



SUBJECT	International Tuition Reduction - Master of Museum Education (MMEd) Program
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 a reduction in both the tuition fees and the continuing fees for international students in the Master of Museum Education program to align with domestic tuition rates in 2024 Winter Session, 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>

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has been considered previously by the Finance Committee in [May 2012](#) (OPEN SESSION). Action: Tuition Fees for New Master of Museum Education Degree Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Master's program in Museum Education (MMEd) first launched in 2012 and was designed to run as a cohort, whereby a distinct group of students collaborate and work as a community of professional learners throughout its 2 years and 1 term. The tuition fee structure of the MMEd were last reviewed in 2014, and a revised structure which heavily differentiated tuition for International students was approved by the [Board of Governors in 2015](#). At that time, the factors which contributed to a justification of the tuition fee differential were as follows:

- The MMEd program was delivered in-person/face-to-face on the Vancouver campus;
- The program was in collaborative partnership with a foreign university (Beijing Normal University, or BNU) whereby approximately two-thirds of the bi-annual intake comprised students from China. The partnership with BNU was a deliberate strategy to provide much needed professional development to the museum sector in China. Additionally, UBC sought to assist BNU in developing their own Museum Education program with an eye to sustainability of BNU's delivery of independent museum education professional development.

However, in 2016, there were the below noted significant changes to the program:

- The partnership with BNU was discontinued;
- The delivery mode of the program changed from face-to-face on the Vancouver campus to online.

The move to an online program delivery mode in 2016 was very successful from a strategic point of view insofar as it opened the program up to full-time practicing museum professionals from across the nation, drawing from a wider pool of Canadian applicants. In many cases, the flexibility of the online format has allowed the program to attract high quality graduate student applicants who would not ordinarily move to Vancouver, foregoing their museum-based professional careers to undertake an on- campus program.

That said, the program has not benefited from the same growth in the international sector. In the proceeding 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 intakes of the program, the number of international student applicants has been low – on average about 5% or less of a given intake. Of these international students, it is evident that they hail from predominantly wealthy countries where the exchange rate on the Canadian dollar is very favorable. As the program continues to remain a very unique offering (i.e. focusing on Museum Education rather than the more common focus on curatorial and/or material conservation practices), it is believed that the international interest is likely much higher than the current international application numbers belie.

The purpose of the proposal is to reduce international rates to domestic rates for 2024 Winter Session. The continuing rate for international students would remain the same as international tuition rates. To illustrate the change, the approved rates for 2023/24 are presented below, but subject to increases leading up to 2024 Winter Session, as approved by the Board.

	Instalments per year	Minimum # of instalments	Domestic (per instalment)	Domestic continuing fee per instalment	International (per instalment)*	International continuing fee per instalment
Current	7	7	\$2,451.21	\$823.50	\$4,482.05	\$4,482.05
Proposed	7	7	\$2,451.21	\$823.50	\$2,451.21	\$2,451.21

* The 2023/24 international tuition fee currently varies between \$4,188.53 to \$4,482.05 based on student’s program start year.

The program believes there is an equity issue when it comes to the accessibility of this degree program amongst potential international demographics heavily biased in favor of very wealthy countries. Moreover, they believe that it is likely that even museum professionals in many first world countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, and the UK would find the fee differential very challenging to manage, let alone museum educators from developing countries.

They also believe that a larger component of international students would be of benefit to future intakes of the program, since the MMed model is a cohort based model. Accordingly, insights of museum education practices from jurisdictions beyond Canada are important and would only add to the quality of learning and overall richness of the learning experience.

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.