



---

<b>SUBJECT</b>	A Comprehensive Review of Student Aid at UBC
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Board of Governors
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	September 27, 2023
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>REQUEST</b>	For information only - No action requested
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students Rella Ng, Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Services and Registrar Susan Porter, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, UBC Vancouver Julian Dierkes, Senior Associate Dean, Students, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, UBC Vancouver Peter Simpson, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, UBC Okanagan Damara Klaassen, Executive Director, International Student Initiative Samantha Reid, Executive Director, Office of the Vice President, Students Dale Mullings, Associate Vice-President, Students, UBC Okanagan

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UBC's commitment to student success is exemplified through its comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to student financial support. With an array of funding options tailored to different needs, UBC ensures that financial constraints do not hinder students' academic journeys. The University's multi-faceted approach to student financial support, totalling \$394.3 million in 2022/2023, underscores its dedication to students' holistic well-being – notably, \$148.2 million stems from UBC itself, drawing from operating funds and generous donor contributions.

UBC's student financial support funding spans various sources. These sources include UBC awards, which can be merit-based scholarships, need-based awards or a combination provided by the University to recognize and assist students. Additionally, students can participate in the Work Learn program, offering on- and off-campus job opportunities that provide valuable work experience and financial support. Student support also includes graduate funding, where graduate students work with faculty members on research or teaching activities while receiving financial compensation. For students facing food insecurity, UBC offers food support programs that aim to ensure their well-being and alleviate financial strain.

Furthermore, students can secure external awards, scholarships or grants provided by organizations outside of UBC, and funds are disbursed through UBC. These awards can supplement their funding and recognize their achievements in various fields. Lastly, student loans are available to help cover educational expenses for those needing additional financial assistance.

In conclusion, UBC's holistic financial support approach enhances students' academic experiences, fostering their overall well-being during their tenure at the University.

**APPENDIX**

1. Comprehensive Student Aid Briefing

**PRESENTATION**

2. A Comprehensive Review of Student Aid at UBC



# A Comprehensive Review of Student Aid at UBC

Lead Executives: Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver  
Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan  
Ainsley Carry, Vice-President, Students

## Executive Summary

UBC's commitment to student success is exemplified through its comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to student financial support. With an array of funding options tailored to different needs, UBC ensures that financial constraints do not hinder students' academic journeys. The University's multi-faceted approach to student financial support, totalling \$394.3 million in 2022/2023, underscores its dedication to students' holistic well-being - notably, \$148.2 million stems from UBC itself, drawing from operating funds and generous donor contributions.

UBC's Student financial support funding spans various sources. These sources include UBC awards, which can be merit-based scholarships, need-based awards or a combination provided by the University to recognize and assist students. Additionally, students can participate in the Work Learn program, offering on and off-campus job opportunities that provide valuable work experience and financial support. Student support also includes graduate funding, where the graduate students would work with faculty members on research or teaching activities while receiving financial compensation. For students facing food insecurity, UBC offers food support programs that aim to ensure their well-being and alleviate financial strain.

Furthermore, students can secure external awards, scholarships or grants provided by organizations outside of UBC, and funds are disbursed through UBC. These awards can supplement their funding and recognize their achievements in various fields. Lastly, student loans are available to help cover educational expenses for those needing additional financial assistance.

In conclusion, UBC's holistic financial support approach enhances students' academic experiences, fostering their overall well-being during their tenure at the University.

## **Introduction**

UBC offers its students a variety of funding sources to support their academic journeys. These funding options cater to different needs and circumstances, ensuring financial barriers do not hinder students' success. UBC students are presented with a multi-faceted approach to student financial support that underscores the University's dedication to their holistic well-being. For the fiscal year 2022/2023, the multitude of financial assistance provided to students amounted to \$394.3 million and \$148.2 million stems from UBC, which draws from UBC operating funds and generous donor contributions.

## **Student Financial Support Funding**

### ***Awards: Merit, Need and Beyond***

UBC awards make up a significant component of the student financial support, totaling \$148.2 million. Among the awards, merit-based awards, which are awarded to students to recognize their academic achievements and other notable accomplishments, account for a sizable portion totaling \$100.1 million. These awards validate excellence in scholastic endeavours and leadership, service and research contributions.

On the other hand, need-based awards provide funding to students facing financial barriers, ensuring that their educational journey is supported. The total need-based awards provided to students totalled \$27.2 million for fiscal year 2022/2023. UBC maintains a strong commitment to access for students by providing bursary support. This commitment is embodied in UBC's Financial Aid Policy: *"No eligible students (as defined by UBC's Financial Aid Policy) will be prevented from commencing or continuing their studies at the University for financial reasons alone...If an Eligible Student and their family exhaust the financial resources available to them, the University will ensure that financial support will be made available to them."* UBC meets the commitment to support access for domestic students by providing the UBC Bursary program. The program supports the portion of an eligible student's unmet assessed financial need, using a moderate standard of living determined by StudentAid BC, not met by government student loans and grants, scholarships or external awards. The bursary spending is the adjusted amount of unmet financial need held by all eligible students. It is a demand-driven program that is subject to the number of students assessed with unmet financial need and the magnitude of that need. The total bursary awarded in fiscal 2022/2023 was \$21.1 million to 4,333 students. In addition to the UBC Bursary program, emergency bursaries are available to students facing unexpected financial distress. UBC recognizes the financial impact that an unexpected or sudden situational change can have on a student's ability to pay for immediate living costs. The total emergency bursaries provided to students was \$747,000.

UBC's commitment to inclusivity and comprehensive support goes beyond these two categories. Hybrid awards consider the complex interplay between academic achievement, personal accomplishments, and financial need. For fiscal 2022/2023, hybrid awards accounted for \$14.5 million of the student financial support provided to students.

### ***Work Learn Program***

UBC's commitment to student empowerment is illustrated through the Work Learn program. The Work Learn program goes beyond traditional financial assistance by allowing students to obtain important

work experience while still funding their education. A total of \$6.4 million was provided to assist students in developing professional skills in a real work environment.

### ***Graduate Funding***

Recognizing the pivotal role of graduate students in advancing research and education, UBC has established an array of graduate funding opportunities through teaching and research assistantships. These appointments, including Graduate Teaching Assistants, Graduate Research Assistants, and Graduate Academic Assistants, financially support graduate students and actively engage them in research and teaching endeavours. These appointments offer financial compensation while engaging students in research or teaching activities. In the 2021/2022 academic year, the total graduate assistantship funding provided to students totalled \$96.19 million.

### ***External Funding***

Beyond the scope of the previously outlined student financial support, additional funding channels exist that significantly contribute to student financial support. Of the \$394.3 million highlighted earlier, \$221.8 million originates from government student loans and grants. Notably, external funding plays a pivotal role, with \$24.3 million from federal agencies such as the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Moreover, external donor awards contribute to this comprehensive funding landscape, where external organizations or agencies have adjudicated award recipients.

### ***Other Indirect Student Financial Support***

UBC's investment in students extends beyond direct financial assistance. While monetary aid is crucial, UBC's dedication goes further. With \$800,000 allocated to combat food security, the University endeavours to ensure that students' basic needs are met. Additionally, the University's investment of \$1 million over four years in Open Educational Resources (OERs) significantly reduces the cost of learning materials, saving students between \$1.9 million to \$2.7 million in a single year. Furthermore, the Graduate Student Travel and Research Dissemination Fund, with \$160,000 in 2022/2023, empowers graduate students to gain international experiences, fostering cross-cultural learning and enriching academic pursuits. Moreover, UBC offers financial wellness workshops to empower students with the essential tools to manage their finances effectively, ensuring they can focus on their academic studies without undue stress.

### **Conclusion**

In summary, UBC's comprehensive student financial support encompasses diverse resources to ensure that students can access the resources needed to pursue their educational goals and thrive during their time at UBC.

# A Comprehensive Review of Student Aid at UBC

September 2023

Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver

Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan

Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students



# Student Financial Support, an overview

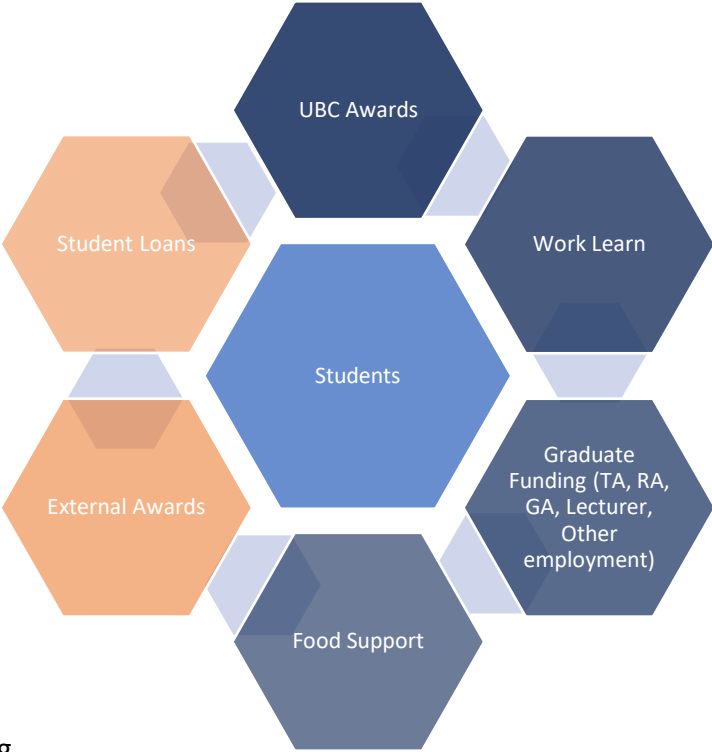
To better inform our discussions of how we fund and support our students – the Administration has prepared this high-level overview of student financial support.

In particular, it is meant to clarify:

- The breadth of sources of financial support for students
- Merit vs. needs-based funding and how UBC calculates need
- Internal University funding vs. government funding
- How UBC compares to U15 and RUCBC and other postsecondary institutions
- Government loans and student debt
- Other forms of university support.

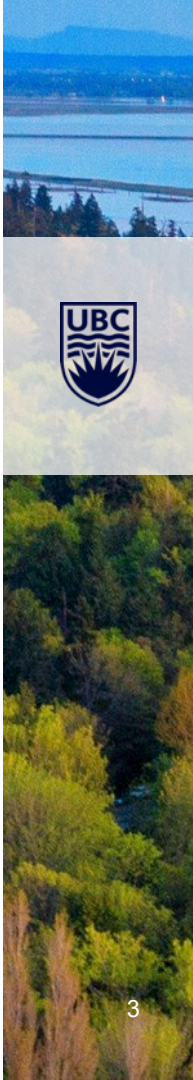


# Sources of Funding Students Have Access to



 UBC Sources of Funding

 External Sources of Funding





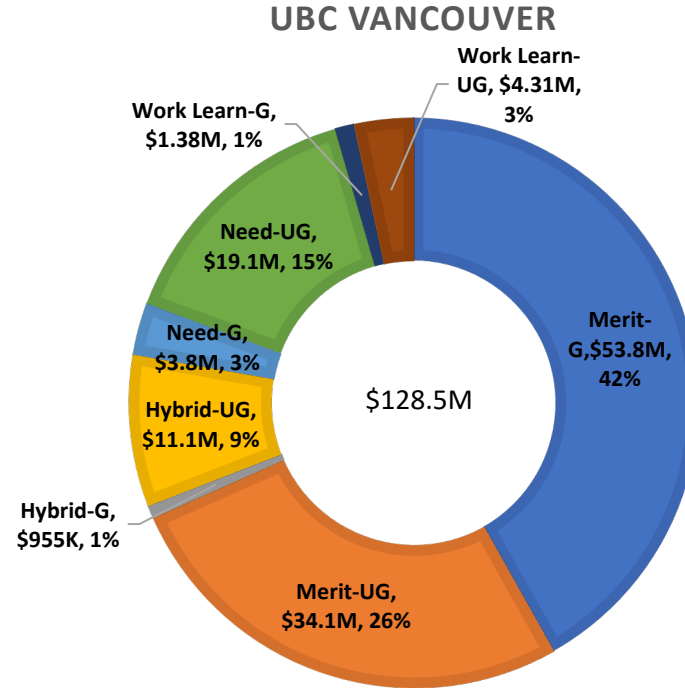
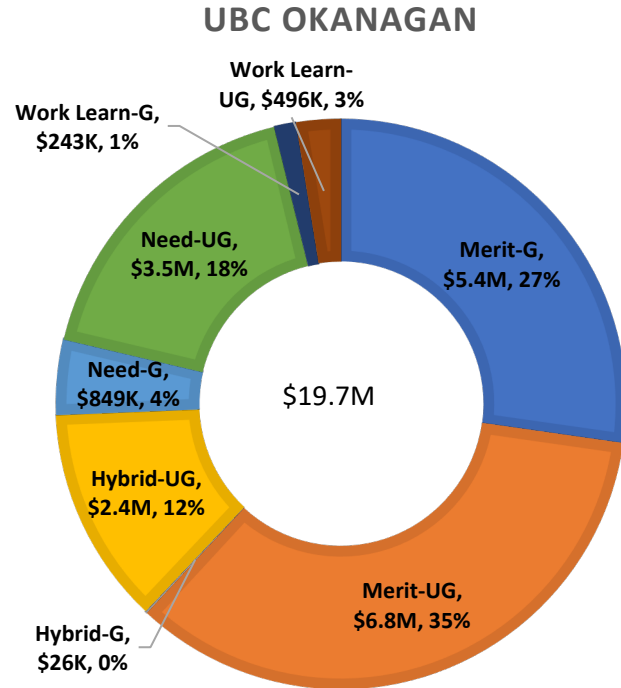
# Some Key UBC Student Financial Support Funding Types

- Merit-based awards
  - Based on student's academic merit, other academic achievement or achievement such as service, leadership, community engagement or research
- Need-based awards
  - Based on student's financial need
- Hybrid awards
  - Neither academic achievement nor financial need are the sole criteria
  - Criteria include but not limited to service, leadership, research, a combination of academic and other achievements, or a combination of academic or other achievements and financial need
- Work Learn
  - Supports and subsidizes meaningful work experiences on and off campus, offers UBC students the opportunity to develop their professional skills in a work environment
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Graduate Research Assistant, Graduate Academic Assistant
  - Intended to support qualified graduate students meet the cost of their studies at UBC



# Some Key UBC Student Financial Support Funding

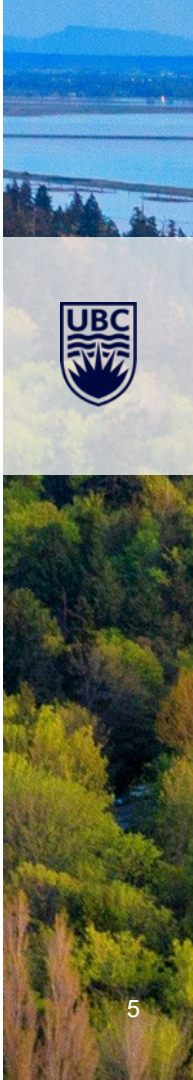
(Fiscal Year 2022/2023)



**Total: \$148.2M\***

\*(excludes Graduate Assistantship funding, external awards, and any research awards)

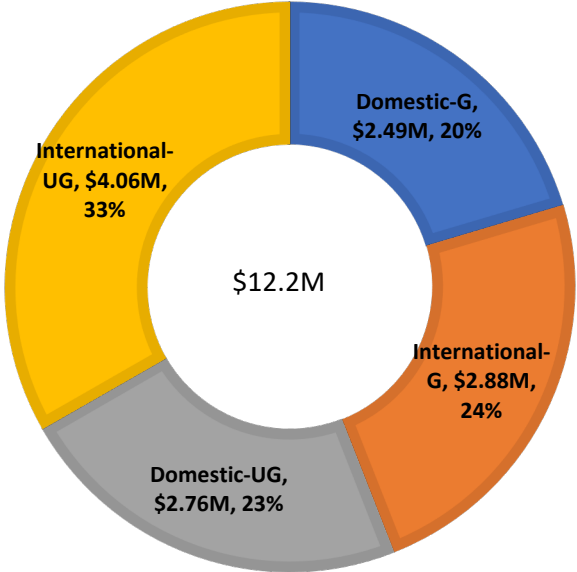
G = Graduate  
UG = Undergraduate



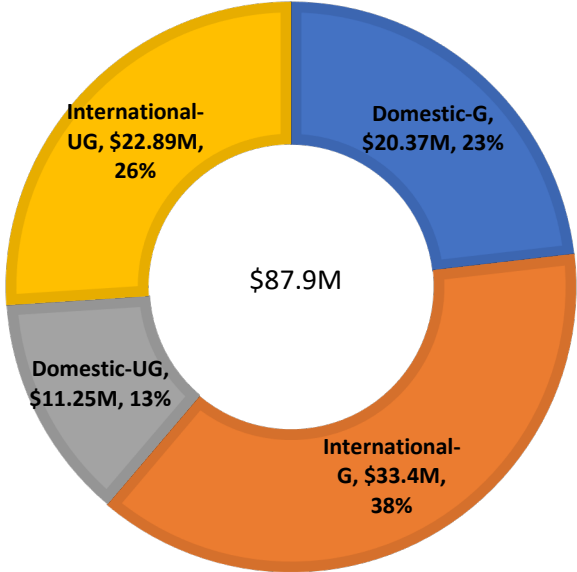
# Merit-Based Total Funding

(Fiscal Year 2022/2023)

## UBC OKANAGAN

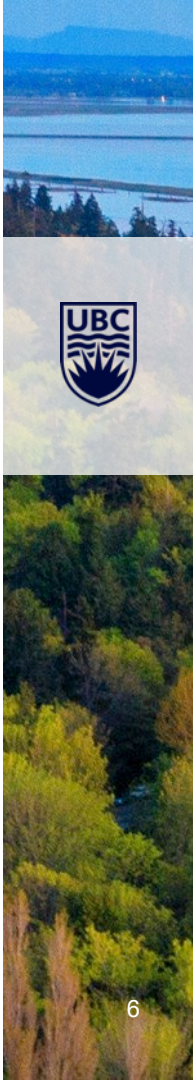


## UBC VANCOUVER



Total: \$100.1M

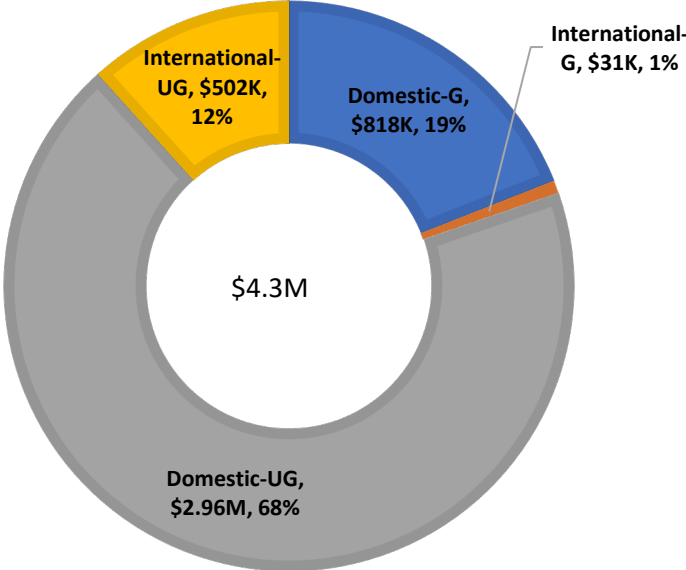
G = Graduate  
UG = Undergraduate



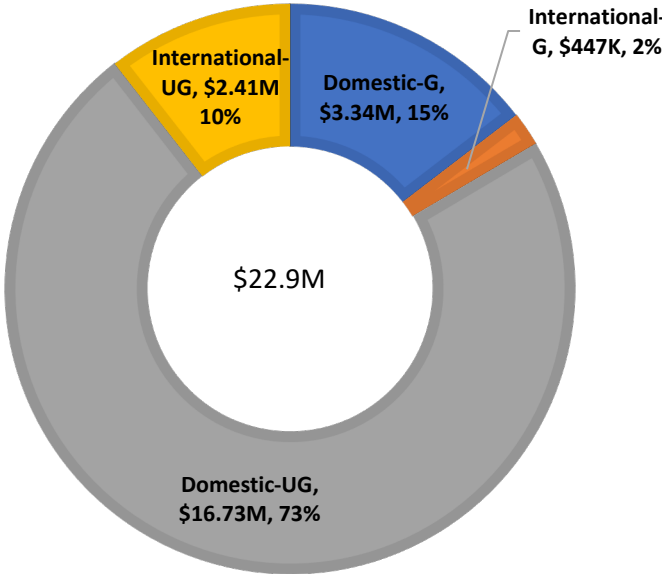
# Need-Based Total Funding

(Fiscal Year 2022/2023)

## UBC OKANAGAN

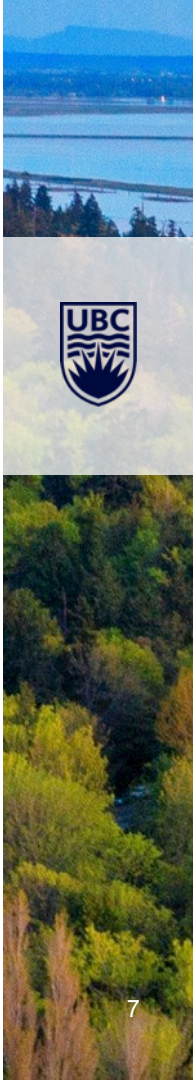


## UBC VANCOUVER



Total: \$27.2M

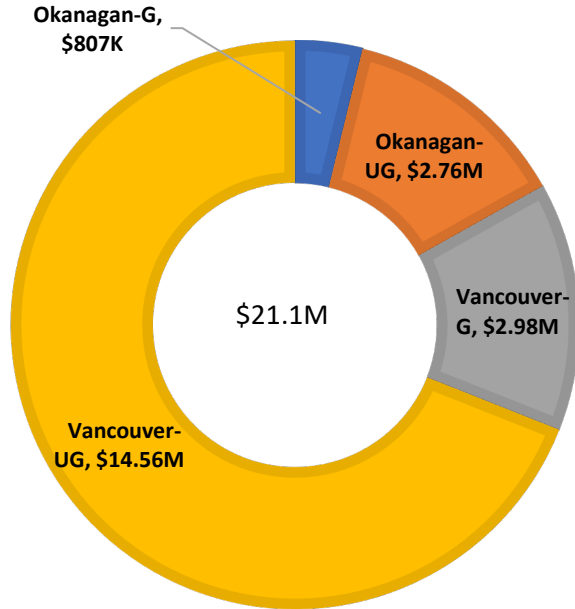
G = Graduate  
UG = Undergraduate



# Need-Based Funding: UBC Bursary

(Fiscal Year 2022/2023)

## UBC BURSARY



- Total Domestic Student: 4,333
  - Okanagan: 711 students
  - Vancouver: 3,622 students

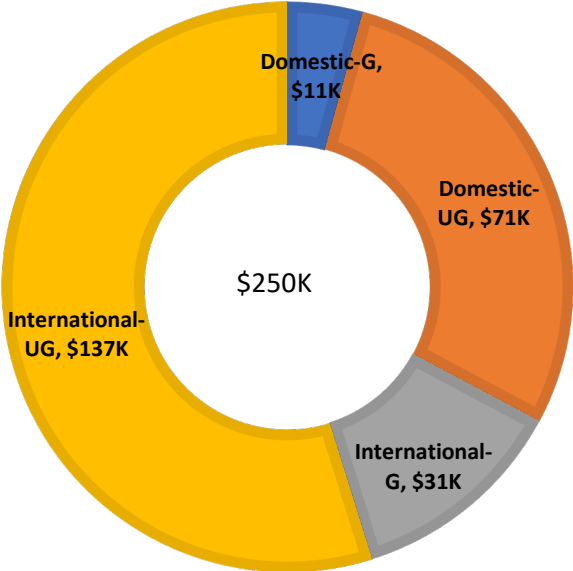
G = Graduate  
UG = Undergraduate



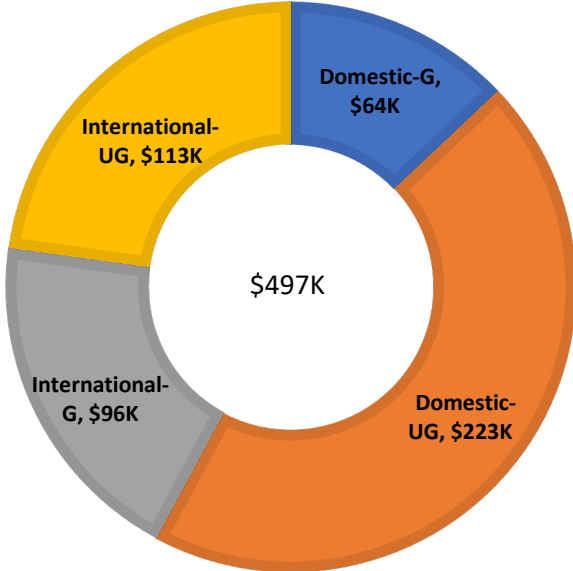
# Need-Based Funding: Emergency Funding

(Fiscal Year 2022/2023)

### UBC OKANAGAN

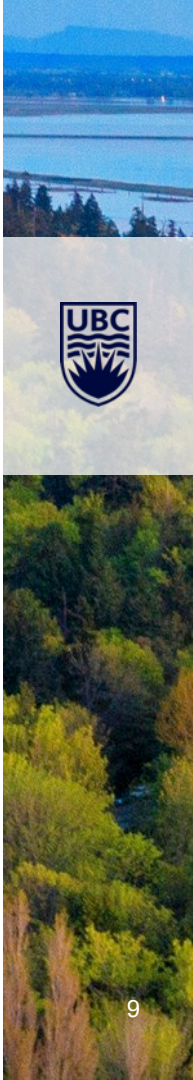


### UBC VANCOUVER



Total: \$747K

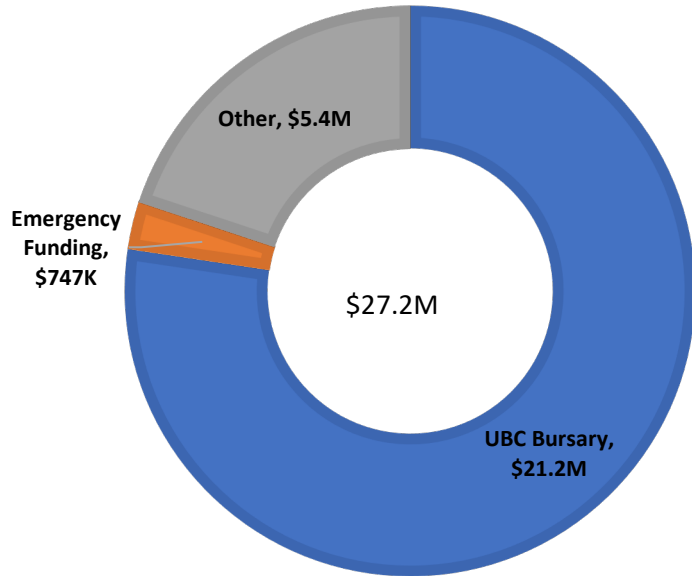
G = Graduate  
UG = Undergraduate



# Sources of Need-Based Funding

(Fiscal Year 2022/2023)

## SOURCES OF NEED-BASED FUNDING



Examples of Other Need-Based funding:

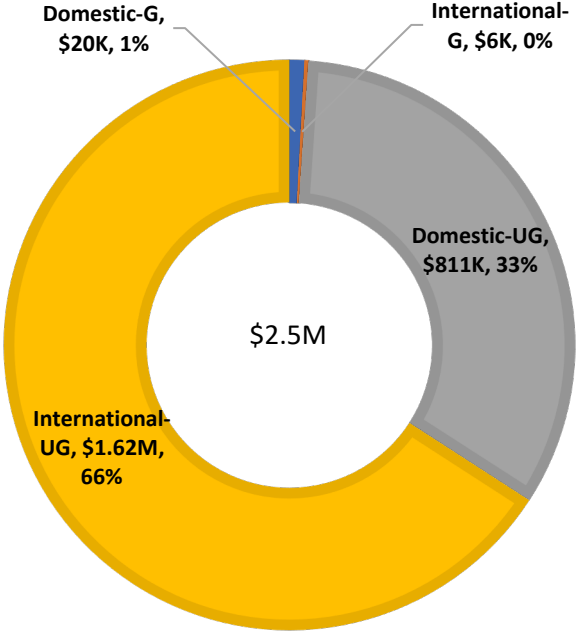
- Faculty Recommended Awards (that have a need component)
- Youth in Care
- World University Service of Canada
- Disability Bursaries



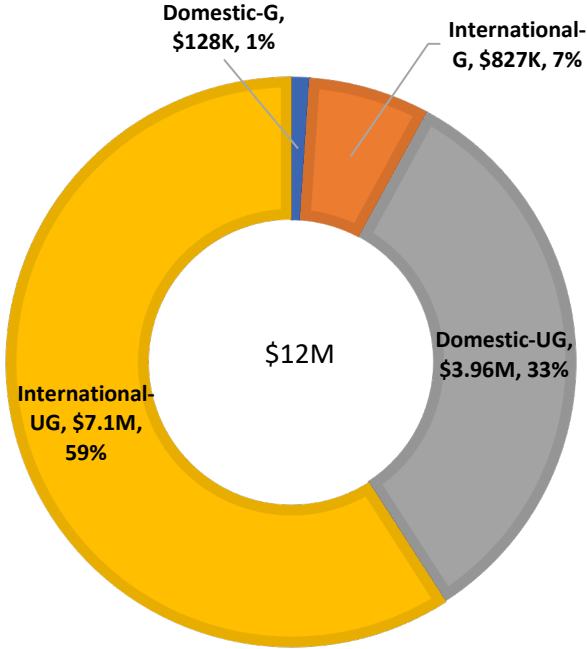
# Hybrid Awards Total Funding

(Fiscal Year 2022/2023)

## UBC OKANAGAN

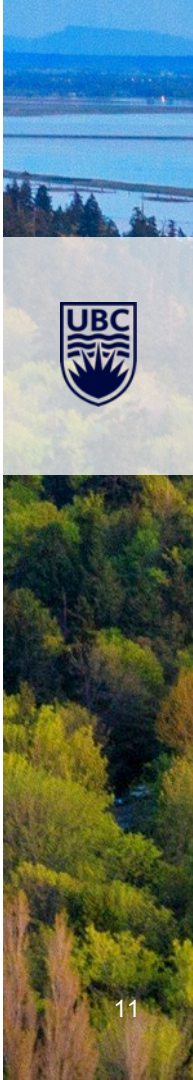


## UBC VANCOUVER



Total: \$14.5M

G = Graduate  
UG = Undergraduate

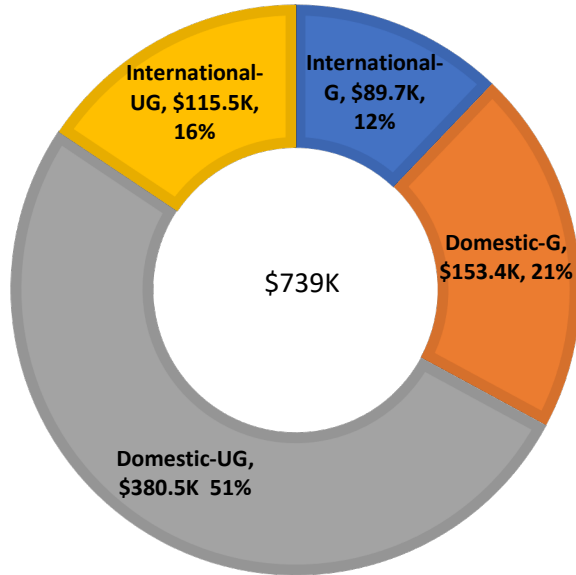




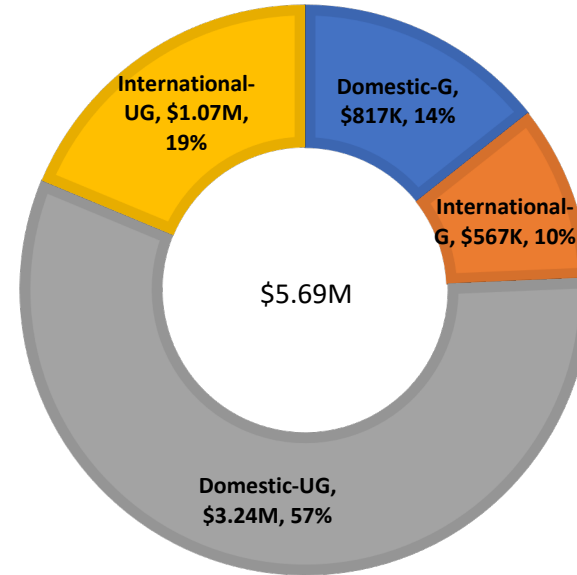
# Work Learn

(Fiscal Year 2022/2023)

## UBC OKANAGAN

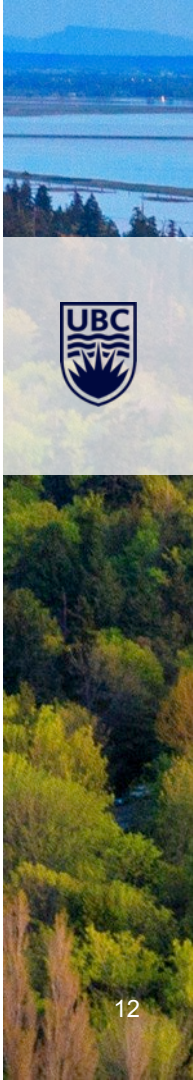


## UBC VANCOUVER



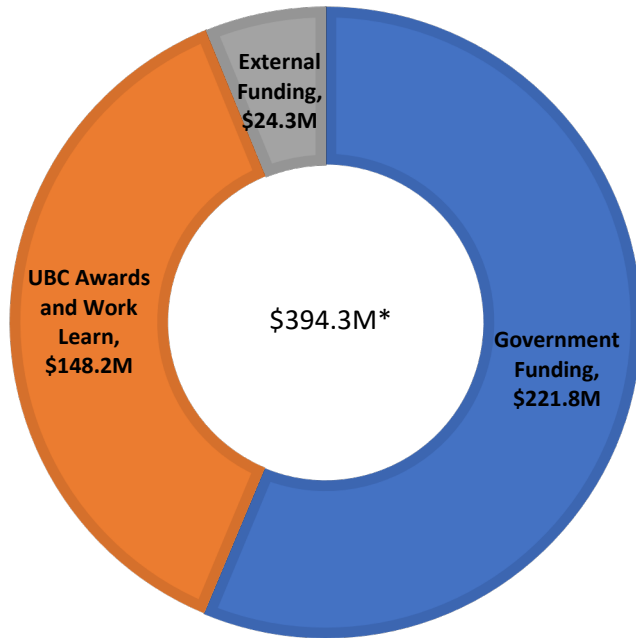
Total: \$6.4M

G = Graduate  
UG = Undergraduate



# Funding Available to Students

(Fiscal Year 2022/2023)



- Total students: 32,394
  - Okanagan: 5,988
  - Vancouver: 26,406

*\*(excludes Graduate Assistantship funding)*



# Graduate Assistantship Funding

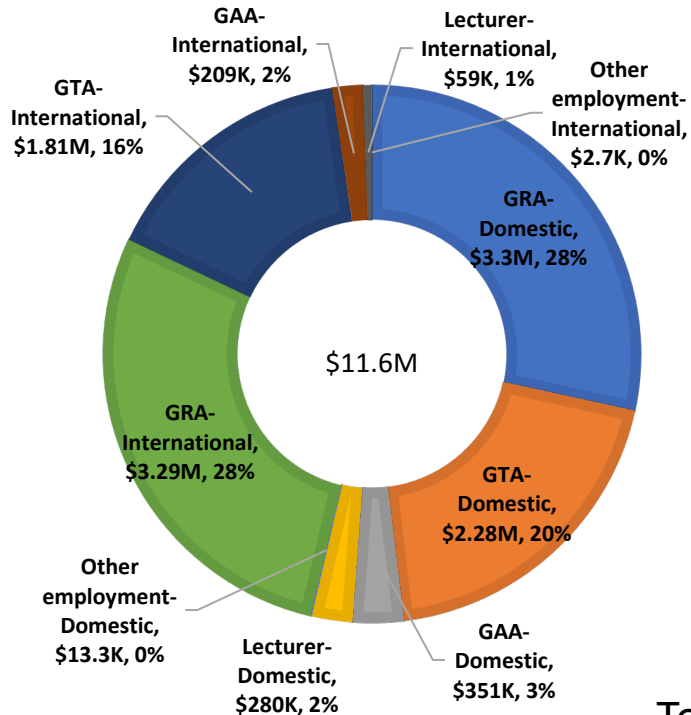
(Academic Year 2021/2022)

GRA = Graduate Research Assistant

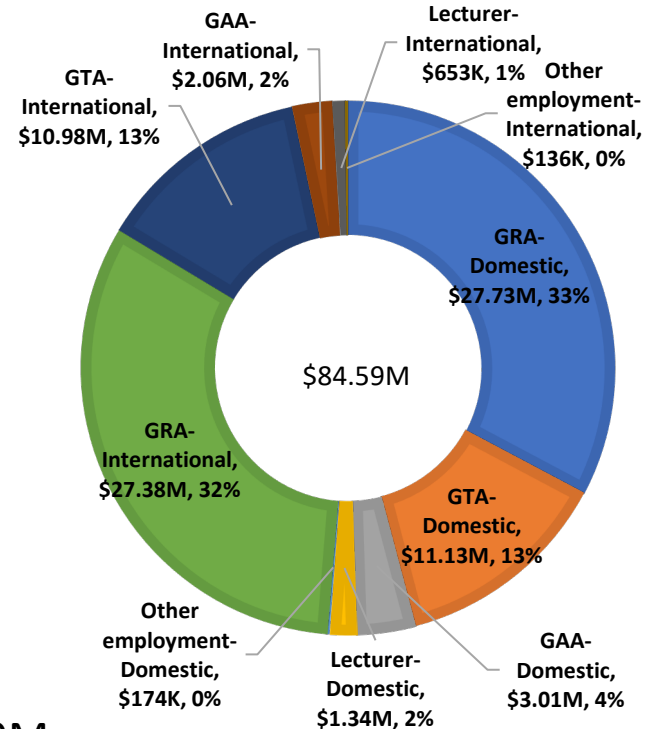
GTA = Graduate Teaching Assistant

GAA = Graduate Academic Assistant

## UBC OKANAGAN



## UBC VANCOUVER

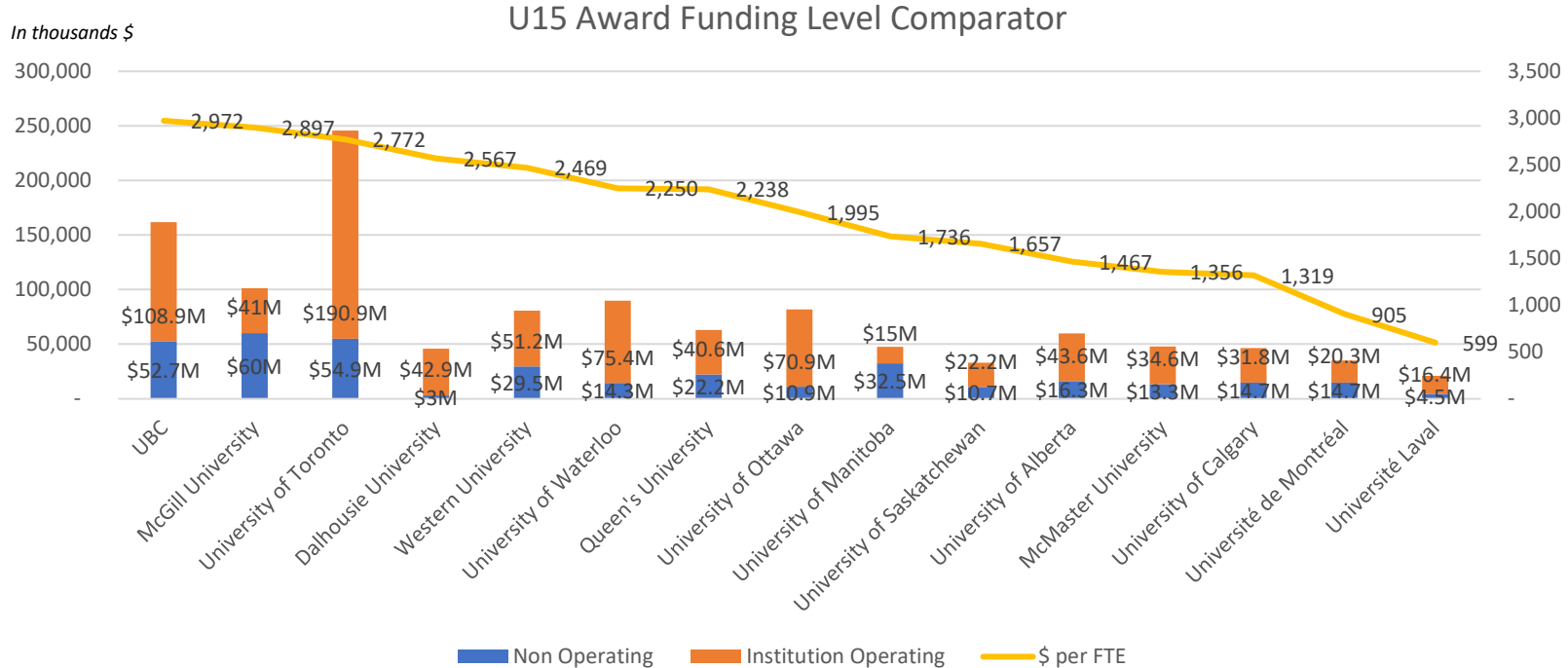


Total: \$96.19M

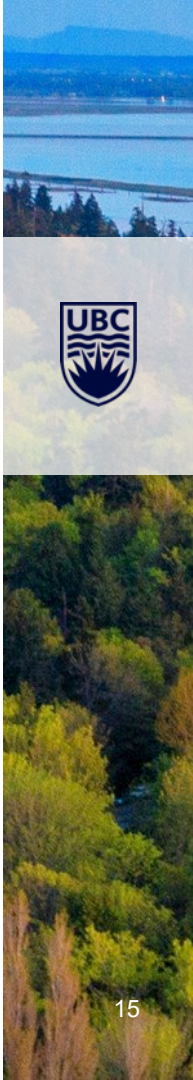


# Award Funding Level Comparison

(Fiscal Year 2020/2021)



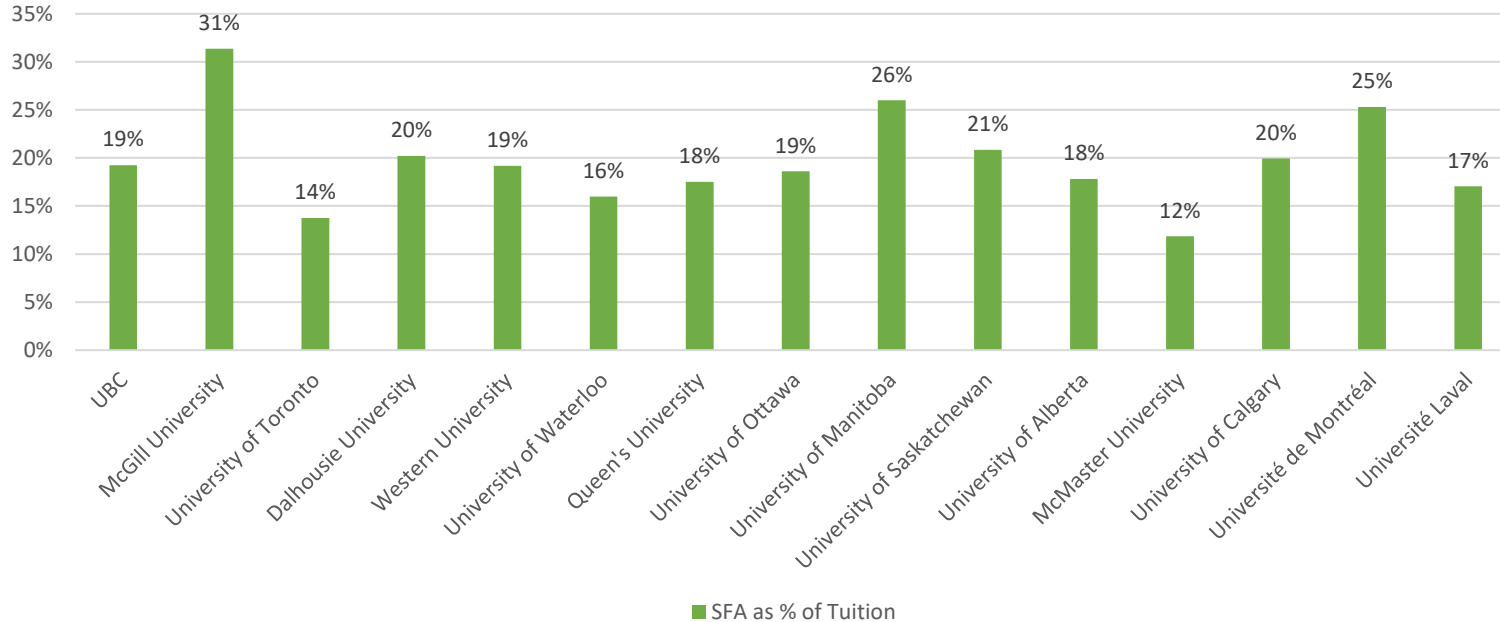
Source: Canadian Association of University Business Officers, 2022



# Award Funding Level Comparison

(Fiscal Year 2020/2021)

## U15 Student Financial Support as % of Tuition Dollars

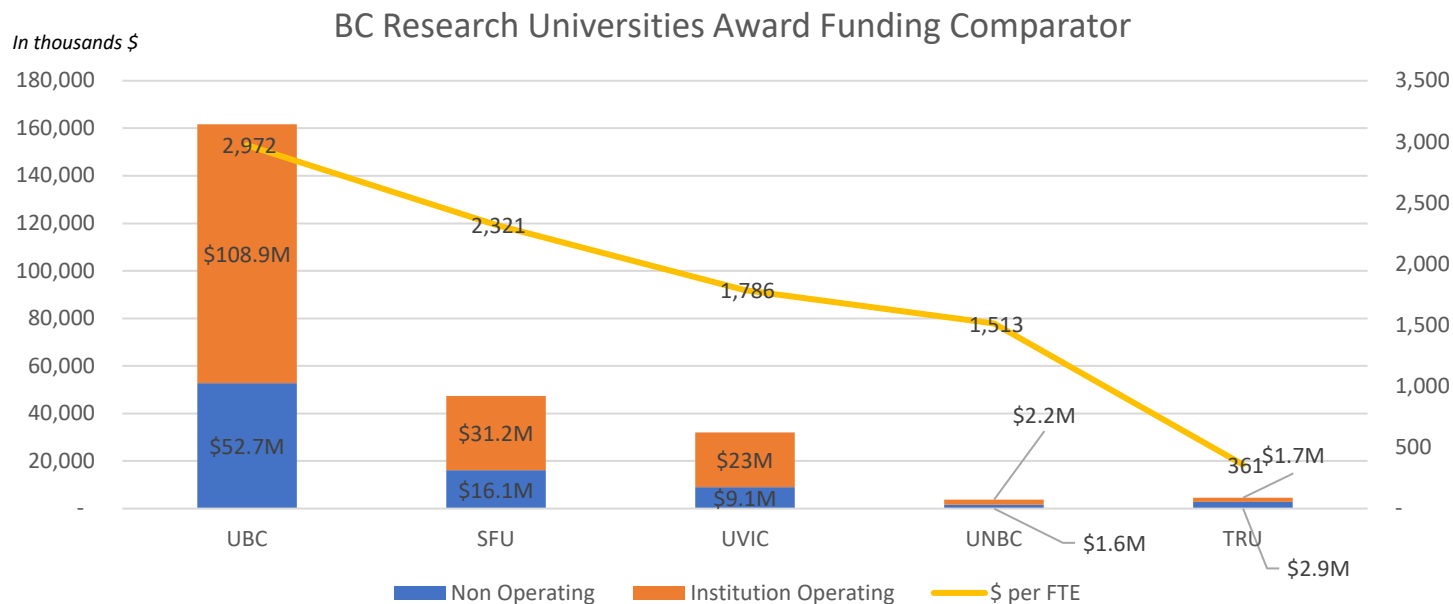


Source: Canadian Association of University Business Officers, 2022



# Award Funding Level Comparison

(Fiscal Year 2020/2021)



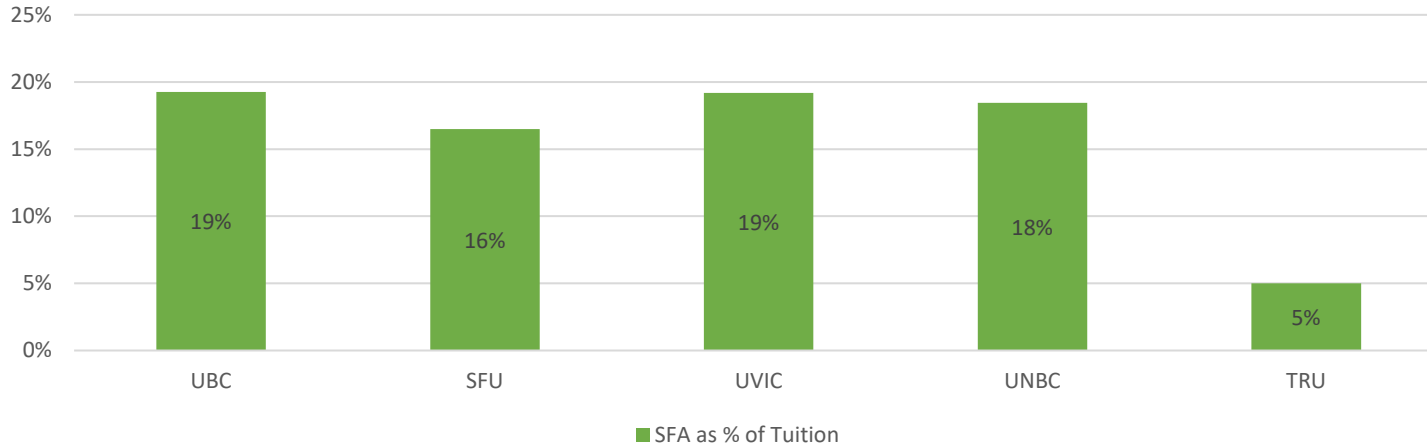
Source: Canadian Association of University Business Officers, 2022



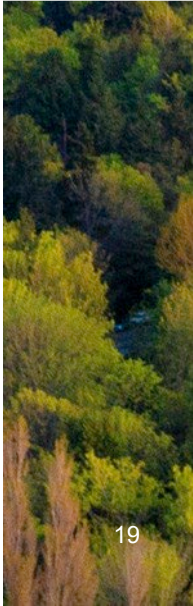
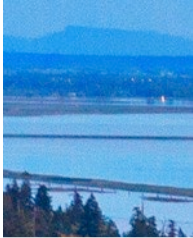
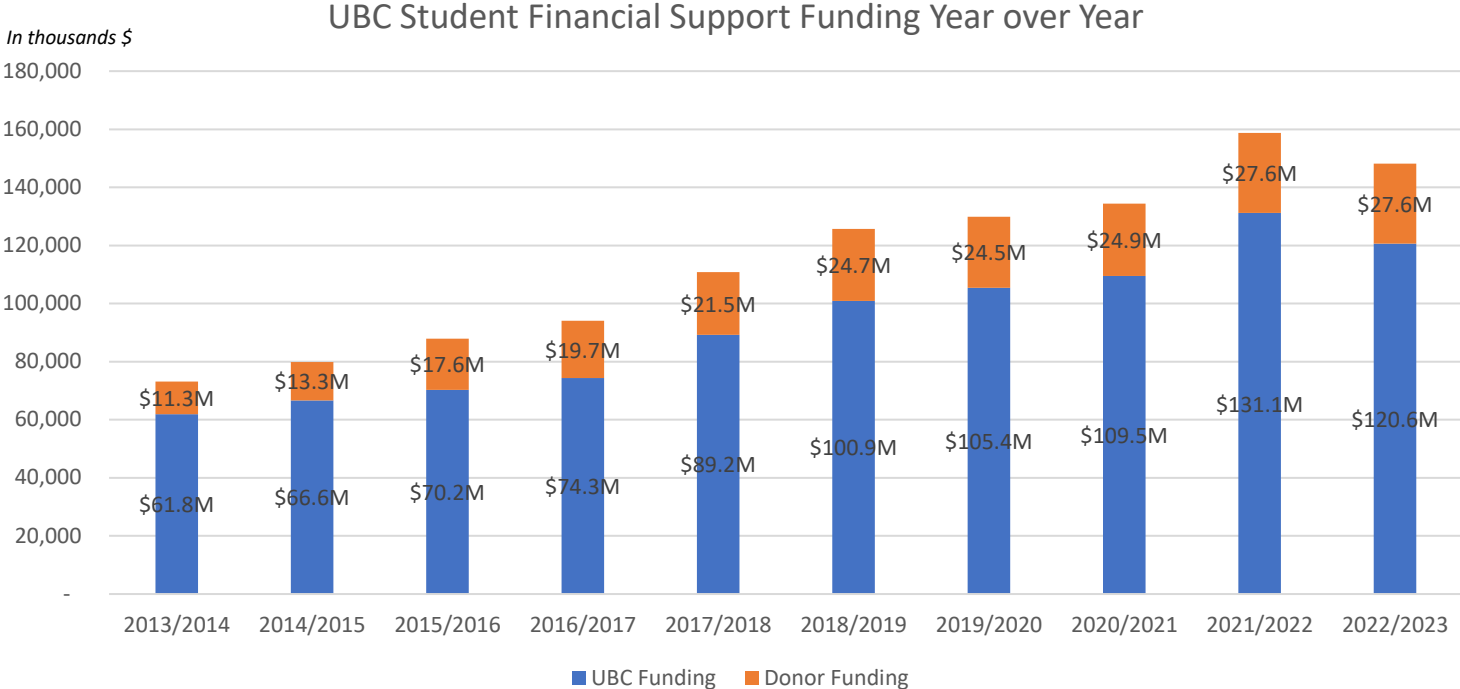
# Award Funding Level Comparison

(Fiscal Year 2020/2021)

BC Research Universities Student Financial Support as % of Tuition Dollars

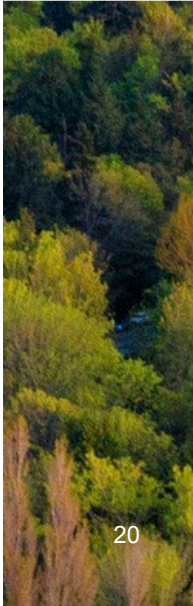
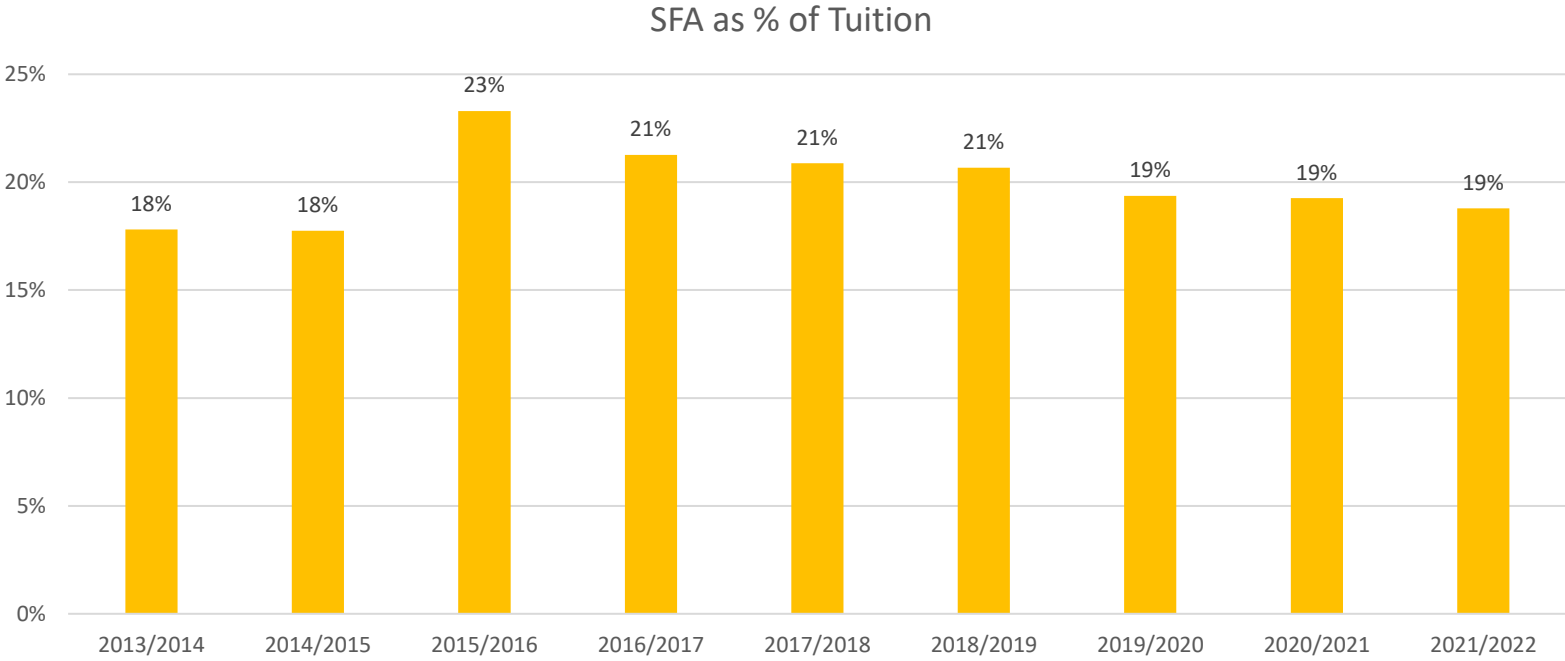


# UBC Student Financial Support Funding Year over Year





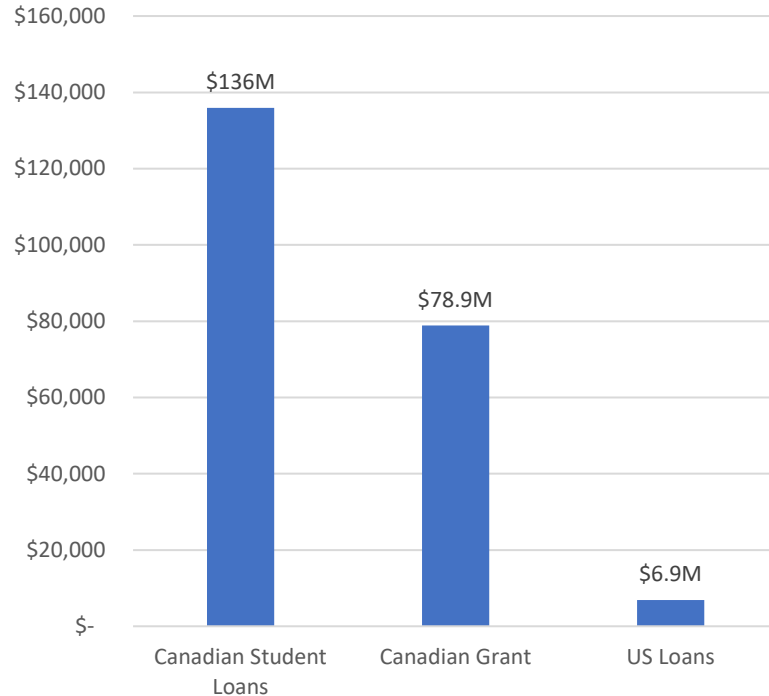
# UBC Student Financial Support Funding Year over Year



# Student Loan Summary

(Fiscal Year 2022/2023)

*in thousands*

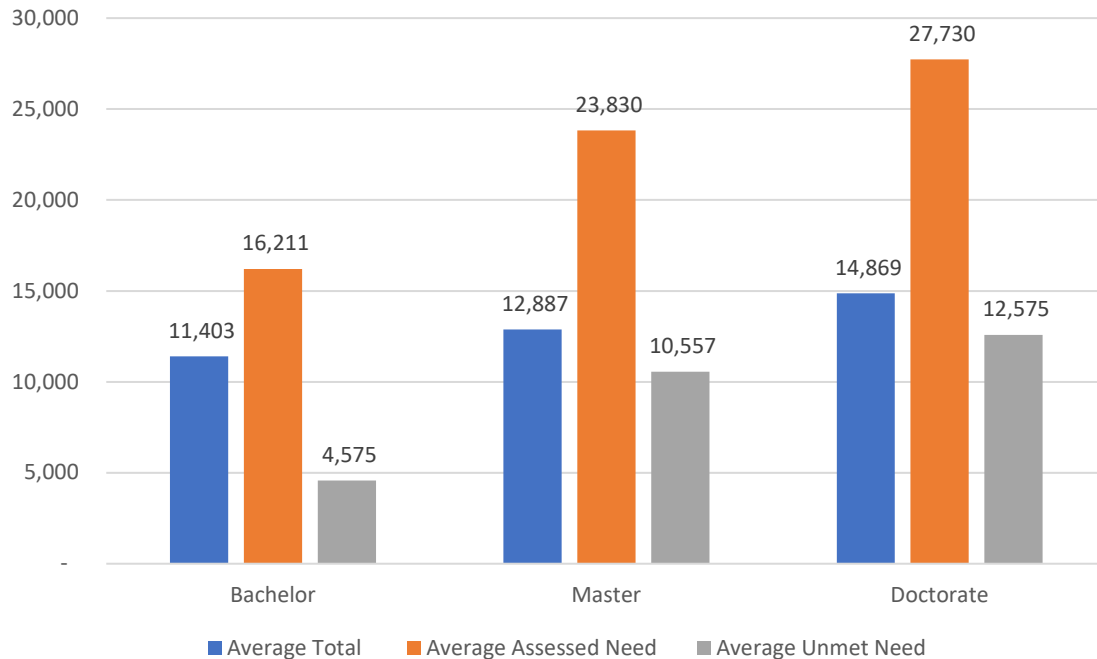


- Total Students in receipt of student loans
  - 15,327
- Canadian Student Loans
  - 14,253 students
- Canadian Grants
  - 12,073 students
- US Loans
  - 242 students



# Average Annual Government Student Loan and Grant Funding by UBC Credential Type

(2021/2022)



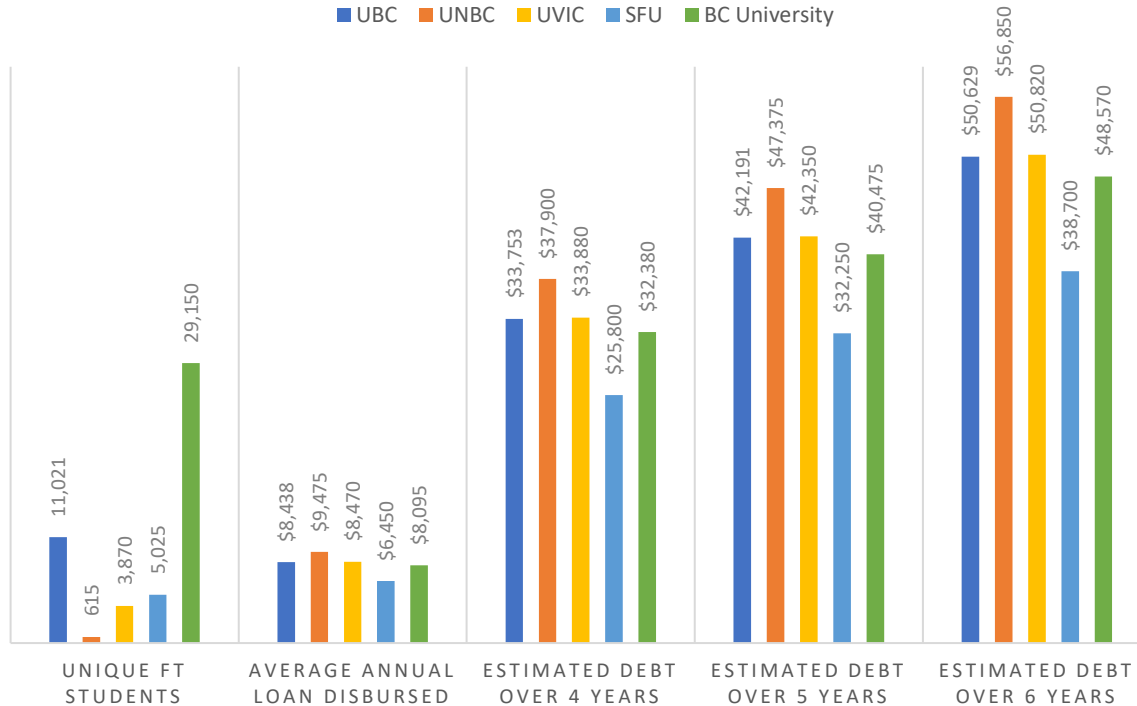
## Assessed Need

- Allowable education costs minus available resources as defined by Student Aid BC and Canada Student Loan Program policies for the specific program year

## Unmet Need

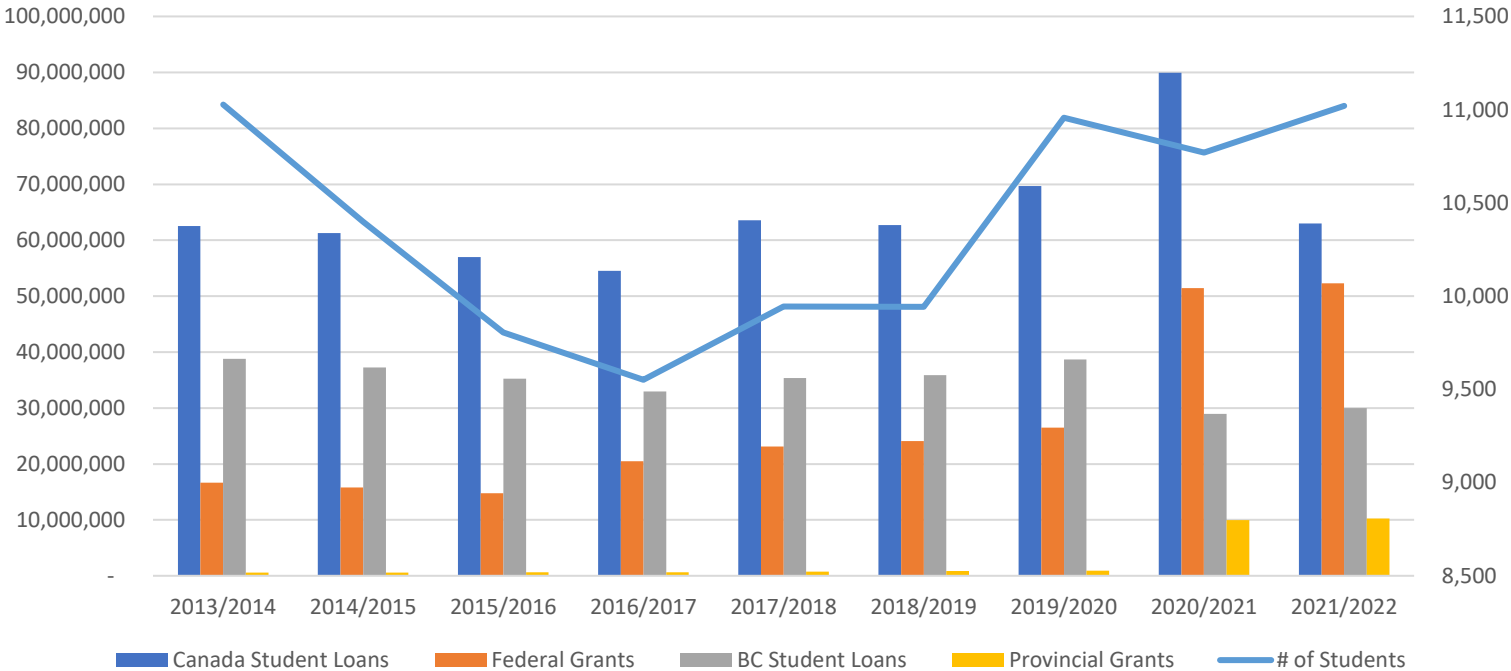
- Represents the difference between a student's assessed need and total award
- Assessed need – total award

# Average UBC Student Borrowing

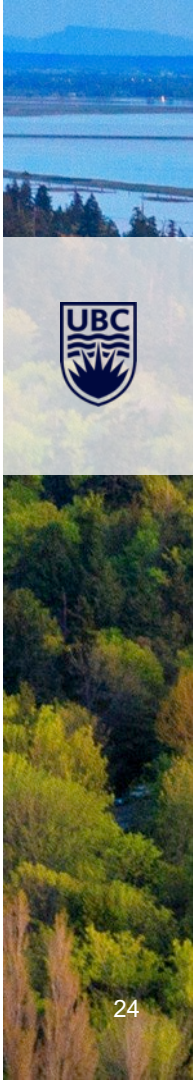


- Estimated debt is derived from taking the average annual loan disbursed for a student, multiply by the average years of credential (i.e., 4 to 6)

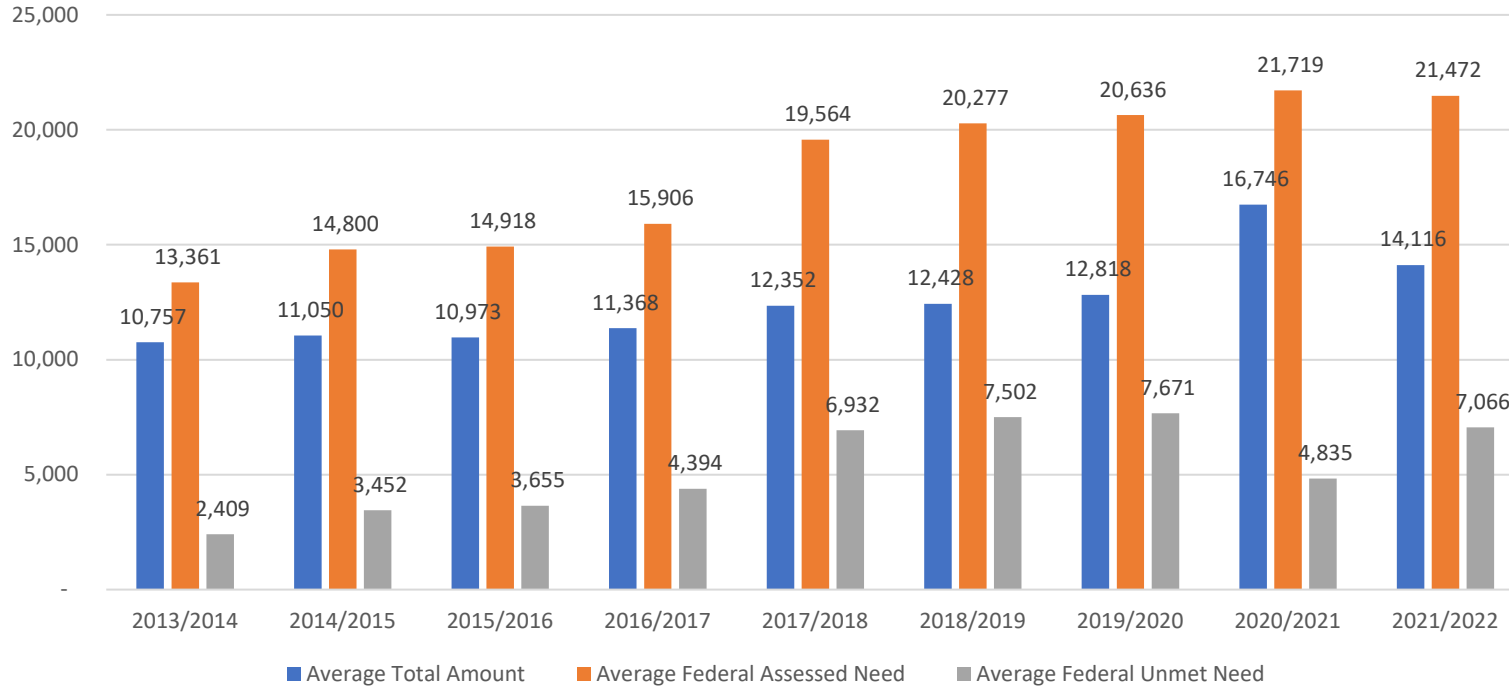
# Student Loan and Grant Funding Disbursed to UBC Students



Source: Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, 2022



# Average Student Loan/Grant



Source: Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, 2022



# Other Indirect Student Financial Support

- Food insecurity support
  - \$800K in support of food insecurity initiatives
- Open Educational Resources (OER)
  - \$1M over 4 years to support creation, adoption and adaption of OERs to reduce cost of learning materials for students
  - In 2020/2021 students saved between \$1.9M to \$2.7M in learning materials
  - Since 2011, students saved between \$10.1M to \$14.5M
- Graduate Student Travel and Research Dissemination Fund
  - In 2022/2023, provided \$160K to support students who travel outside of Canada for university purposes
- Financial Wellness Workshops
  - 2021/2022 offered 22 financial wellness workshops to 1046 students
  - 2022/2023 offered 10 financial wellness workshops to 418 students to date
    - 8 sessions planned over the summer
    - Financial Fundamentals workshops focus on Indigenous students, students with disabilities





THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA