



<b>SUBJECT</b>	Tuition   Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Technology & Society, UBC Vancouver
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Finance Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	June 14, 2023
<b>SESSION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy:
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	OPEN
<b>REQUEST</b>	<b>APPROVAL REQUESTED</b> IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves tuition for the Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Technology & Society of \$1,802.52 per installment for domestic students and \$3,166.73 per installment for international students, effective immediately, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC-Vancouver
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	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

**PRIOR SUBMISSIONS**

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

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Th School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA) in the Faculty of Applied Science is proposing a new doctoral program entitled the Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Technology and Society (DTS Ph.D.). The proposed program fulfils critical research challenges, growing professional demand, and the School’s own competitive needs. At present, SALA is the only major university department of its kind in Canada that does not offer a doctoral program.

Following approval of the program by the UBC Vancouver Senate in May 2023, the request for approval of the Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Technology and Society was forwarded to the Learning & Research Committee under the Committee’s June 2023 agenda. Pending approval from the Board of Governors and the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, the program aims to admit its first cohort of students in September 2024. The School anticipates enrolling a minimum of 2 students per year.

The proposed tuition for this program is aligned with the tuition for standard doctoral degree programs, which for 2023/24 is \$1,802.52 per installment for domestic students and \$3,166.73 per installment for international students, with a minimum of six installments. Continuing fees will be applied after the ninth installment. These fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors. Full-time graduate students will be provided with a yearly stipend in accordance with the UBC Minimum Funding Policy. The current rate as of September 2021 is set at \$22,000 per year. The stipend is anticipated mainly from the Research Supervisor's research grants, but may consist of a combination of internal/external awards, teaching related work, research assistantships and graduate academic assistantships.

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 February 27, 2023 to March 27, 2023. A submission was received from the AMS and GSS, both of whom were supportive of the program as proposed.

Key elements of this program that are in alignment with **UBC's Strategic Plan** include:

Strategy 3 > [Thriving communities](#). Our graduates will spearhead advanced research that will contribute to solving global challenges. SALA's core research themes — housing & diversity, healthy & resilient environments, design & the future of construction and form & aesthetics — explicitly address built environment challenges with a focus on climate change and social justice.

Strategy 6 > [Research Culture](#). The addition of a doctoral program in SALA will deepen the research culture in the school and encourage greater cross-disciplinary research in Applied Science and at UBC. The program will train educational leaders and professional specialists who can carry out world-leading research in addressing the global challenges facing the built environment.

Strategy 14 > [Interdisciplinary Education](#). The program will champion the creation of new forms of academic scholarship in cross-disciplinary research. The program will seek and primarily accept design experts, who will utilize their existing training while expanding their expertise into new disciplinary areas. As in the name of the program, DTS Ph.D. students will address research questions that lay at the confluence of design, science, and the humanities.

Strategy 16 > [Public Relevance](#). Student research will regularly engage with both local and global challenges, such as climate action, affordable housing and social justice. Local industry has expressed interest in collaborative research specifically engaging with Ph.D. students.

The program will address the following goals and actions in [UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan](#):

Goal 3 Moving Research Forward. DTS Ph.D. scholarship will reflect a critique of the history of colonialism and its ongoing impact on Indigenous peoples and the higher-learning academic environment in Canada.

Goal 4 Indigenizing the Curriculum. The program will seek to create an inclusive learning environment that will enable and encourage students to learn about Indigenous cultures and ways of knowing and being. Students will be enabled and encouraged to build awareness and research expertise on the realities, histories, cultures and knowledge of Indigenous peoples of Canada.

Goal 6 Recruiting Indigenous People. SALA will dedicate new funding resources to welcoming and supporting Indigenous Ph.D. scholars into the DTS Ph.D. program.

The School anticipates this program will attract both recent and mid-career graduates of professional degree programs, such as a Master of Architecture, Master of Landscape Architecture or Master of Urban Design. Individuals with aligned degrees in contiguous disciplines, such as Planning, Urban Forestry, Geography and Engineering, will also be attracted to the program. The program will train designers who will become leaders in advanced specialized research within the design disciplines, develop innovations in technological applications and create inclusive solutions towards understanding the complex social, cultural, economic and political forces that inform and shape the built environment. The program will foster creative and interdisciplinary research between design disciplines of architecture, landscape and urban design with engineering, humanities and social sciences. Graduates of the program will attain expertise in a specialized area of the design and performance of the built environment, such that they are able to take positions of policy, industry or academic leadership in BC and abroad, and address contemporary challenges such as climate action, affordable housing and spatial justice in urban development.

---

## APPENDICES

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

### Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

**Program Description:** Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Society and Technology

**Anticipated Start Date:** September 2024

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per instalment - Note 1	\$1,802.52	\$3,166.73
Minimum No. of Instalments	6	6
Continuing Fees per Instalment (assessed after 9 instalments)	\$823.50	\$3,166.73
Application Fees (Graduate) – Note 2	\$114.00	\$168.25
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit	N/A	N/A
Other Faculty and Course Fees	N/A	N/A

Note 1 – Proposed tuition is meant to be aligned with standard doctoral degree programs, and will be subject to annual increases as established by the university. Tuition and student fees are charged in three equal instalments payable in January, May and September.

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

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN DESIGN, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY**

**STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION REPORT**

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA), in the Faculty of Applied Science, conducted a student consultation regarding the proposal for developing of the PhD in Design, Technology, and Society (DTS Ph.D.). 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/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 February 27, 2023 to Monday March 27, 2023.

**Summary of Student Feedback:** Submissions were received from the AMS and the GSS. The verbatim submissions are in Appendix 2.

No individual student submissions were received.

Organization	Summary
<b>AMS</b>	<p><b>Support for proposed program</b>                      “The AMS is in favour of the proposed new program. We believe the Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Technology, and Society program will be a great educational pathway for individuals who wish to fill academic positions and obtain advanced expertise of decision-making in the design process and the broader cultural and socioeconomic implications of design decisions.”</p>
<b>GSS</b>	<p><b>Support for proposed program</b>                      “The proposed program is justified, and emphatically backed by the support of students.”</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 School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA), in the Faculty of Applied Science, regarding developing of the PhD in Design, Technology, and Society (DTS Ph.D.). The program will create specialists that develop research innovation at the intersection of design scholarship, science and engineering, and the humanities.

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to the **acceptance deposit proposal/ 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 proposal if they wish. **Please note: the scope of this consultation process is limited to the acceptance deposit proposal/ 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](mailto: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 MONDAY MARCH 27, 2023 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**

The University of British Columbia | Musqueam & Syilx Okanagan Nation Traditional Territories  
6328 Memorial Road | Vancouver BC | V6T 1Z2  
Phone 604 827 2922 | [samantha.reid@ubc.ca](mailto:samantha.reid@ubc.ca)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

\*\*\*\*\*

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN DESIGN, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design are evolving from a primarily professional field to one that supports and increasingly integrates novel scholarship and research. This evolution, which has been underway for several years, has begun to change the role and mission of designers in the academic community and professional practice. Unlike a decade ago, a doctoral degree is now becoming a required credential for new university faculty in design schools and an attractive credential for new specialist positions in industry, the non-profit sector and government. The School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA), in the Faculty of Applied Science, is currently the top-ranked design school in Canada. As of 2018, it is also the only major university department of its kind in Canada that does not offer a doctoral training program. It is in response to critical research challenges, growing professional demand, and the School's own competitive needs that SALA is developing a proposal for the *PhD in Design, Technology, and Society* (DTS Ph.D.). The program will create specialists that develop research innovation at the intersection of design scholarship, science and engineering, and the humanities. The program will apply cross-disciplinary expertise to tackle critical Canadian as well as global issues, such as social justice and climate change.

Each student enrolled in the DTS Ph.D. program will develop several key skills, including:

1. becoming fluent with research methods in a specialization that intersects design, technology and society,
2. developing competency in holistic design and in the development of research projects and programs
3. acquiring expertise to comprehend, write, and critically review academic articles, reports, or other forms of investigation
4. gaining experience on the use of design research as a form of policy advocacy
5. acquiring a comprehensive vision of the future of design in the context of major global socioeconomical and environmental changes.

This program will attract both recent and mid-career graduates of professional degree programs such as a Master of Architecture, Master of Landscape Architecture, or Master of Urban Design. Individuals with aligned degrees in contiguous disciplines such as Planning, Urban Forestry, Geography and Engineering will also be attracted to the program. While the program will train students for filling academic positions, market research has shown that industry is also in need of professionals with advanced expertise of decision-making in the design process and the broader cultural and socioeconomic implications of design decisions. Prominent architectural curators and research center directors now hold doctoral degrees, for example; a doctoral degree is an established pathway for securing positions in senior management consulting firms; Ph.D.-holding designers are employed in the research and development units of leading professional design firms such as HCMA, HOK, and Perkins + Will, and particularly at their Vancouver offices. Beyond industry, DTS Ph.D. graduates will also find leadership positions where research expertise on design methods and the built environment will be instrumental: museums and other cultural institutions; non-profit organizations related to housing or climate action; and – crucially - government policy.

The program aims to launch September 2024. The School anticipates enrolling 2 students per year.

### STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The PhD Program Proposal Committee has previously consulted students on two occasions. In December 2022 we met with research students currently enrolled in SALA's Master of Advances Studies in Architecture (MASA) and Master of Advanced Studies in Landscape Architecture (MASLA) programs. Students inquired about the rationale behind the length of the program and about possibilities of transfer from MASA and MASLA into the PhD. We noted that four years is a standard length for a Doctoral program in Canada. Current students in either MASA and MASLA may transfer into the PhD if they demonstrate exceptional

research ability and potential. When asked by the committee, students emphatically confirmed that there is a need for a PhD program, mainly because SALA faculty possess specialized expertise in design disciplines, the program distinguishes itself among similar programs in architecture schools as clearly interdisciplinary, and the establishment of a PhD program within Canada's top ranked architecture school is long overdue. Students also unanimously supported the concept and name of the program.

Program proponents also consulted with the SALA Student Executive Committee in January 2023. The Executive Committee includes representation from three SALA student societies, one undergraduate and two graduate. Overall, they supported the creation of the DTS PhD.

Students sought more information about how PhD students currently study with SALA faculty (through which programs) and about how SALA will financially support the program.

The committee explained how, at the moment, PhD students are typically enrolled in PhD programs in other departments, such as Forestry, Mechanical Engineering, Art History, the Institute for Environment, Resources, and Sustainability, and the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program. The pitfalls of this arrangement is that students do not learn about research methods and problems at the core of the disciplines of Architecture and Landscape architecture.

As for financial considerations, administering the Ph.D. program will be revenue-neutral or revenue-positive to SALA with all administrative costs offset by accrued tuition revenue. As it is not likely that more than 8-10 concurrent DTS Ph.D. students will be enrolled in the program at any one time, this will be a relatively small load of additional students to administratively manage at SALA. Hence, SALA's existing HR, Finance, and Student Services administrators will support the DTS Ph.D. program at its inception. SALA also already manages and pays for a research work area at the UBC Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Sustainability, which has workspace available to accommodate the maximum expected cohort of DTS Ph.D. students.

#### **TUITION FEES RATIONALE**

The proposed tuition for this program is aligned with the tuition for standard doctoral degree programs, which for 2023/24 is \$1,802.52 per instalment for domestic students and \$3,166.73 per instalment for international students, with a minimum of 6 instalments. Continuing fees will be applied after the 9<sup>th</sup> instalment. These fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.

Full-time graduate students will be provided with a yearly stipend in accordance with the UBC Minimum Funding Policy. The current rate as of September 2021 is set at \$22,000 per year. The stipend is anticipated mainly from the Research Supervisor's research grant, but may consist of a combination of internal/external awards, teaching related work, research assistantships and graduate academic assistantships.

The program will typically require 48 months of full-time study. In their first year, students will take two courses taught/supervised by SALA faculty: Research Seminar and Research Colloquium. Students will also take a minimum of two other elective courses at UBC.

From their second year onwards, students will be supported through regular one-on-one meetings and manuscript revisions by a primary SALA supervisor and two committee members. The supervisor and committee members will guide the student through the program, from the writing of the dissertation proposal to program completion and will regularly review and evaluate the student's work in progress. This intensive supervision will require a dedicated and intensive supervision effort by a professor of international prominence, whom the student selects as primary supervisor, as well as two other professors of scholarly prominence in the student's field of research.



In addition to this, for students working with Indigenous communities, SALA will provide payment for Indigenous knowledge-holders and their participation in the education process.

### Comparator Programs

Institution	Program	Annual Domestic Tuition	Annual International Tuition
UBC	PhD in Design, Society, and Technology (proposed)	\$5,407.56 <i>(2023/24 rates; based on 3 instalments per year)</i>	\$9,500.19 <i>(2023/24 rates; based on 3 instalments per year)</i>
McGill University	PhD in Architecture	\$2,797.20 <i>(2022/23 rates; based on 2 terms)</i>	\$17,19.70 <i>(2022/23 rates; based on 2 terms)</i>
University of Toronto	PhD in Architecture, Landscape and Design	\$6,210.00 <i>(2023/24 rates)</i>	\$6,210.00 <i>(2023/24 rates)</i>
University of Manitoba	PhD in Design and Planning	\$5,748.80 <i>(2022/23 rates; based on 2 terms)</i>	\$5,748.80 <i>(2022/23 rates; based on 2 terms)</i>
University of Calgary	PhD in Design	\$15,300.00 <i>(2022/23 rates)</i>	\$15,300.00 <i>(2022/23 rates)</i>
University of Washington	PhD in the Built Environment	\$18,057.00 USD <i>(2022/23 rates)</i>	\$31,530.00 USD <i>(2022/23 rates)</i>
Michigan State University	PhD in Planning, Design and Construction	\$9,469.69 USD <i>(2022/23 rates; based on 11.25 credit)</i>	\$18,607.50 USD <i>(2022/23 rates; based on 11.25 credits)</i>
Cornell University	PhD in History of Architecture and Urban Development	\$29,500.00 USD <i>(2022/23 rates)</i>	\$29,500.00 USD <i>(2022/23 rates)</i>
University of Virginia	PhD in the Constructed Environment	\$18,382.00 USD <i>(2022/23 rates)</i>	\$30,790.00 USD <i>(2022/23 rates)</i>
Harvard University	PhD in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning	\$52,456.00 USD <i>(2022/23 rates)</i>	\$52,456.00 USD <i>(2022/23 rates)</i>

<b>PROPOSED TUITION FEES:</b>
-------------------------------

## Appendix 1 – Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

**Program Description:** Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Society and Technology

**Anticipated Start Date:** September 2024

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per instalment - Note 1	\$1,802.52	\$3,166.73
Minimum No. of Instalments	6	6
Continuing Fees per Instalment (assessed after 9 instalments)	\$823.50	\$3,166.73
Application Fees (Graduate) – Note 2	\$114.00	\$168.25
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit	N/A	N/A
Other Faculty and Course Fees	N/A	N/A

Note 1 – Proposed tuition is meant to be aligned with standard doctoral degree programs, and will be subject to annual increases as established by the university. Tuition and student fees are charged in three equal instalments payable in January, May and September.

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

## APPENDIX 2: STUDENT SUBMISSIONS & FACULTY RESPONSES

### Submission from the AMS.



March 24th, 2023  
UBC Board of Governors

### Re: Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Technology, And Society

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 new *Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Technology, and Society* program proposed by the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA) in the Faculty of Applied Science.

The proposed doctorate program on *Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Technology, and Society* is a program that will create professionals that develop research innovation at the intersection of design scholarship, science and engineering, and the humanities. The program will apply cross-disciplinary expertise to tackle critical Canadian as well as global issues, such as social justice and climate change. As stated in the proposal, this program will attract graduates of professional degree programs such as a Master of Architecture, Master of Landscape Architecture, or Master of Urban Design, and Individuals with aligned degrees in Planning, Urban Forestry, Geography and Engineering.

The AMS is in favour of the proposed new program. We believe the *Doctor of Philosophy in Design, Technology, and Society* program will be a great educational pathway for individuals who wish to fill academic positions and obtain advanced expertise of decision-making in the design process and the broader cultural and socioeconomic implications of design decisions. In this program, students will become fluent with intersectional research methods, develop competency in holistic design, and gain experience on the use of design research as a form of policy advocacy. Lastly, the AMS also commends the Faculty and their PhD Program Proposal Committee in consulting with research students enrolled in SALA's Master of Advanced Studies in Architecture (MASA) and Master of Advanced Studies in Landscape Architecture (MASLA) programs during the development of the new program.

The AMS would like to sincerely thank the Faculty of Applied Science 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 students across all levels. We also appreciate the Board's consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

**Anisha Sandhu**

Interim VP Academic and University Affairs Alma  
Mater Society

Submission from the GSS.



**GSS**  
UBC VANCOUVER

## Tuition Consultations

Presented by:  
Graduate Student Society (GSS)

To:  
The Office of the Vice President Students,  
University of British Columbia

March 2023

## **Student Tuition Consultation: PhD in Design, Technology, and Society (DTS Ph.D.).**

The proposed program is justified, and emphatically backed by the support of students. Additionally, the rationale for the tuition and fees are well explained. The proposed tuition fees are reasonable when compared to similar PhD programs at other universities in Canada. We support the proposal without any review.