



SUBJECT	International Tuition Reduction - Master of Music Program
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	March 22, 2023
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	<p>APPROVAL REQUESTED</p> <p>IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves a reduction in the tuition fees for new and existing international students from up to \$7,058.48 per instalment to standard rates, which for 2023-2024 is \$3,166.73 per instalment (minimum three (3) instalments, no change), effective 2023 Winter Term 1, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.</p>
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>

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The School of Music, in the Faculty of Arts, currently offers four graduate programs: Master of Arts (MA), Ph.D, Master of Music (M.Mus.), and Doctor of Music Arts (DMA). Of these programs, only the M.Mus. is classified as a “specialized” program, which results in a substantial tuition differential being levied on international M.Mus. students.

After several years of discussion and review, including work done by the School’s Advanced Education Renewal Committee and consultations with peer programs across Canada, the School is seeking to reduce international tuition rates charged to international students to align with standard graduate program degree rates. To illustrate the change, the approved rates for 2023-2024 are presented below. Pending approval by the Board, the School plans to adjust the rates starting September 2023 for all existing and new incoming international students. Domestic tuition instalment rates remain unchanged as they are already aligned with standard graduate program degree rates.

	Instalments Per Year	Minimum # of Instalments	Domestic Tuition (per instalment)	Domestic Continuing Fee (per instalment)	International Tuition (per instalment)	International Continuing Fee (per instalment)
Current	3	3	\$1,802.52	\$823.50	\$7,058.48*	\$3,166.73
Proposed	3	3	\$1,802.52	\$823.50	\$3,166.73	\$3,166.73

* The 2023-2024 international tuition fee currently varies between \$6,466.31 to \$7,058.48 based on student’s program start year.

The Master of Music entry on the fees section of the Academic Calendar under “Specialized Master’s Degree Programs” will be removed as the fees will be aligned with standard rates moving forward.

Typically, where programs assess specialized tuition amounts, international students are not eligible for UBC’s International Tuition Award (ITA). However, M.Mus. students were grandfathered into eligibility; as such, with the proposed tuition reduction to align with standard tuition amounts, international students will remain eligible for ITA funding into the future.

Reclassification of the M.Mus. program from the ‘specialized’ to ‘standard’ status will allow the School to better support all students in their various graduate programs. At the M.Mus. level, an offer covering tuition is quite standard amongst competing programs. Given the School’s resource allocation, the change to standard tuition would greatly enhance their ability to make competitive offers to students they hope to recruit. In turn, this will allow the School to use their GSI allocation more equitably and judiciously. The School is frequently in direct competition with graduate programs in Ontario and Quebec when recruiting M.Mus. students (especially in double reeds, horn and tenor voice). This change would allow them to be more competitive in their financial offers, attracting the best applicants in their consideration of the UBC School of Music.

The School enrolls, on average, 15 new international students every year. In recent years, the School has found that a number of students withdraw from the program in their second year because of insufficient funding and the high cost of living in the Vancouver. Overall, they see many benefits from this tuition reduction that will positively impact efforts to recruit, support and retain the best possible student for their program needs and objectives.

After consulting with the Office of the Vice-President Students, it was determined that this proposed tuition reduction did not require a student tuition consultation as per Policy LR4.