



<b>SUBJECT</b>	Tuition – Graduate Certificate in Forest Management and Conservation
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Finance Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	September 9, 2020
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	Please indicate requested Board action: Decision requested: approval of proposed resolution IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves tuition for the Graduate Certificate in Forest Management and Conservation program of \$534.00 per credit for domestic students and \$866.67 per credit for international students, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Prof. Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	Dr. Pam Ratner, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Enrolment & Academic Facilities Dr. Simon Bates, Associate Provost Teaching and Learning

**PRIOR SUBMISSIONS**

The subject matter of this submission has not previously been considered by the Finance Committee.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The UBC Faculty of Forestry is proposing a fully online Graduate Certificate in Forest Management and Conservation to provide working professionals with interdisciplinary training encompassing contemporary topics in forestry and conservation sciences. This program has been in development for the past year and, pending approval, will launch May 2021. It is comprised of new credit courses and is outside of scope of the [New Online Certificate Offerings](#) blanket approval docket approved in June 2020 as that docket was specific to “new online undergraduate and graduate certificates seeking to launch September 2020 in light of the public health crisis.”

With an increased global awareness of the importance of forestry and forest management, there is a high demand for professionals trained in forestry-related fields. A report conducted by the United Nations stated that jobs in forestry, such as forest management and wood and energy production, will be of increased importance with a global trend towards a greener economy. British Columbia’s government also considers sustainable forest and natural resource management as one of its key mandates and encourages the expansion of forest education programs to a more widespread audience through online delivery.

The program targets working professionals seeking to advance their knowledge and careers. It is intended for professionals who are currently in, or desire to pursue, careers in areas such as forestry, conservation and natural resource management within the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Students are required to complete 15 credits within a 1-2 year time. With its online format, this certificate accommodates students who are unable physically to attend on-campus forestry programs at UBC. Through the completion of this program, students will gain vital knowledge in the management of forest resources and the integration of new sustainable practices and technology to improve upon adaptation strategies at the local, regional, and global levels. Additionally, they will advance their understanding of political, governmental, legal, administrative, and business contexts pertaining to forestry while actively engaging with communities on the development and implementation of sustainable forest management practices.

This program builds upon an awarding winning online program, funded by Asia Pacific Forestry Network, in sustainable forest management that has attracted over 1,500 students attending the free non-credit online courses since 2016. This program will be the first forestry fully online graduate certificate program in Canada.

The program will further position UBC as a leading provider of forestry and conservation sciences education, while strongly aligning with several of the University's Strategic Plan including:

- [Strategy 4: Inclusive Excellence](#) by providing easily accessible and equitable learning opportunities for local, national and international communities.
- [Strategy 11: Education Renewal](#) by offering the program online, the Faculty can reach a new, unserved learner segment of working professionals who are unable physically to attend on-campus educational programs.
- [Strategy 16: Public Relevance](#) by responding to the worldwide need for highly qualified professionals in forest management and conservation.
- [Strategy 19: Global Networks](#) by collaborating with the Asia Pacific Forestry Network and its Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (consortium of universities) in the development of the courses. We estimate that 70% of the enrolment will be international, mostly from the Asia-Pacific region. The program will further enhance professional networking in the region and internationally.

In a survey conducted by UBC Forestry, it was found that, of the 227 forestry students and professionals surveyed, 70% indicated that they had a strong interest in online graduate programs in forest management and conservation. This feedback suggests that professional training beyond an undergraduate degree is needed and online delivery provides flexible way for professionals to update their skills and knowledge in the environment of rapid technological and societal changes. This survey had similar results with member surveys carried out by the Association of BC Forest Professionals. Both show that online learning is key to providing flexible, accessible continuing education for working professionals.

The Office of the Vice-President Students, in partnership with the Faculty of Forestry, conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal (as per Policy LR4) for the proposed program. The e-consultation was conducted from June 8th 2020 to July 9th 2020 with an extension to July 31<sup>st</sup> due to an administrative error. The Alma Mater Society (AMS) submitted a response noting:

- Appreciation for flexibility with program completion times
- Pace of the program supports continued capacity for professional employment

Pending Board of Governors and Senate approval, this certificate will launch in May 2021. The proposed tuition for the program is \$534.00 per credit for domestic students and \$866.67 per credit for international students. All fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors. In the first year of the certificate, enrolment is expected to be around 20 students; enrolment is expected to increase to approximately 40 students by 2025.

*Please note: This proposal was reviewed and approved at the Graduate Curriculum Committee on July 3, 2020 and at the Senate Curriculum Committee on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The program will be submitted to full Senate on September 16, 2020 for information.*

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## APPENDICES

1. Tuition and Fee Assessment Details
2. Student Tuition Consultation Report

**Tuition and Fee Assessment Details**

**Program Description:** Graduate Certificate in Forest Management and Conservation

**Anticipated Start Date:** May 2021

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	\$534.00	\$866.67
Application Fees (Graduate) – Note 2	\$108.00	\$168.25
Supplemental Application Fees	N/A	N/A
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit	N/A	N/A
Other Faculty and Course Fees	N/A	N/A

Note 1 – Proposed tuition will be subject to increases as approved by the Board.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2021W application cycle and is subject to increases as approved by the Board.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

### STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Faculty of Forestry, conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal for the Graduate Certificate in Forestry Management and Conservation. 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)\*
- Forestry Graduate Students Association (FGSA)

#### 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. A meeting was not requested by student representatives.

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

**Timelines:** The e-consultation was conducted over the period of June 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 to July 8, 2020. Consultation was extended to July 31<sup>st</sup> after an administrative error.

**Summary of Student Feedback:** Submissions were received from the AMS. The verbatim submission is in Appendix 2. After review, the GSS determined not to respond to this consultation as Graduate Certificates are not within their jurisdiction. The GSS and AMS are working address with the potential for Graduate Certificate students to be members of the graduate constituency in the future.

Organization	Summary
<b>AMS</b>	<p><b>APPRECIATION FOR FLEXIBILITY</b>                      “The AMS also appreciates that there is extended flexibility offered within the program completion, allowing for an interested party to take two years to complete their modules rather than just one year; this is important in order to draw interest from professionals already working full-time in their field.”</p> <p><b>PROGRAM PACE COMPLEMENT TO STUDENT CAREERS?</b>                      “The AMS is interested to hear about the pace of the program and how it simultaneously interacts with students’ professional careers. The online nature of the program as described seems to allow for the opportunity to simultaneously work professionally in forestry-related fields, which provides ongoing and proactive supplementation to both individuals’ academic and professional experiences.”</p>

No individual student submissions were received.

## APPENDIX 1: INVITATION TO CONSULTATION AND TUITION RATIONALE DOCUMENT

Good afternoon,

There is a proposal by the Faculty of Forestry to create an online Graduate Certificate in Forestry Management and Conservation.

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 outlines 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 organization submissions can be provided confidentially to Natasha Moore - Analyst, Vice President Students Office ([natasha.moore@ubc.ca](mailto:natasha.moore@ubc.ca)).**

### 2. Face to Face meeting (now online!)

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 WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2020.**

### Confidentiality

Comments will be collected by the Vice-President Students Office, and only analysts 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

Natasha

## NEW PROGRAM TUITION CONSULTATION

Faculty of Forestry - Graduate Certificate in Forest Management and Conservation

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The proposed 100% online Graduate Certificate in Forest Management and Conservation is a graduate program aimed at providing working professionals with interdisciplinary training encompassing contemporary topics in forestry and conservation. Students will be required to complete 15 credits and it is expected that students will complete within a 1-2-year time period.

With an increased global awareness of the importance of forestry and forest management, the world is seeing a higher demand for professionals trained in forestry-related fields. A [report conducted by the United Nations](#) stated that jobs in forestry, such as forest management and wood and energy production, will be of increased importance with a global trend towards a greener economy. British Columbia's government also considers sustainable forest and natural resource management as one of its key mandates and encourages the expansion of forestry education programs to a more widespread audience through online delivery.

This program targets full-time, working professionals seeking to advance their knowledge and the development of their careers in forestry-related fields. More specifically, it is intended for professionals who are currently in, or desire to pursue, careers in areas such as conservation and natural resource management within the public, private, and non-profit sectors. With its online formatting, this certificate accommodates students who are unable to physically attend on-campus forestry programs at UBC. Through the completion of this program, students will gain vital knowledge in the management of forest resources and the integration of new sustainable practices and technology to improve upon adaptation strategies at the local, regional, and global levels. Additionally, they will advance their understanding of political, governmental, legal, administrative, and business contexts pertaining to forestry while actively engaging with communities on the development and implementation of sustainable forest management practices.

Objectives:

- Develop the first forestry online graduate program in Canada;
- Produce graduates who can leverage new technology and use science-based practices to sustainably manage forests in the rapidly changing social and political environment;
- Provide accessible forest education to local, national and international communities;
- Seek to transform forest education through emerging educational technologies;
- Further enhance UBC's position as a leading provider of forestry and conservation sciences education in Canada and worldwide.

### STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

This program builds upon an awarding winning online program in sustainable forest management with 5 existing courses and 10 newly developed courses that has attracted over 1500 students attending the free non-credit online courses since 2016. In a survey conducted by UBC Forestry, it was found that, of the 227 forestry students and professionals surveyed, 70% indicated that they had a strong interest in online graduate programs in forest management and conservation. This feedback suggests that professional training beyond an undergraduate degree is needed and online delivery provides flexible way for professionals to update their skills and knowledge in the environment of rapid technological and societal changes. This survey had similar results with member surveys carried out by the Association of BC Forest Professionals. Both show that online learning is key to providing flexible, accessible continuing education for working professionals.

## TUITION AND FEES RATIONALE

The proposed tuition for this program is \$534.00 CAD per credit for domestic students and \$866.67 per credit for international students. Application fees are proposed to be \$108.00 for domestic applicants and \$168.25 for international applicants, in alignment with the currently approved graduate application fees for applications to be received for 2021W. These fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.

Proposed Curriculum Requirements:

Students will be required to complete five, 3-credit courses, totaling 15 credits. Courses will be delivered online with 3-4 different courses offered each term. The required number of credits must be completed within a two-year time period. Of these courses, one will be a required course for all students and the other four are electives. Students will be able to select from a series of elective courses that suit their interests to customize their Graduate Certificate.

The courses are as follows:

Core Required Course:

- FOPE 500 (3) - Sustainable Forest Management in a Changing World

Electives Courses:

- FOPE 501 (3) - Geomatics in Forestry: Data Collection and Management
- FOPE 502 (3) - Introduction to Urban Forestry in the Asian Pacific Region
- FOPE 503 (3) - Climate Modelling and Forest Applications
- FOPE 504 (3) - Structure and Composition of Tropical Forest Ecosystems
- FOPE 505 (3) - Ecological Processes in Tropical Forests
- CONS 506 (3) online version - Forest Conservation in Asia: Challenges and Opportunities
- FOPE 507 (3) - International Forestry Issues, Institutions, and Multi-Lateral Agreements
- FOPE 508 (3) - Forest Ecosystem Services and Community Livelihoods
- FOPE 509 (3) - Plantation Design and Management

### Key Factors Influencing the Tuition and Mandatory Fees:

The program budget was developed with assistance of the Provost's Office Strategic Decision Support (SDS) unit.

- In the first year of the certificate, enrolment is expected to be around 20 students; enrolment is expected to increase to approximately 40 students by 2025.
- It is anticipated that around 70% of the annual enrolment will be by international applicants.
- Classes are intended to include 100-120 total hours of study time over the course of 13-15 weeks.
- Costs include teaching, program administration, marketing and technical support.

## Tuition Benchmarking

**Table 1:** Per-credit tuition of other Graduate Certificate Programs and Science-based professional graduate degrees at UBC (based on Board approved 2020/21 rates for new incoming students)

Program	Domestic per-credit rate	International per-credit rate
<b>UBC Graduate Certificates</b>		
Proposed Graduate Certificate in Forest Management and Conservation	\$534.00	\$866.67
Graduate Certificate in Adult Learning and Education	\$472.22	\$615.43
Graduate Certificate in Global Mine Waste Management	\$1,703.40	\$1,736.80
Graduate Certificate in Global Surgical Care	\$460.03	\$977.06
Graduate Certificate in High Performance Coaching and Technical Leadership	\$566.75	\$930.93
Graduate Certificate in Higher Education	\$472.22	\$615.43
Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Public Health	\$520.20	\$648.96
Graduate Certificate in Orientation and Mobility	\$371.52	\$765.45
Graduate Certificate in Orthopedic and Manipulative Physical Therapy	\$544.91	\$566.49
Graduate Certificate in Rehabilitation Sciences	\$435.14	\$452.37

### Cost of Comparable Programs:

**Table 1:** Total tuition costs at competing universities for related online Graduate Certificates

University	Certificate	Per-credit rate	Cost	Credits
University of Florida	Forest Health & Resilience Graduate Certificate	USD \$565.00 / CAD \$ 777.55	USD\$6,780.00 / CAD \$9330.60	12
	Natural Resource Policy & Administration	USD \$565.00 / CAD \$ 777.55	USD\$6,780.00 / CAD \$9330.60	12
Oregon State University	Forests and climate change	USD \$565.00 / CAD \$ 777.55	USD \$10,640.00/ CAD \$ 14642.71	19
	Geographic information science (GIScience)	USD \$565.00 / CAD \$ 777.55	USD \$10,640.00/ CAD \$ 14642.71	19
	Sustainable natural resources	USD \$565.00 / CAD \$ 777.55	USD \$10,080.00 / CAD \$ 13872.05	18

	Urban forestry	USD \$565.00 / CAD \$ 777.55	USD \$10,080.00 / CAD \$ 13872.05	18
Yale University	Tropical Forest Landscapes	USD \$6,000.00 / CAD \$ 8257.17 USD \$2,000.00 / CAD \$ 2752.39 field course		NA
Bangor University	Tropical Forestry Diploma	£1,889 / CAD \$ 3213.97 per 20 credit module		120 credits in two years
	Tropical Forestry Certificate			60 credits in one year

**PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES**

**Program Description:** Graduate Certificate in Forest Management and Conservation

**Anticipated Start Date:** May 2021

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	\$534.00	\$866.67
Application Fees (Graduate) – Note 2	\$108.00	\$168.25
Supplemental Application Fees	N/A	N/A
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Other Faculty and Course Fees	N/A	N/A

Note 1 – Proposed tuition will be subject to increases as approved by the Board.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2021W application cycle and is subject to increases as approved by the Board.

## APPENDIX 2: STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

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There was a submission from the AMS.



**TUITION CONSULTATION FOR THE NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATION IN FORESTRY  
MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION  
Submission to the Faculty of Forestry and Board of Governors**

**July 29th, 2020**

Dear Faculty of Forestry and Board of Governors,

This submission is made on behalf of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC Vancouver in response to the feedback request from the VP Academic and University Affairs (VPAUA) Office regarding the Graduate Certification in Forestry Management and Conservation.

The AMS values this novel graduate certification opportunity that provides an ongoing and proactive supplementation to graduate students' academic and professional experiences. The AMS also appreciates that there is extended flexibility offered within the program completion, allowing for an interested party to take two years to complete their modules rather than just one year; this is important in order to draw interest from professionals already working full-time in their field. The structure of the program seems to directly adhere to the demands and needs of prospective forestry students and professionals who were surveyed for this proposal. In addition, the proposed tuition fees for the program seem equitable and comparable to other similar type programs. The AMS is intent on ensuring that adequate bursaries and scholarships are provided to students who are in financial need, in order to allow accessibility to all students regardless of their economic status.

Further, the AMS is interested to hear about the pace of the program and how it simultaneously interacts with students' professional careers. The online nature of the program as described seems to allow for the opportunity to simultaneously work professionally in forestry-related fields, which provides ongoing and proactive supplementation to both individuals' academic and professional experiences. We are keen to discover professionals who see the value of this certificate and how the knowledge and education administered can better enhance work experience out in the field.

Thank you for your hard and contended work upon this program development; this program is going to provide instrumental support and further knowledge to interested

applicants that will further the academic opportunities available through the Faculty of Forestry. Thank you for allowing the VPAUA Office to respond to this submission and we appreciate the hard work and thought that the Faculty of Forestry has put into administering this proposal. We look forward to witnessing the expansion of this program and the success of its current and incoming students. If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out. We look forward to hearing from you.

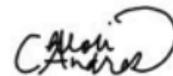
Warmly,



**Georgia Yee**  
VP Academic and University  
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