



SUBJECT	UBC POST CARE TUITION WAIVER – REMOVAL OF AGE LIMIT
MEETING DATE	FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Forwarded on the Recommendation of the President

**APPROVED FOR
SUBMISSION**

Santa J. Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor

DECISION REQUESTED	IT IS HEREBY REQUESTED that <i>approval be granted for the amendment of eligibility criteria for the UBC Post Care Tuition Waiver to eliminate the following requirement: “Applicants for the tuition waiver must have started post-secondary education within five years of being in care (24 years of age or younger), and enrol in their first undergraduate degree at UBC within an additional five years (29 years of age or younger).”, effective May 1, 2019.</i>
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Report Date	November 20, 2018
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Presented By Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
 Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, Provost and Vice-Principal, Academic, UBC Okanagan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UBC Post Care Tuition Waiver (formerly known as Youth in Care Tuition Waiver) has assisted students with lived experience in government care in BC with the full cost of tuition for their first undergraduate degree since January 2014.

Currently, one of the criteria to be eligible for funding is that applicants for the tuition waiver must have started post-secondary education within five years of being in care (by 24 years of age), and enrol in their first undergraduate degree at UBC within an additional five years (by 29 years of age).

There are many barriers that youth who have been in care face in being successful in post-secondary education, including precarious housing, financial assistance, health care and emotional support. Enrolment Services (ES) recommends that removal of the time frame (i.e., the age limit) for tuition waiver eligibility would allow students who have been in care to commence their post-secondary education when they are ready to succeed. If approved, this expansion of the tuition waiver eligibility criteria would increase access to UBC for one of the most vulnerable of student populations.

STRATEGIC CORE AREAS SUPPORTED

- People and Places
- Research Excellence
- Transformative Learning
- Local / Global Engagement

**DESCRIPTION &
RATIONALE**

Background

The UBC Post Care Tuition Waiver (formerly known as Youth in Care Tuition Waiver) has assisted students with lived experience in government care in BC with the full cost of tuition for their first undergraduate degree since January 2014.

One of the criteria to be eligible for this funding is that students must access it within the following time frame:

Applicants for the tuition waiver must have started post-secondary education within five years of being in care (24 years of age or younger), and enrol in their first undergraduate degree at UBC within an additional five years (29 years of age or younger).

It is recommended that UBC remove this time frame (i.e., age limit) for tuition waiver eligibility of students formerly in care.

There are many barriers that youth who have been in care face in pursuing post-secondary education, from a lack of good parental role models, to unstable living situations and poor access to mental health services. This is demonstrated through significantly lower high school graduation rates (approximately 51% of youth in care graduate from secondary school as compared with 89% of other students).

Upon turning 19 years of age and “aging” out of care, with precarious housing, financial assistance, health care and emotional support, furthering their education is not realistic for many youth, even if they did graduate from high school. It can take many years for someone who experienced care to be positioned to focus on their post-secondary education, but it should never be too late to improve one’s circumstances.

By eliminating the age limit for a person with lived experience to access education, eligible students would be able attend UBC when they are ready to succeed. This is an opportunity for UBC to increase access to education for one of the most vulnerable of student populations.

Current State

UBC currently has 42 students approved for a UBC or Ministry tuition waiver for the 2017 Winter Session; 29 of these students are registered at the Vancouver Campus and 13 students at the Okanagan Campus.

	Vancouver	Okanagan
UBC Waiver	15	3
Ministry Waiver	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	29	13

A total of 42 students were approved for a UBC or Ministry tuition waiver for the 2018 Winter Session.

Two students graduated this past year on the Vancouver campus, one with a Bachelor of Social Work and the other with a Bachelor of Arts. Two students graduated this past year on the Okanagan campus, one is now attending medical school overseas and the other is taking her master’s degree at the Vancouver campus this summer.

One of our current students did not meet the current age limit criterion. She attended a post-secondary institution before the age of 24, and then began the Camosun College Engineering Bridge Program at the age of 29. After completing the two-year program, she was ready to enter UBC in third year Engineering at the age of 31 years. An exception was made to the age limit criterion and year 1 of the Camosun program was considered to be equivalent to the first year of her UBC program, so that she was able to transfer into Year 3. She has transitioned well to UBC and successfully progressed to year 4 in September 2018.

Challenge

A potential drawback to the recommendation is that the current age limit may motivate students to pursue post-secondary education soon after they “age out” of care and not delay. This incentive might be lost. However, there are many factors besides motivation that are barriers to a student attending post-secondary education within the current time limits; removing this criterion will be seen as a positive change.

COSTS
Capital &
Lifecycle
Operating

Removing the age limit will result in additional costs to the Student Financial Assistance Budget. This estimate was calculated based on the Vancouver Island University (VIU) program, where the tuition waiver program has never had an age limit. Students who are over the age of 30 make up 15% of the students funded annually.

In the 2017 Winter Session, 38 UBC students received a tuition waiver, either through UBC or the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. An additional 15% of students (6 students), at an average of \$4,250 per year in funding, will require \$25,500 per year in total. This amount will be lower if the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training increases or removes their age limit.

SCHEDULE
Implementation
Timeline

Effective May 1, 2019.

CURRENT POST CARE APPLICATION FORM

1) The applicant must have started post-secondary education within five years of being in care and must enroll in their first undergraduate degree at UBC within an additional five years.

2) As defined by the Child, Family and Community Service Act, a Youth in Care is someone who has been one of the following:

In the continuing custody of the director under the Child, Family and Community Service Act or a delegated Aboriginal agency for at least one year between the ages of 12 and 19;

In the guardianship of a director as referred to in the Family Law Act for at least one year between the ages of 12 and 19;

Under a Youth Agreement at their 19th birthday

OR

In the temporary care of the director under the Child, Family and Community Service Act or a delegated Aboriginal agency for a minimum period of three years between the ages of 12 and 19.

PROPOSED POST CARE APPLICATION FORM

Board Approval Request – UBC Post care Tuition Waiver – Removal of Age Limit dated Feb 12, 2019 (effective May 1, 2019)

~~1) The applicant must have started post-secondary education within five years of being in care and must enroll in their first undergraduate degree at UBC within an additional five years.~~ (This criteria is removed)

2) As defined by the Child, Family and Community Service Act, a Youth in Care is someone who has been one of the following:

In the continuing custody of the director under the Child, Family and Community Service Act or a delegated Aboriginal agency for at least one year between the ages of 12 and 19;

In the guardianship of a director as referred to in the Family Law Act for at least one year between the ages of 12 and 19;

Under a Youth Agreement at their 19th birthday

OR

In the temporary care of the director under the Child, Family and Community Service Act or a delegated Aboriginal agency for a minimum period of three years between the ages of 12 and 19.