SUBJECT	Tuition | Undergraduate Certificate in Data & Models in Political Science, UBC Vancouver
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	June 14, 2023
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	APPROVAL REQUESTED IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves tuition for the Undergraduate Certificate in Data & Models in Political Science of $194.78 per credit for domestic students and $1,498.09 per credit for international students in alignment with other Faculty of Arts per credit tuition rates for 2023-2024, effective immediately, 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 *pro tem* 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

The Undergraduate Certificate in Data and Models in Political Science, proposed by the Faculty of Arts, is a response to the more frequent and intensive use of mathematical modelling and quantitative data analysis and visualization as basic tools of work, advocacy and social scientific research and inquiry both inside and outside the academy. In a world increasingly characterized by the use of "big data" by governments and the private sector with accompanying concerns about the implications for privacy and equity, literacy in data analysis is increasingly valuable across all aspects of professional and personal life. The program will be open to all students with incoming second-year standing in the Faculty of Arts, although we anticipate the significant majority of students will be prospective Political Science Majors.

Following approval of the program by the UBC Vancouver Senate in May 2023, the request for approval of the Undergraduate Certificate in Data & Models in Political Science was forwarded to the Learning & Research Committee under the Committee's June 2023 agenda. Pending approval from the Board of Governors, the program aims to launch September 2023.

The proposed tuition for this program is $194.78 per credit for domestic students and $1,498.09 per credit for international students. These rates are in alignment with other Faculty of Arts per credit tuition rates for 2023/24. All fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board.

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 2, 2022 to March 2, 2023. A submission was received from the AMS and the Arts Undergraduate Society, both of whom were supportive of the program as proposed.

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

- Core Area: Transformative Learning: The primary objective of the certificate is to provide a transformative high-quality educational experience that equips students with a set of theoretical concepts, methodological tools and opportunities for applied learning.

- Strategy 13: Practical Learning: Creating this program will establish a sequenced curriculum in data and models beginning with an introductory experience, core courses, electives and a fourth-year capstone course in which they will be "learning by doing" through applying their learning to individual projects.

- Strategy 12: Program Redesign: The structure of the certificate is consistent with the core objectives of this strategy. The certificate is consciously designed around specific student learning outcomes and competencies in the form of data analysis capacities and the use of various modelling techniques. The program is also designed to guide students through a progression of finer-grained learning experiences that build these capacities and techniques. These experiences then culminate in a capstone learning project.

The program has been created based on feedback from alumni and employers indicating that Political Science graduates are disadvantaged in the job market due to their relative lack of data management and analysis capacities. In the discipline of Political Science, data management and analysis is an increasingly important methodological tool for students wishing to advance to graduate programs in Political Science or cognate graduate programs (for example, those offered by public policy schools). This often means our students are faced with "catching up" by taking remedial courses and programs in quantitative methods before or after entering graduate school.

The program is designed to prepare students for employment in areas of governmental or intergovernmental policy analysis, the private and not-for-profit sectors, political consulting, polling and survey design and data science. The certificate will also prepare students for postgraduate study in behavioural methods in political science or cognate social sciences and programs (such as public policy graduate school programs).

APPENDICES

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

Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

Program Description: Undergraduate Certificate in Data and Models in Political Science

Anticipated Start Date: September 2023

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	$194.78	$1,498.08
Application Fees (Undergraduate) – Note 2	N/A	N/A
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 the Bachelor of Arts program, and the approved rates for 2023/24 are presented for reference. Proposed tuition will be subject to annual increases as established by the university.

Note 2 – The certificate is only open to UBC students. The Department is absorbing the administrative costs of the application process, registration, and student engagement for the program.

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DATA AND MODELS IN POLITICAL SCIENCES

NEW PROGRAM STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Faculty of Arts, conducted a student consultation regarding a new undergraduate Data and Models in Political Science Certificate. 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)
- Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS)

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 Thursday February 2, 2023 to Thursday March 2, 2023.

Summary of Student Feedback: Submission was received from AMS and DUS. The verbatim submissions are in Appendix 2.

No individual student submissions were received.

Organization	Summary
AMS	**Support for proposed program** "The AMS is in favour of the new proposed program in Political Science. We believe the new Data and Models in Political Science Certificate program will provide students with the important skills in data management and analysis that is helpful for advancing to graduate programs in Political Science or other related fields. Furthermore, we believe that the program will help prepare students for employment in areas of governmental or intergovernmental policy analysis, the private and not-for-profit sectors, political consulting, polling and survey design, and data science"
DUS	**Support for proposed program** "The AUS is in favour of the new proposed program in Political Science. We believe the new Data and Models in Political Science Certificate program will provide students with the important skills that are helpful in advancing to graduate programs in Political Science or cognate social sciences. Furthermore, we believe that the program will help prepare students for employment in areas of governmental or intergovernmental policy analysis, the private and not-for-profit sectors, political consulting, polling and survey design, and data science."

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 Arts regarding a new undergraduate Data and Models in Political Science Certificate that teaches students to use theoretical models of institutional and behavioural political science and economics to understand choice and conflict in domestic and international politics.

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 THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 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)
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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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NEW PROGRAM TUITION CONSULTATION

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DATA AND MODELS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The proposed **Data and Models in Political Science Certificate** teaches students to use theoretical models of institutional and behavioural political science and economics to understand choice and conflict in domestic and international politics. This substantive focus is augmented by methodological courses that provide students with the technical skills necessary to conduct behavioural research in political science. The program is a response to the more frequent and intensive use of mathematical modelling and quantitative data analysis as basic tools of work, advocacy, and social scientific research and inquiry both inside and outside the academy. In a world increasingly characterized by the use of "big data" by governments and the private sector, with accompanying concerns about the implications for privacy and equity, literacy in data analysis is increasingly valuable across all aspects of professional and personal life.

The creation of this certificate program is based on three primary motives:
1. First and foremost, it is a response to feedback from alumni and employers indicating that Political Science graduates are disadvantaged in the job market due to their relative lack of data management and analysis capacities.
2. In the discipline of Political Science, data management and analysis is an increasingly important methodological tool for students wishing to advance to graduate programs in Political Science or cognate graduate programs (for example, those offered by public policy schools). This often means our students are faced with "catching up" by taking remedial courses and programs in quantitative methods before or after entering graduate school.
3. The department wishes to create this certificate to establish a sequenced curriculum in data and models learning beginning with an introductory experience, core courses, electives, and a fourth-year capstone course.

On completion of the certificate, students will:

1. Possess an advanced comprehension of collective choice (e.g., democratic elections, legislative bargaining, market trade) and political conflict (e.g., between social classes, political parties, ethnic groups, or states);
2. Have demonstrated competence in the application of deductive modelling techniques (economic and behavioural); and
3. Developed capacities in the analysis of empirical data (frequently but not exclusively quantitative) and the ability to evaluate the strengths and limitations of deductive modelling technique.

The program is designed to prepare students for employment in areas of governmental or intergovernmental policy analysis, the private and not-for-profit sectors, political consulting, polling and survey design, and data science. The certificate will also prepare students for postgraduate study in behavioural methods in political science or cognate social sciences.

The certificate program will be open to all students with incoming second-year standing in the Faculty of Arts, although we anticipate the significant majority of students will be prospective Political Science Majors. Students will also be informed of the Data and Models certificate when they take POLI 110 (a required course for the Political Science Major). We will consider enrolment of undergraduate students from other Faculties on a case-by-case basis.

STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The creation of this certificate is in response to feedback from alumni and employers indicating that Political Science graduates are disadvantaged in the job market due to their relative lack of data management and analysis capacities. This feedback comes from Political Science alumni through our alumni engagement efforts, feedback from colleagues engaged in community-based experiential learning, and our contacts with employers.

TUITION AND FEES RATIONALE

In the 2023/24 academic year, tuition fees per credit for the program (consistent with other Faculty of Arts programs) are:

• $194.78 per credit for domestic students
• $1,498.08 per credit for international students

These fees are subject to increases as approved by the UBC Board of Governors. The Department hopes to begin offering the Certificate in September 2023.

There are no additional new fees associated with the program. The Department anticipates that most students will make decisions about enrolment in the certificate in their 2nd year of study. Depending on the student's degree program, many of the required courses will fit into their electives, if they are not already part of the students' required degree course options.

However, it is possible that students in some programs with more restrictive electives may have to take some courses outside their degree program and added tuition costs may be incurred. The Department's Undergraduate Program Advisor will work with students to select the most efficient pathway through the program, given their home department degree specifications.

PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES

Appendix 1 – Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

Program Description: **Data and Models in Political Science certificate**

Anticipated Start Date: September 2023

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	$194.78	$1,498.08
Application Fees (Undergraduate) – Note 2	N/A	N/A
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 the Bachelor of Arts program, and the approved rates for 2023/24 are presented for reference. Proposed tuition will be subject to annual increases as established by the university.

Note 2 – The certificate is only open to UBC students. The Department is absorbing the administrative costs of the application process, registration, and student engagement for the program.

APPENDIX 2: STUDENT SUBMISSIONS & FACULTY RESPONSES

Submission from the AMS.

February 23, 2023
UBC Board of Governors

Re: Undergraduate Certificate in Data and Models in Political Science

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 undergraduate Data and Models in Political Science Certificate proposed by the Faculty of Arts.

The proposed Data and Models in Political Science Certificate teaches students to use theoretical models of institutional and behavioural political science and economics to understand choice and conflict in domestic and international politics.

The AMS is in favour of the new proposed program in Political Science. We believe the new Data and Models in Political Science Certificate program will provide students with the important skills in data management and analysis that is helpful for advancing to graduate programs in Political Science or other related fields. Furthermore, we believe that the program will help prepare students for employment in areas of governmental or intergovernmental policy analysis, the private and not-for-profit sectors, political consulting, polling and survey design, and data science. The Faculty of Arts has also conducted rigorous consultation and has received feedback from alumni and employers that emphasized the importance of data management and analysis skills in the workforce. Lastly, it is also commendable that there are no additional new fees associated with the program which is valuable for students that are already taking the same courses they would be taking for their major program.

The AMS would like to sincerely thank the Faculty of Arts 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

Anisha Sandhu
VP Academic and University Affairs Alma
Mater Society

Submission from the AUS.

Arts
Undergraduate
Society

February 23, 2023
UBC Board of Governors

Re: Undergraduate Certificate in Data and Models in Political Science

Dear members of the UBC Board of Governors,

This submission is being made on behalf of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) of UBC Vancouver in response to the request for feedback on the new undergraduate Data and Models in Political Science Certificate proposed by the Faculty of Arts.

The proposed Data and Models in Political Science Certificate teaches students to use theoretical models of institutional and behavioural political science and economics to understand choice and conflict in domestic and international politics.

The AUS is in favour of the new proposed program in Political Science. We believe the new Data and Models in Political Science Certificate program will provide students with the important skills that are helpful in advancing to graduate programs in Political Science or cognate social sciences. Furthermore, we believe that the program will help prepare students for employment in areas of governmental or intergovernmental policy analysis, the private and not-for-profit sectors, political consulting, polling and survey design, and data science. Aside from there having no additional fees associated with the new program, the AUS also supports the feedback that the Faculty received from alumni and employers, which emphasized the importance of data management and analysis in students' post-graduate careers.

The AUS would like to sincerely thank the Faculty of Arts 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,

Ian Dominique Caguiat
Vice President, Administration Arts
Undergraduate Society