC's program appears to be more competitive than UofT due to FEPAC eligibility and being the only highly ranked university offering a FEPAC-accredited program on the West Coast of North America.

Tuition

The proposed tuition for the UBC delivered courses for the program is \$172.99/credit for domestic students and \$1163.76/credit for International students.

	Domestic	International
Tuition Fees per Credit - Note 1	\$172.99	1163.76
Application Fee – Note 2	\$68	\$114
Supplemental Application Fees	Not applicable	Not applicable
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Note 3	\$500	\$1,000
Faculty and Course Fees	Not applicable	Not applicable

Note 1 – Domestic tuition for 2017W and is subject to general tuition increase. Program intends to accept the first cohort of students for September 2018. Per credit tuition fee is subject to general tuition increases as approved by the University. The international per credit tuition fee follows the current standard rate for Science programs.

Note 2 - This is the current standard rate for the 2017W application cycle and is subject to annual increases.

Note 3 - The non-refundable acceptance deposits will be applied towards the first tuition instalment.

APPENDIX 2: STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

There was a submission from the AMS.



Submission to the UBC Board of Governors Regarding the Proposed Tuition for the Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Forensic Science

**On Behalf of
Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
March 16th, 2017**

Dear Board of Governors,

This submission is being made on behalf of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC Vancouver in response to the request for feedback from the Vice-President Students' Office sent on Feb 15th, 2017 on the proposed new tuition for the Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Forensic Science.

The proposed tuition for the UBC-delivered credits is currently set at \$172.99 per credit for Domestic students and \$1163.76 per credit for International students. This is the current standard rate for Science programs at UBC Vancouver. The AMS is pleased to see there are no additional program fees, and that the tuition is equivalent to current standard Science programs.

The AMS would like to recognize that students in the program will have to complete a total 132 credits, which is in line with the standard Honours Science programs available at UBC. However, these students will also be travelling between BCIT and UBC for some of their terms, as well as paying student fees for both campuses.

This may be a fairly large financial burden for some students, both through the additional campus fees, as well as through time lost while commuting between campuses. This may pose a significant challenge for students' pursuit of extracurricular activities, which includes any employment that may assist them in paying these fees. As such, the AMS would like to see a commitment from the proponents to providing program-specific awards for students within the Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Forensic Science.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Samantha So'.

Samantha So
Vice President Academic and University Affairs
AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver
vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca