



SUBJECT	CONTINUING FEES FOR SELECTED INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS
MEETING DATE	FEBRUARY 15, 2018

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 the UBC Board of Governors approve the attached schedule of continuing fees for new incoming international graduate students, effective May 1, 2018.
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Report Date	December 19, 2017
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Presented By Andrew Szeri, Provost & Vice-President Academic
Peter Smailes, Interim Vice-President Finance & Operations
Louise Cowin, Vice-President Students
Deborah Buszard, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Principal, Okanagan
Cynthia Mathieson, Provost & Vice-Principal, Academic, Okanagan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is proposed that for the specified graduate programs with specialized rates, as listed in the attachment, the continuing fees for new incoming international students be increased to be the same as their tuition instalment amounts.

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES SUPPORTED

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

DESCRIPTION & RATIONALE	<p>When a degree program is not completed by a student within a set number of tuition instalments, or a minimum program fee has been assessed, a “Continuing Fee” is assessed for the student’s subsequent terms.</p> <p>Several new graduate programs have recently received Board approval for tuition fees. For many of these new programs, which are not thesis-based, the continuing fee was set to equal the tuition instalment amount.</p> <p>For many similar graduate programs, established in earlier years, the Board submissions proposing an initial tuition fee structure were silent about the amount of continuing fee to be assessed. Without direction from the Board, the university has simply assessed a continuing fee for these non-thesis-based graduate programs that it is equal to the continuing fee assessed for standard thesis-based programs.</p>
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Because of this discrepancy in practice, some graduate programs are currently assessing continuing fees for international students that are lower than the tuition instalment amounts.

It is proposed that the university increase the continuing fees for new incoming international students registered in the graduate programs listed in the attachment such that they are the same as the tuition instalment amounts, effective May 1, 2018. By doing so, these programs' continuing fees will be established in a way that is comparable to the way that continuing fees have been established for programs recently approved by the Board of Governors.

BENEFITS Learning, Research, Financial, Sustainability & Reputational	Standardized tuition assessments, wherever possible, promote consistency, transparency and fairness. The increased fees, if collected, will help to cover the costs associated with supporting continuing students who take longer than expected to complete their programs.
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SCHEDULE Implementation Timeline	Effective May 1, 2018.
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CONSULTATION Relevant Units, Internal & External Constituencies	All Faculties were consulted between September 29, 2017 and October 12, 2017 about the proposed increases. After discussion, some programs were not included in the identified programs. For example, in the combined PhD/Dentistry programs, which comprise a 3-year diploma and 3 years of full-time PhD study, if a student takes longer than expected to complete their program, it is primarily because of their research component. Given that this is a research-oriented program, it was determined that it should be treated in the same way that all research-oriented graduate programs are treated with respect to continuing fees.
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The UBC Alma Mater Society (AMS), UBC Students' Union Okanagan (UBCSUO) Graduate Student Society (GSS), and the International Students' Association (ISA) were consulted about these proposed changes to continuing fees in November and December 2017. All parties were given an opportunity to provide feedback. A student consultation report is appended.

Graduate Programs with Specialized Rates

Proposed Continuing Fees for International Graduate Students for 2018-19

For Students Entering Degree Program in 2018W or 2018S (Effective Date: May 1, 2018)

Campus	Program	Current 2017-18 International Instalment Amount	Current 2017-18 International Continuing Fee	Approved 2018-19 International Instalment Amount	Proposed 2018-19 International Continuing Fee	Proposed 2018-19 \$ Increase in International Continuing Fee
Vancouver	Master of Community and Regional Planning	6,559.19	2,811.98	6,755.97	6,755.97	3,943.99
Vancouver	Master of Engineering in Clean Energy Engineering (full-time)	9,928.33	6,300.37	10,226.18	10,226.18	3,925.81
Vancouver	Master of Engineering in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (full-time)	14,428.24	6,300.37	14,861.09	14,861.09	8,560.72
Vancouver	Master of Engineering Leadership	16,267.13	2,811.98	16,755.15	16,755.15	13,943.17
Vancouver	Master of Health Leadership and Policy	16,267.13	2,811.98	16,755.15	16,755.15	13,943.17
Vancouver	Master of Health Science	4,925.70	2,811.98	6,649.70	6,649.70	3,837.72
Vancouver	Master of High Performance Coaching and Technical Leadership	4,234.44	2,811.98	4,361.48	4,361.48	1,549.50
Vancouver	Master of Nursing - Nurse Practitioner	7,171.24	2,811.98	11,585.62	11,585.62	8,773.64
Vancouver	Master of Occupational Therapy	13,397.44	2,811.98	13,799.37	13,799.37	10,987.39
Vancouver	Master of Physical Therapy	11,771.43	2,811.98	12,124.57	12,124.57	9,312.59
Vancouver	Master of Science, Occupational and Environmental Hygiene	3,497.25	2,811.98	3,978.25	3,978.25	1,166.27
Vancouver	Dual Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture	14,690.58	2,811.98	20,157.08	20,157.08	17,345.10
Okanagan	Master of Social Work	5,578.17	2,811.98	8,013.83	8,013.83	5,201.85

CONTINUING FEES FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS IN SELECTED PROGRAMS

STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the AVP Students' Office and the Provost's Office, conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal for continuing fees for international graduate students in selected programs. 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)
- Graduate Student Society (GSS)
- Students' Union of the Okanagan (SUO)

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. Meetings with student representatives and the Provost’s Office were held on November 30th, 2017 and December 8th, 2017 at UBC Vancouver. A meeting with student representatives and the AVP Students’ was held on November 16th, 2017 at UBC Okanagan.

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

Timelines: The e-consultation was conducted over the period of November 6th, 2017 to December 12th, 2017.

Summary of Student Feedback: A submission was received from the AMS. Additional comments were received from the GSS and a student at large. The verbatim submissions and comments are in Appendix 2.

Organization	Summary
AMS student submission	<p>CONSISTENCY: “...consistency is not provided when some programs opt out of this standardization and other programs, specifically research-based programs, do not follow the same rules.”</p> <p>NO RATIONALE: “When tuition is increased there ought to be a significant need or reason for that increase...”</p> <p>CONTINUING STUDENTS: “...there has not been the opportunity to assess the reason why an international student would seek continuing status and whether the amount of work outstanding would be equivalent to a normal semester, on average.”</p>
GSS comments	<p>CLARITY ON CONTINUING FEES: The name ‘continuing fees’ does not actually explain what these fees are, they are tuition fees. Why are we not calling these fees tuition fees?</p> <p>EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES: In extenuating circumstances that cause a student delays in their program and that is out of their control, such as a student having an issue finding a placement or practicum, is there a way to ensure that they are not paying continuing fees?</p>

APPENDIX 1: INVITATION TO CONSULTATION AND TUITION RATIONALE DOCUMENT

Good afternoon,

There is a submission by the Provost's Office to increase the continuing fees for international graduate students to be the same as the tuition instalment amounts, for select programs.

In order to inform the Provost's Office 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 proposed changes,
- the consultation that has happened to date,
- the tuition rationale for the increases, and
- the proposed tuition increases.

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 Provost's Office 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 DECEMBER 6, 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
The University of British Columbia
jenna.omassi@ubc.ca

**CONTINUING FEES FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS
IN SELECTED PROGRAMS
STUDENT CONSULTATION**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is proposed that for the specified graduate programs with specialized tuition rates for international students, as listed in the attachment, the continuing fees, which are applied when all tuition instalments have been paid and a student has not yet achieved program completion, will be increased to be the same as the tuition instalment amount.

DESCRIPTION

When a degree program is not completed by a student within an established number of tuition instalments or a minimum program fee has been assessed, a Continuing Fee is assessed for the student's subsequent terms.

The tuition for several new graduate programs were recently approved by the Board. For many of these new programs, which are not thesis-based, the continuing fee was set to equal the tuition instalment amount to support the increasing costs of supporting students that continue in their programs past the standard or expected program duration.

For most of the graduate programs established in earlier years, the Board submissions requesting initial tuition fee approval were typically silent about the amount of continuing fee to be assessed. For these non-thesis-based graduate programs, the continuing fee is currently assessed such that it is equal to the continuing fee assessed for standard thesis-based (research-oriented) programs.

Because of this discrepancy in practice, some graduate programs are currently assessing continuing fees for international students that are lower than the tuition instalment amounts.

It is proposed to increase the continuing fees for international students registered in the graduate programs listed in the attachment such that they are the same as the tuition instalment amounts, effective May 1, 2018 and consistent with the practice for similar programs established in the recent past.

RATIONALE

Standardized tuition assessments, wherever possible, promote consistency, transparency and fairness. The increased fees will help to cover the costs associated with supporting continuing students who take longer than expected to complete their programs.

CONSULTATION SO FAR

All Faculties were consulted between September 29, 2017 and October 12, 2017 about the proposed increases. Some Faculties chose to opt out of the proposal. For example, in the combined PhD/Dentistry programs, which comprise a 3-year diploma and 3 years of full-time PhD study, if a student takes longer to complete their program, it is primarily because of their research component. The Faculty believes that it would be too costly for students if they were to be assessed continuing fees that were equivalent to the tuition instalment amount. The Administration concurs because this is the practice for thesis-based programs.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Graduate Programs with Specialized Tuition Rates
Proposed Continuing Fees for International Graduate Students for 2018-19
For Students Entering Degree Program in 2018W or 2018S

Campus	Program	Current 2017-18 Instalment Amount	Current 2017-18 International Continuing Fee	Proposed 2018-19 Instalment Amount	Proposed 2018-19 International Continuing Fee	Proposed 2018-19 \$ Increase in International Continuing Fee	Proposed 2018-19 % Increase in International Continuing Fee
Vancouver	Master of Community and Regional Planning	6,559.19	2,811.98	6,755.97	6,755.97	3,943.99	140.3%
Vancouver	Master of Engineering in Clean Energy Engineering (full-time)	9,928.33	6,300.37	10,226.18	10,226.18	3,925.81	62.3%
Vancouver	Master of Engineering in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (full-time)	14,428.24	6,300.37	14,861.09	14,861.09	8,560.72	135.9%
Vancouver	Master of Engineering Leadership	16,267.13	2,811.98	16,755.15	16,755.15	13,943.17	495.8%
Vancouver	Master of Health Leadership and Policy	16,267.13	2,811.98	16,755.15	16,755.15	13,943.17	495.8%
Vancouver	Master of Health Science	4,925.70	2,811.98	6,649.70	6,649.70	3,837.72	136.5%
Vancouver	Master of High Performance Coaching and Technical Leadership	4,234.44	2,811.98	4,361.48	4,361.48	1,549.50	55.1%
Vancouver	Master of Nursing - Nurse Practitioner	7,171.24	2,811.98	11,585.62	11,585.62	8,773.64	312.0%
Vancouver	Master of Occupational Therapy	13,397.44	2,811.98	13,799.37	13,799.37	10,987.39	390.7%
Vancouver	Master of Physical Therapy	11,771.43	2,811.98	12,124.57	12,124.57	9,312.59	331.2%
Vancouver	Master of Science, Occupational and Environmental Hygiene	3,497.25	2,811.98	3,978.25	3,978.25	1,166.27	41.5%
Vancouver	Dual Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture	14,690.58	2,811.98	20,157.08	20,157.08	17,345.10	616.8%
Vancouver	Doctor of Education in Reading Education (pending Ministry approval)	4,458.33	2,811.98	4,458.33	4,458.33	1,646.35	58.5%
Okanagan	Master of Social Work	5,578.17	2,811.98	8,013.83	8,013.83	5,201.85	185.0%

APPENDIX 2: STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

There were verbatim comments from a student:

I'm not sure if this increase would affect me, but I certainly hope not. I am in [a professional] program; and as an international student, my tuition is already nearly 5 and 1/2 times what Canadians pay. I am very happy to be in the program, but the tuition feels pretty unfair.

I expected to pay more as an international student; but I think 2-3 x the Canadian rate would be much more fair (and is in fact what a lot of programs charge). I haven't seen any other programs that charge nearly 5 & 1/2 times what the Canadians pay, not sure why [my] program is so different.

There was a submission from the AMS.



Student Society
of UBC Vancouver

**Submission to the UBC Board of Governors regarding Increases to Continuing Fees for International Graduate Students
December 12th, 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 consultation opened on November 6th, 2017 regarding the proposal to increase the international student continuing fees for specified graduate programs.

The increases proposed are for specified graduate programs with specialized tuition rates for international students continuing fees. The proposed tuition increases range anywhere from 41.5 percent to 616.8 percent, and the average of all the increases is 247 percent. With such significant increases, it ought to be expected that there is a significant rationale or a significant need for these changes. Yet, only two reasons were provided in the rationale section of this proposal.

The first reason provided is that standardized tuition assessments “promote consistency, transparency, and fairness.” However, consistency is not provided when some programs opt out of this standardization and other programs, specifically research-based programs, do not follow the same rules. Transparency is provided by advertising how much students are assessed online (something UBC already requires). Finally, increasing tuition for standardization does not promote fairness without a significant reason for that increase.

The second rationale provided states the increased fees “will help to cover the costs associated with supporting continuing students.” However, when the AMS requested to know how many students this affects and what the current costs are for continuing international graduate students we learned that between the academic years of 2013/14 and 2016/17 there were no cases when an international graduate continuing fee needed to be assessed for these programs. While the proponents of the proposal stated that costs for supporting continuing students would be equivalent to the cost of their normal installment, there has not been the opportunity to assess the reason why an international student would seek continuing status and whether the amount of work outstanding would be equivalent to a normal semester, on average.

After an annual tuition increase that has shown the vast majority of students are against further increases to the cost of education, this proposal should be rejected by the Board of Governors. When tuition is increased there ought to be a significant need or reason for that increase, especially when it goes beyond the 2% domestic cap. Without knowing how this increase could affect international graduate student recruitment and without a significant rationale, the AMS urges the Board of Governors to oppose this increase. With this in mind, the AMS opposes the proposed increases and we are grateful to the University for including student input in this process.

Sincerely,

Alan Ehrenholz
President
AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver
president@ams.ubc.ca

Max Holmes
Vice President Academic and University Affairs
AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver
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