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<b>SUBJECT</b>	Increase to Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Master of Physical Therapy (MPT)
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Finance Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	September 8, 2021
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>REQUEST</b>	For information only - No action requested
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	Pam Ratner, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Faculty Planning

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The President approved a recommendation that allows the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) program to increase the current \$300 non-refundable acceptance deposit for both domestic and international students to \$1,000.

Deposits are required of students who accept an offer of admission to the MPT program. The increase to the non-refundable acceptance deposit would be effective for the 2022-2023 Winter Session Term 1 intake.

Acceptance deposits are credited towards the first tuition instalment, and forfeited by students who accept an offer of admission and then fail to register or decline the offer after the fact, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

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### APPENDICES

1. Memorandum approved by the President: Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit for the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) Program
2. Student Acceptance Deposit Consultation Report

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**Provost and Vice-President, Academic**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Santa J. Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor *Santa Ono*

**FROM:** Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, UBC Vancouver *Andrew Szeri*

**DATE:** July 7, 2021

**RE:** **Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit for the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) Program**

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I am recommending that the President approve an increase to the non-refundable acceptance deposit for domestic and international students applying to the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) Program, from the currently approved \$300 to \$1,000, effective 2022/23 Winter Session, Term 1 (i.e., September 2022). Non-refundable deposits are levied when students accept an offer of admission; the deposits are applied to students' first tuition instalments.

### RATIONALE

The intent of the fee change is to encourage applicants to make their acceptance decisions for the MPT program in a timely manner. Such timely decisions permit the program to make offers to waitlisted students if and when space becomes available. The intent of the fee change is not to place undue hardship on applicants. Special arrangements will be made for students who may not be able to pay their deposits, at the time they are due, on a case-by-case basis.

Currently, some students pay the deposits and later decline their admission shortly before classes commence. The MPT program accepts approximately 100 students each year over the two distributed sites – UBC and UNBC. Last year, 7 of the 16 students who declined their offers, after having accepted them, did so after paying the current deposit of \$300. This suggests that some students consider this an acceptable amount to risk forfeiting so that they can secure their admission while they await offers from other programs or make their final decision.

The difficulties caused by students paying the deposit and declining at the last minute are twofold. First, the spot could be offered earlier to a student who is genuinely enthusiastic and committed to the program. A late offer can cause unnecessary stress for waitlisted students admitted late in the summer and make it more difficult to yield them, and the administrative burden is increased due to the workload associated with processing and admitting students into the program. The Master of

Physical Therapy is a condensed and rigorous program. Students cannot be admitted into the program after Orientation Week, or during the first week of class.

A consultation was undertaken with the AMS and the Graduate Student Society, by the VP Students Office, between May 17, 2021 and June 15, 2021. A copy of the consultation report is attached. The AMS advised that they are in favour of the proposed changes, although would like to see consideration given to students who may have financial constraints such as those awaiting funding from approved government student loans. This concern has been acknowledged and special consideration will be given to such students, on a case-by-case basis.

**MASTER OF PHYSICAL THERAPY ACCEPTANCE FEE DEPOSIT INCREASE  
STUDENT CONSULTATION REPORT**

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Department of Physical Therapy, conducted a student consultation regarding a proposal for the Master of Physical Therapy program to increase the deposit prospective students pay when offered a spot in the program. 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)

**Mode of Consultation**

The consultation consisted of an e-consultation. 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 proposal. A meeting was not requested by student representatives.

**Basis of Consultation:** The consultation was based on a fee increase proposal and rationale document created by the Department of Physical Therapy. Please see Appendix 1 for the invitation and fee increase rationale document.

**Timelines:** The e-consultation was conducted over the period of May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Summary of Student Feedback:** A submission was received from the AMS. The verbatim submission is in Appendix 2. The Department of Physical Therapy provided a written response to the feedback from the AMS which is also included in Appendix 2.

Organization	Summary
AMS	<b>SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WHO CANNOT PAY AN INCREASED DEPOSIT</b> <i>“While the AMS is in favour of the proposed changes, we would like to raise further awareness for a potential issue that should be looked into further by the department. We stress that the 233% initial tuition deposit increase may pose a financial barrier to many students; for example, \$1000 may be a burden to those who have yet to receive funding from governmental student loans at the time of deposit payment. If approved, we hope that exceptions can be granted for students with financial difficulty when paying the initial deposit.”</i>

No submissions were received from the GSS or from individual students.

## APPENDIX 1: INVITATION TO CONSULTATION AND FEE INCREASE RATIONALE DOCUMENT

Hello Eshana and Alison,

There is a proposal by the Department of Physical Therapy to increase the deposit for students offered a place in the Master of Physical Therapy program.

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to the proposed **deposit increase** 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 deposit increase if they wish. **Please note: the scope of this consultation process is limited to the change in deposit amount.**

The consultation will consist of:

- 1. e-consultation.** Please find attached a document which outlines the details and rationale for the increased deposit amount. Please share the document and this email as you see appropriate. All **comments on proposed increase to the deposit can be provided confidentially to Tlell Elviss – Senior Program Strategist, Vice President Students Office ([tlell.elviss@ubc.ca](mailto:tlell.elviss@ubc.ca)).**
- 2. Face to Face meeting:** If requested by student representatives, we can arrange a face-to-face meeting with the program leads regarding the fee change. Please advise as soon as possible if you would like us to arrange a meeting.

**THE CONSULTATION WILL CLOSE ON TUESDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2021 AT 4:30PM.**

### 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 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

Tlell

## **Master of Physical Therapy Deposit Fee Increase Rationale**

### **Description:**

The Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) program is a 26-month full time professional program, consisting of 86 credits of core courses and over 1,025 hours of placements (12 credits). The MPT program is offered by the Department of Physical Therapy. For more details, see <https://physicaltherapy.med.ubc.ca/>.

### **Proposed Fee Change:**

The MPT program proposes to increase the current \$300 non-refundable tuition deposit to \$1,000 non-refundable tuition deposit. The deposit is applied to tuition fees for students who enter the MPT program. The scheduled implementation would be the spring of 2022 (when deposits are first required to secure an offer to the MPT program) for entrance in September of 2022. With this timeline, we will advertise the increase on our website before admissions for the 2022-2024 cohort are opened. This proposal would be a one-time increase. The current tuition rate for the MPT program is \$ \$15,402.52 for domestic students and \$95,469.36 for international students. Thus, the proposed deposit represents 6.49% and 1.04% of the tuition amounts, respectively. We anticipate the tuition will increase gradually, however there is no intention to regularly increase the deposit amount, meaning that these percentages will slowly decrease over time.

### **Fee Rationale:**

The intent of the fee change is to encourage applicants to decide whether they will accept their MPT Program offer in a timely manner. Such timely decisions permit us to make offers to waitlisted students if and when space becomes available. The intent of the fee change is not to place undue hardship on applicants. Special arrangements will be made with students who may not be able to pay the increased deposit on a case-by-case basis. Currently some students pay the deposit fees, but later decline their spot before the program start. The MPT program, accepts approximately 100 students each year over two campuses. Last year, 7 of the 16 students who declined their offers did so after paying the current fee of \$300, which suggests that some students consider this an acceptable fee to secure their spot while they wait for offers from other programs / make their final decision. The difficulties caused by students paying the fee and declining at the last minute are twofold. First, the spot could be offered earlier to a student who is genuinely enthusiastic and committed to the program, a late offer can, cause unnecessary stress for a student admitted later in the summer, and the administrative burden is increased due to the workload associated with processing and admitting students into the program. The Master of Physical Therapy is a condensed and rigorous program. Students cannot be admitted into the program after Orientation Week, or during the first week of class.

AMS Submission



**Submission to the UBC Board of Governors Regarding the Change of Deposit Fee to the Master of Physical Therapy Program**

Dear members of the UBC 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 May 17th, 2021 on the change of deposit fees for the Master of Physical Therapy program.

The MPT program proposes to increase the current \$300 non-refundable tuition deposit to \$1,000 non-refundable tuition deposit starting from Spring 2022, in order to encourage applicants to decide whether they will accept their MPT Program offer in a timely manner.

While the AMS is in favour of the proposed changes, we would like to raise further awareness for a potential issue that should be looked into further by the department. We stress that the 233% initial tuition deposit increase may pose a financial barrier to many students; for example, \$1000 may be a burden to those who have yet to receive funding from governmental student loans at the time of deposit payment. If approved, we hope that exceptions can be granted for students with financial difficulty when paying the initial deposit. We also wish that any assurances can be formalized in writing.

The AMS would like to sincerely thank the University Executives for their continued commitment to ensuring that student voices are heard. We hope to see this continue and look forward to working with UBC to make education affordable and accessible to UBC students across all levels. We also appreciate the Board of Governors and your consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

**Eshana Bhangu**  
Vice President, Academic and University Affairs  
Alma Mater Society

**Cole Evans**  
President  
Alma Mater Society

**The response from the Faculty of Physical Therapy to the AMS.**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Sue Murphy**, B.H.Sc (PT), M. Ed.  
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Faculty of Medicine  
Department of Physical Therapy  
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Phone 604 822 7414  
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June 17, 2021

Cole Evans, President  
Eshana Bhangu, Vice President, Academic and University  
Affairs UBC Alma Mater Society  
6199 University  
Boulevard  
Vancouver, V6T 1Z1

Dear Eshana and Cole,

The Department of Physical Therapy would like to thank the AMS for its careful consideration and support of the change to the deposit fee for the Master of Physical Therapy program. The objective of the fee increase is not to place undue financial hardship on incoming students; students experiencing delays in funding or other financial hardships will have the option to defer their deposit payment to a later date. Additionally, students are clearly informed that their deposits will be credited toward their initial Master of Physical Therapy tuition payment, so there is no overall increase in fees paid.

I hope this alleviates your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sue Murphy'.

Sue Murphy, BHSc, MEd  
Head, Department of Physical  
Therapy Faculty of Medicine  
University of British Columbia