



SUBJECT	Tuition - Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	March 22, 2023
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	APPROVAL REQUESTED IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, under authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves 2023-2024 tuition of \$194.78 per credit for domestic and \$1,543.19 per credit for international students in the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources program, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
SUPPORTED BY	Simon Bates, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Teaching and Learning <i>pro tem</i> Bhushan Gopaluni, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Faculty Planning <i>pro tem</i>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UBC Faculty of Forestry proposes to create a new degree, the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources. The program was approved the UBC Vancouver Senate in February 2023. Pending approval from the Board of Governors, the program aims to admit its first cohort of students in September 2024.

The proposed degree combines five existing degrees (seven undergraduate programs):

- Bachelor of Science in Forestry (Majors: Forest Resources Management; Forest Operations)
- Bachelor of Science in Forest Bioeconomy Sciences and Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Forest Sciences
- Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Conservation (Majors: Science and Management; Global Perspectives)
- Bachelor of Science in Wood Products Processing

The existing programs would become *Majors* under this new degree, with the exception that the two majors of the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Conservation will become *specializations* within the new Conservation Major.

The Majors to be included on graduation parchments are as follows:

- Bioeconomy Sciences and Technology
- Conservation
- Forest Management
- Forest Operations
- Forest Sciences
- Wood Products

In the 2023-2024 academic year, tuition fees are \$194.78 per credit for domestic students and \$1,543.19 per credit for international students. These fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board to remain consistent with tuition rates for the superseded degrees leading up to the degree's launch in September 2024. Students currently enrolled in one of the impacted programs will be given the choice of finishing their degree in the current iteration of the program or, with support from Forestry advising, transitioning into the new program as appropriate.

The Office of the Vice-President Students conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal (as per Policy LR4). The e-consultation was conducted from November 07, 2022 to December 07, 2022. A submission was received from the AMS who expressed support for this initiative.

The aim for the creation of a unified program is largely to create a simplified degree-granting system. Our current suite of seven degrees reflects how programs in our Faculty have evolved over time; when a new program was created, so too was a new degree. With continued growth, this is fast becoming an untenable management problem. In effect, what we are seeking is the simplicity of one degree (with options for Majors), which is the norm in other faculties across campus, even the larger ones like Science and Arts. This proposal greatly simplifies the degree offerings within the Faculty of Forestry, yielding a number of benefits:

- Simplified recruitment, enrolment management, and student progression.
- Simpler messaging and more efficient marketing strategies aimed at potential students.
- Closer alignment with practices of other UBC faculties (i.e., one or two degrees per faculty).
- Providing a common core of first-year courses so that students are not bound to an area of study prior to coming to UBC.
- Providing a consistent framework to develop and implement Faculty-wide undergraduate initiatives, such as Minors and Dual Degrees.

The creation of a unified degree will not result in any substantive changes to program-level learning outcomes or significant changes to the courses that are currently required by each program, nor will there be any impacts on current Minors, Honours Degrees, or Dual Degrees. Some of proposed majors have minor differences in the total number of required credits compared to the degrees they are replacing: four majors will have a 1 credit increase in total credits required and two majors will have a 1-3 decrease in total number of required credits.

APPENDICES

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

Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

Program Description: Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources

Anticipated Start Date: September 2024

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	\$194.78	\$1,543.19
Application Fees (Undergraduate) – Note 2	\$75.50	\$127.75
Supplemental Application Fees	N/A	N/A
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Note 3	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
Other Faculty and Course Fees – Note 4	Varies	Varies

Note 1 – These rates are aligned with the approved per-credit tuition rates in the Faculty of Forestry for 2022/23. Proposed tuition will be subject to annual increases as established by the university.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2024W application cycle and is subject to annual increases.

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

Note 4 - Several majors have required field courses that impose course fees to cover food, lodging, and transportation. The field courses required for the new majors are the same as those required for the degrees being replaced, and there will be no changes to those fees resulting from the transition to the B.Sc. in Natural Resources degree. Please see below for a list of required courses which have associated, Board approved fees. These fees appear in the [UBC Calendar](#):

Course	Major				
	Conservation (Science & Management)	Forest Management	Forest Operations	Forest Sciences	Wood Products
FRST 351		X	X	X	
FRST 452		X	X		
CONS 451	X				
WOOD 353					X

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NATURAL RESOURCES

STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Faculty of Forestry, conducted a student consultation regarding the proposal to create a single, new, direct-entry undergraduate degree program - the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources. 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)
- The Forestry Undergraduate Society (FUS)

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/zoom 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. Please see Appendix 1 for the invitation and tuition rationale document.

Timelines: The e-consultation was conducted over the period of Monday November 7, 2022 to Wednesday December 7, 2022.

Summary of Student Feedback: Submissions were received from the AMS. No submission was submitted by the FUS. The verbatim submissions are in Appendix 2.

No individual student submissions were received.

Organization	Summary
AMS	<p>Support for proposed program</p> <p>“The AMS is in favour of this proposed program addition. We believe the B.Sc. in Natural Resources program will provide a consistent framework to develop and implement Faculty-wide undergraduate initiatives, and will help enhance the facilitation of the recruitment process, enrollment management, and student progression.”</p>

APPENDIX 1: INVITATION TO CONSULTATION AND TUITION RATIONALE DOCUMENT

*****This message is sent on behalf of Dr. Samantha Reid, Executive Director of the Office of the Vice President, Students*****

Hello everyone,

There is a proposal by the Faculty of Forestry to create a single, new, direct-entry undergraduate degree program - **the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources**, that will consolidate 7 of their 9 existing direct-entry degrees. There are no tuition changes proposed because of these curricular updates.

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 and fees rationale for the program, and
- the proposed tuition and fees.

Please share the document and this email as you see appropriate. **Comments and student organization submissions on the tuition proposal can be provided to Irena Deretic – Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Vice President Students (vpsassist@mail.ubc.ca).**

2. Face to Face/Zoom meeting

If requested by student representatives, we can arrange a face-to-face/Zoom 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, DECEMBER 7, 2022 AT MIDNIGHT.

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,

Samantha

Samantha Reid Ph.D. (she/her)

Executive Director

Office of the Vice President Students

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEW PROGRAM TUITION CONSULTATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NATURAL RESOURCES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This consultation is requested as it relates to curricular updates proposed by the Faculty of Forestry to create a single, new, direct-entry undergraduate degree program that will consolidate 7 of their 9 existing direct-entry degrees. There are no tuition changes proposed because of these curricular updates.

The Faculty of Forestry at UBC is proposing to create a new degree, the **Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources**. Currently, the Faculty of Forestry grants seven degrees to students in nine undergraduate programs, as follows:

- Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship
- Bachelor of Science in Forestry
 - Major: Forest Resource Management
 - Major: Forest Operations
- Bachelor of Science in Forest Bioeconomy Sciences and Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Forest Sciences
- Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Conservation
 - Major: Science and Management
 - Major: Global Perspectives
- Bachelor of Science in Wood Products Processing
- Bachelor of Urban Forestry

This proposed program seeks to combine the five 'Bachelor of Science' degrees (seven undergraduate programs – noted in light blue in the above list) into one, unified degree, the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources. Each of the programs would become *Majors* in this new model, with one exception. The two majors in the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Conservation will become *specializations* within the new Conservation Major. The Majors to be included on graduation parchments are as follows:

- Bioeconomy Sciences and Technology
- Conservation
- Forest Management
- Forest Operations
- Forest Sciences
- Wood Products

Notably, the Bachelor of Urban Forestry and Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship were not included in this initiative. The reasons for this revolved largely around an inability to accommodate the needs of our Urban Forestry students and a desire to grow this program by differentiating it as a new, innovative, less scientifically-intensive offering from the Faculty of Forestry. Likewise, the Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship was developed to take place in Westbank, British Columbia and is an intensively field-based interdisciplinary program, and is thus best-suited as a standalone degree. These decisions came after a good deal of consultation and consideration, but what it ultimately means is that the Faculty would offer three undergraduate degree options: (1) Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, (2) Bachelor of Urban Forestry, and (3) Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship.

The aim for the creation of a unified Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources degree is largely to create a simplified degree-granting system. Our current suite of seven degrees reflects how programs in our Faculty have evolved over time; when a new program was created, so too was a new degree. With continued growth, this is fast becoming an untenable management problem. In effect, what we are seeking is the

simplicity of one degree (with options for Majors), which is the norm in other faculties across campus, even the larger ones like Science and Arts. This restructuring has many potential benefits, including:

- Facilitating the processes of recruitment, enrolment management, and student progression.
- Providing opportunities to revisit/redesign/update/enhance our undergraduate offerings and learning outcomes through a deep consideration of potential course synergies, rationalizations, and more efficient pedagogical approaches between and within Majors.
- Lending itself to simpler messaging and more efficient marketing strategies aimed at potential students.
- Aligning more closely with how other faculties at UBC operate (i.e., one or two degrees per faculty).
- Providing a common first year so that students are not bound to an area of study prior to coming to UBC.
- Providing a consistent framework to develop and implement Faculty-wide undergraduate initiatives, such as Minors and Dual Degrees.

The creation of a unified degree will not result in any substantive changes to program-level learning outcomes or significant changes to the courses that are currently required by each program, nor will there be any impacts on current Minors, Honours Degrees, or Dual Degrees. The creation of a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources degree will, however, provide a logical starting point for the Faculty to consider how we can take advantage of synergies between Majors to more efficiently deliver our undergraduate curriculum. No major changes to courses / course mapping are being proposed at this point, with two exceptions:

- First, our suite of first year introductory / survey courses (FRST 100, CONS 101, WOOD 120) will be replaced by 2 new courses: a 3-credit course (NRES 100) and a 1-credit seminar (NRES 101) meant to provide students with a broad overview of the breadth of topics taught in the Faculty, such that they will be able to make a more informed choice when declaring their Majors by the beginning of second year.
- Second, the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources will include a core of common first-year courses (20 credits) among all six of the Majors. This change addresses a key challenge that the Faculty has historically faced with respect to the unreasonable expectation that high school students would be able to decide on their specific area of study prior to arriving at UBC. The proposed common first year allows first-year students to 'test the waters' of the different Majors. Direct entry students from high school will be asked to select the remaining first-year courses (12-13 credits) based on their interests. However, they will not be asked to declare a Major until prior to registering for their second-year courses. Because most of the courses in first year will be common across majors, moving students into any of the Majors will be a relatively seamless exercise.

Students currently enrolled in one of the impacted programs will be given the choice of finishing their degree in the current iteration of the program or, with support from Forestry advising, transitioning into the new program as appropriate.

STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

We held two open town-hall meetings for current students. The first was in-person on December 14, 2021, and the second (held online due to the COVID Omicron surge) was on January 20, 2022. A brief presentation was given, outlining the rationale for the change, the projected benefits, and the proposed changes in course plans. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive on many aspects:

Streamlining of application process (by reducing number of degrees) and delayed major declaration:

- *"Easier application for admission"*
- *"More freedom in choosing program / not being limited after choosing your program"*
- *"Easier to change between majors, reducing barriers for students & staff"*

- *“I also like the idea of declaring a major in second year because I knew quite a few people who did this but had trouble due to the degree separation”*
- *“I think that this is a good idea + if this was available to me in first year I think my path throughout my degree would have been drastically different / better”*

Shared core courses:

- *“Starting everyone off with same courses in first year is a great idea.”*
- *“I really like the common(ish) first year and the new NRES courses [NRES 100 and 101]”*
- *“Shared first year + getting to present a more cohesive approach rather than only focusing on your major’s perspective.*
- *“I think it’s good to streamline the Faculty to allow students to understand what they’re going to take”*

Support for new courses, NRES 100 and 101:

- *“The NRES 101 class seems interesting and I would have enjoyed having an insight into different programs and career paths . . .”*
- *“The new NRES courses [NRES 100 and 101] will introduce students to the various programs offered in the Forestry Faculty”*

Support for greater sense of community:

- *“Focus on community and communication”*
- *“I struggled in my first year at UBC and the more cohesive first year of this program is very appealing. Being able to surround first years with their fellow forestry students I think would really help.”*
- *“I think these aspects are great for simplicity, community building, and allowing students some flexibility in choosing which major suits them best.”*

A few students expressed concerns:

- *“Will the accreditations after graduation remain the same”*
- *“Accreditation and legitimacy of FRM and OPS [Forest Resources Management and Forest Operations]”*
- *“Students might feel overwhelmed with a wide range of content [presumably in NRES 100 and 101] from other programs.”*
- *“Might be confusing to present to first years”*

With regard to those concerns, accreditations attached to existing degrees will still apply to the new corresponding majors, as there will be no significant changes to program-level learning outcomes. We also recognize that the range of options in majors may seem overwhelming to first-year students, but NRES 100 and 101 will be deliberately structured to introduce students to those options and support them in determining their best path. Previously, these decisions would need to be made by applicants to our programs before they even arrived at UBC, so we think the new approach is far superior.

TUITION AND FEES RATIONALE

There are no proposed changes to the tuition as originally approved by the Board of Governors for each of the effective degree programs. For the 2022/23 academic year, tuition fees per credit for the programs in the Faculty of Forestry are:

- \$190.97 per credit for domestic students
- \$1,469.71 per credit for new incoming international students

These fees are subject to increases as approved by the UBC Board of Governors. We anticipate the transition to be effective in September 2024.

Some of proposed majors have minor differences in the total number of required credits compared to the degrees they are replacing, as shown below.

Proposed Major Streams	Number of total credits required for graduation (current)	Number of total credits required for graduation (proposed)
Bioeconomy Sciences and Technology	122	123
Conservation	123/124	122
Forest Management (Integrated Resource Management Specialization)	125/126	127
Forest Management (Community and Aboriginal Forestry Specialization)	127/128	127
Forest Operations	132	129
Forest Sciences	121	122
Wood Products	137	138

There are no additional new fees associated with the program. Students will choose a major prior to registering for second year courses, as stated above. In first year, students will all take 20 credits of core common courses and 12-13 credits of courses recommended based on the Major they intend to pursue. There is overlap in these courses among degrees, however if a student chooses a major whose course plan differs significantly from the major-specific courses they took in first year, they may need to use elective credits or take additional courses to make up the difference. This is similar to what currently happens when students choose to switch programs in our faculty, but with the greater alignment in programs' course plans, this should be reduced.

PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES

Program Description: Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources

Anticipated Start Date: September 2024

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	\$190.97	\$1,469.71
Application Fees (Undergraduate) – Note 2	\$74.25	\$125.25
Supplemental Application Fees	N/A	N/A
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Note 3	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
Other Faculty and Course Fees – Note 4	Varies	Varies

Note 1 – These rates are aligned with the approved per-credit tuition rates in the Faculty of Forestry for 2022/23. Proposed tuition will be subject to annual increases as established by the university.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2023W application cycle and is subject to annual increases.

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

Note 4 - Several majors have required field courses that impose course fees to cover food, lodging, and transportation. The field courses required for the new majors are the same as those required for the degrees being replaced, and there will be no changes to those fees resulting from the transition to the B.Sc. in Natural Resources degree. Please see below for a list of required courses which have associated, Board approved fees. These fees appear in the [UBC Calendar](#):

Course	Major				
	Conservation (Science & Management)	Forest Management	Forest Operations	Forest Sciences	Wood Products
FRST 351		X	X	X	
FRST 452		X	X		
CONS 451	X				
WOOD 353					X

APPENDIX 2: STUDENT SUBMISSIONS & FACULTY RESPONSES

Submission from the AMS.



December 2nd, 2022 UBC
Board of Governors

Re: New Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources

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 on the proposal by the Faculty of Forestry to create a new Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources program.

The B.Sc. in Natural Resources seeks to combine five existing ‘Bachelor of Science’ degrees into one, unified degree. The five degrees that will be combined will be the B.Sc. in Forestry, B.Sc. in Forest Bioeconomy Sciences and Technology, B.Sc. in Forest Sciences, B.Sc. in Natural Resources Conservation, and the B.Sc. in Wood Products Processing.

The AMS is in favour of this proposed program addition. We believe the B.Sc. in Natural Resources program will provide a consistent framework to develop and implement Faculty-wide undergraduate initiatives, and will help enhance the facilitation of the recruitment process, enrollment management, and student progression. The Faculty of Forestry has also conducted rigorous student consultation and have received positive feedback on many aspects of the new program such as having shared core courses, support for new foundational courses, and contributions to a greater sense of community.

The AMS would like to sincerely thank the Faculty of Forestry for their 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’s consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

Dana Turdy
VP Academic and University Affairs Alma
Mater Society