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| <b>SUBJECT</b>                | International Undergraduate Application Fees for 2025W and 2026S Sessions  |
| <b>SUBMITTED TO</b>           | Finance Committee  |
| <b>MEETING DATE</b>           | September 14, 2023   |
| <b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b> | Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy:<br>OPEN   |
| <b>REQUEST</b>                | <b>APPROVAL REQUESTED</b><br>IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, under authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves an international undergraduate application fee of \$170.00 for applications to be received for the 2025W and 2026S sessions.                                    |
| <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<br>Bhushan Gopaluni, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Faculty Planning, UBC Vancouver<br>Rella Ng, Associate Vice-President Enrolment Services and Registrar<br>David Shorthouse, Executive Director, Academic Portfolio Initiatives |

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**PRIOR SUBMISSIONS**

The subject matter of this submission has not previously been considered by the Board of Governors.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

For applicants wishing to attend UBC, a non-refundable application fee is required. In order to ensure accurate, equitable, and timely assessment of each application, this fee helps support the Undergraduate Admissions office.

UBC has one of the lowest undergraduate application fees in Canada among research-intensive universities. For the 2024W and 2025S sessions, the Board of Governors have approved a \$127.75 application fee for international undergraduates.

In 2023-2024, UBC expects to receive \$5.1 million in application fee revenue, but the total cost to effectively process applications is \$7.0 million.

In order to be in line with the University of Toronto, a peer institution, UBC recommends raising its international undergraduate application fee to \$170.00 for applications to be received for 2025W and 2026S sessions. As a result, there would be an additional \$769,757 in revenue above a 2% increase, and this would offset the overall cost of processing applications effectively.

Programs with supplemental application fees are out of scope in this proposal.

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**APPENDICES**

1. International Undergraduate Application Fees Report
2. 2023 International Undergraduate Application Fee UBCSUO Response
3. Tuition Consultation International Undergraduate Application Fee Report - Okanagan

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. 2023 International Undergraduate Application Fees Increase

## INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FEES

### PROGRAM TUITION, FEE, DEPOSIT CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Enrolment Services and Registrar's office conducted a student consultation regarding a non-refundable international undergraduate application fee that is required from applicants interested in attending UBC. 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)

#### 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 May 1, 2023 to Monday June 5, 2023.

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

No individual student submissions were received.

| Organization | Summary   |
|--------------|---|
| AMS          | <b>Recommendation to consider alternative funding sources</b><br>“...we cannot support any increase to the application fee and feel that <b>the university should be working to decrease the financial stress on international students rather than increasing it.</b> Any increase to the cost of education hinders the ability for students to fully commit to the UBC student experience.” |

**Enrolment Services Response:** Enrolment Services provided a response to the feedback received from the AMS. AMS was informed of their response on July 31 2023 and invited to provide additional comments by Tuesday August 8 2023. No response was received. Additional details can be found in Appendix 2.

## 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\*\*\***

Hello everyone,

There is a proposal by the Enrolment Services and Registrar's office regarding a non-refundable international undergraduate application fee that is required from applicants interested in attending UBC. These fees help support the Undergraduate Admissions office, to ensure that every application is assessed in an accurate, equitable, and timely manner.

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to the **fee increase proposal** for this, 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 fee increase proposal.**

The consultation will consist of:

### 1. e-consultation

Please find attached a document which outlines the details of the fee increase proposal, including:

- an overview of the program,
- the fees rationale for the program, and
- the proposed 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 JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> 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 us know if you have any questions about the process.

Thank you,

Samantha

**Samantha Reid Ph.D.**

**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)



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\*\*\*\*\*

**PROGRAM TUITION, FEE, DEPOSIT CONSULTATION:  
INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FEES**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

A non-refundable undergraduate application fee is required from applicants interested in attending UBC. These fees help support the Undergraduate Admissions office, to ensure that every application is assessed in an accurate, equitable, and timely manner.

Some programs have supplemental application fees which are out of scope for the proposal below.

The undergraduate application fee at UBC is one of the lowest in Canada among research intensive universities. For 2024 Winter and 2025S applications: application fees for domestic undergraduate students: \$75.50; for international undergraduate students: \$127.75.

**PROPOSED TUITION, FEE, OR DEPOSIT CHANGE**

The approved international undergraduate application fee for applications to be received for the 2024W and 2025S sessions is \$127.75.

The proposed international undergraduate application fee for applications to be received for the 2025W and 2026S sessions is \$170.00 (approximately 33% increase).

**PROPOSED TUITION, FEE, OR DEPOSIT RATIONALE**

In 2023/24, UBC expects to receive \$5.1 million in application fee revenue, but the total cost to effectively process applications is \$7.0 million.

The undergraduate application fee at UBC is one of the lowest in the country for research intensive universities. The table below reflects benchmarking at other universities across the country.

| <b>Universities</b>                        | <b>Domestic Application Fees</b> | <b>International Application Fees</b> |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>University of British Columbia</b>      | \$74.25                          | \$125.25                              |
| <b>University of Victoria<sup>1</sup></b>  | \$81.00                          | \$142.00                              |
| <b>Simon Fraser University<sup>2</sup></b> | \$81.00                          | \$81.00                               |
| <b>University of Northern BC</b>           | \$76.50                          | \$153.00                              |
| <b>University of Alberta</b>               | \$125.00                         | \$125.00                              |
| <b>University of Calgary</b>               | \$125.00                         | \$145.00                              |
| <b>Dalhousie University</b>                | \$70.00                          | \$70.00                               |
| <b>McGill University</b>                   | \$125.75                         | \$125.75                              |
| <b>University of Manitoba</b>              | \$100.00                         | \$120.00                              |
| <b>University of Saskatchewan</b>          | \$90.00                          | \$90.00                               |

|   |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Ontario Universities' Application Centre<sup>3</sup></b> | \$150.00/156.00 | \$160.00/166.00 |
| <b>University of Toronto<sup>4</sup></b>                    |                 | \$180.00        |

The proposed increase would bring UBC in line with an international undergraduate application fee with the University of Toronto, a peer institution. This would result in a \$769k incremental revenue above a 2% increase for applications received for 2025W and 2026S, and help to offset the total cost to effectively process applications.

## APPENDIX 2: STUDENT SUBMISSIONS & FACULTY RESPONSES

Submission from the AMS.



June 5, 2023

### RE: Student Consultations for International Undergraduate Application Fees

Dear Samantha Reid,

This submission is made on behalf of the UBC Alma Mater Society. Firstly, thank you for including us in this consultation process, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input. As part of our own consultation, we've reached out to over 20 student groups with high international student membership to inform our response.

While we recognize the application processing cost as well as the potential revenue that an increase would generate, we encourage the university to consider the negative impact a 33% increase will have on the student experience. International students already pay a much higher tuition cost and while the UBC application fee might be lower, international tuition is among the most expensive when compared to our U15 peer group. According to our recent 2023 Academic Experience Survey, only 16% of international students agree that UBC has assisted them in meeting the financial needs required to attend their programs. An even lower 13% believe that UBC has taken measures to lower barriers and display compassionate support when students share financial distress. Many also expressed frustration that more money is being taken from students when the international tuition rate has been increasing so significantly. Given this context, **we implore the university to consider alternative funding sources before relying on students** such as accessing current funding opportunities that exist within units like Student Services.

In much of our consultation, many international students pointed to the already existing barriers to entry. Most must be financially independent and overcome immense financial burdens that leave students in stressful, sometimes dangerous, situations. Students from marginalized or low-income backgrounds also spoke about post-secondary education being an opportunity to improve not only their own future, but that of their families. The government support for international students is historically very low and they often come to the country with little to no network for financial support. Thus, we cannot support any increase to the application fee and feel that **the university should be working to decrease the financial stress on international students rather than increasing it**. Any increase to the cost of education hinders the ability for students to fully commit to the UBC student experience.

For students who must be more financially independent, this means more time spent looking for financial support and less dedicated to their academics. Throughout the UBC strategic plan, the university aims to strive toward greater international collaboration and inclusion and we know that an affordable application fee would work towards this objective.

Additionally, following the crisis in Ukraine, the Canadian government offered temporary resident

status for Ukrainian students and their families through the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET). The BC government expands on this to state that Ukrainians arriving through CUAET may be eligible for domestic tuition rates. With this being said, we urge the University to take compassionate action and exempt eligible Ukrainians from the international student application fee or reduce it in light of their vulnerable situation.

Ultimately, as the representatives of over 17,000 international students, we hope that this feedback will be thoughtfully considered. International students make up 22% of the total student population and as the university has “committed to making education more affordable and accessible”, it is important that international students are not left behind. UBC is consistently ranked as North America’s most international university by Times Higher Education and we at the AMS hope that UBC is able to retain this status by protecting this population. It is vital that international students, like all other students, can access an affordable education to ensure academic success and preventing an increase to the application fee is the first step in achieving this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kamil Kanji", enclosed in a dashed rectangular border.

**Kamil Kanji**

Vice President Academic and University Affairs  
Alma Mater Society





July 24, 2023

Kamil Kanji  
Vice President Academic and University Affairs  
Alma Mater Society

RE: Student Consultations for International Undergraduate Application Fees

Dear Kamil,

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the proposed international application fee increase. We appreciate the feedback and the opportunity to address your points. As representatives of the UBC Alma Mater Society, we understand and appreciate your commitment to advocating for the best interests of international students. We also acknowledge the potential impact an application fee increase can have on the ability of students to apply to UBC.

We would like to clarify that the application fee increase is primarily intended to address the rising costs associated with administering and processing undergraduate admission applications and the impact of inflation. While the proposed fee increase aims to mitigate the rising costs associated with administering and processing admission application fees, it is important to note that even with the increase, the fees collected would still not fully cover the expenses incurred in this process.

The University is dedicated to maintaining a high-quality application system and providing a thorough and efficient evaluation of each application. However, the costs involved, including technological advancements, additional personnel, and other resources, have continued to rise over the years. In addition, since 2011, the increase in international application fees has generally lagged behind the increase in international tuition fees. The proposed increase will bring us in line with the fees charged by other U15 universities. This adjustment allows us to continue providing a high standard of service while remaining competitive within the academic landscape.

We understand your concerns about the affordability of education for international students, especially given the already high tuition costs. We also appreciate your mention of the recent crisis in Ukraine and the Canadian government's temporary resident status and tuition rate adjustments. We understand the vulnerable situation of Ukrainian students and their families and the need for compassionate action.

Prospective students experiencing financial hardship regarding their admission application can contact Enrolment Services. Each applicant's case will be assessed and eligible candidates will have the application fee waived.

We also recognize the unique challenges international students face, particularly those from marginalized or low-income backgrounds, who must navigate financial independence and overcome significant burdens. We appreciate your insights into the importance of affordability and accessibility in post-secondary education. We assure you that UBC remains dedicated to fostering an inclusive and collaborative environment that supports students' well-being and success.

Your feedback is crucial to us. We are committed to upholding our University's reputation as a leader in international education and ensuring that international students are not left behind. We share your vision of an affordable and accessible education for all students. We will continue to work closely with various stakeholders to address these concerns and create a supportive environment that fosters academic success and inclusivity.

Thank you for your thoughtful input and dedication to making UBC a better place for all students. We value your perspective and remain open to ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

Warm regards,



Dr. Bhushan Gopaluni  
Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President  
Faculty Planning



Rella Ng  
Associate Vice-President Enrolment Services &  
Registrar

AMS Response

**From:** [VP Students Office Admin Coordinator](#)  
**To:** "Kamil Kanji"  
**Cc:** [Audrey Chow](#); [AA](#); [Reid, Samantha](#)  
**Subject:** RE: International Undergraduate Application Fee Submission  
**Date:** Monday, July 31, 2023 8:34:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [2023 International Undergraduate Application Fee AMS Response.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

**\*\*\*This message is sent on behalf of Dr. Samantha Reid, Executive Director of the Office of the Vice President, Students\*\*\***

Dear Alma Mater Society,

Thank you for providing the response to a student consultation regarding the International Undergraduate Application Fees. Please find enclosed Enrolment Services response to your questions/comments.

Kindly review it and let us know if you have any further concerns **by EOD TUESDAY AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>**.

Sincerely,  
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)



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\*\*\*\*\*

Sent by:  
Irena

**Irena Deretic**  
Administrative Coordinator  
Office of the Vice-President, Students  
The University of British Columbia | Vancouver Campus | Musqueam Traditional Territory  
123-6328 Memorial Road | Vancouver BC | V6T 1Z2 Canada  
Phone 604 822 3644 | Fax 604 822 8194  
[vpsassist@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:vpsassist@mail.ubc.ca) | [irena.deretic@ubc.ca](mailto:irena.deretic@ubc.ca)  
<https://vpstudents.ubc.ca/>



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**From:** Kamil Kanji <[KamilKanji@ams.ubc.ca](mailto:KamilKanji@ams.ubc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 6:30 PM  
**To:** VP Students Office Admin Coordinator <[vpsassist@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:vpsassist@mail.ubc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Audrey Chow <[avpuniversity@ams.ubc.ca](mailto:avpuniversity@ams.ubc.ca)>; AA <[Offarchive@ams.ubc.ca](mailto:Offarchive@ams.ubc.ca)>  
**Subject:** International Undergraduate Application Fee Submission

Hi Irena,

I hope you are doing well. You can find the AMS's submission regarding the proposed international undergraduate application fee increase. Please let me know if you or Sam or anyone else has questions or concerns. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

**Kamil Kanji** ([He, Him, His](#))

Vice-President, Academic and University Affairs

Vice Chair, UBC Vancouver Senate

Co-Chair, UBC Vancouver Student Senate Caucus

E [vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca](mailto:vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca) | T 403 671 8150

AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver | [ams.ubc.ca](http://ams.ubc.ca)

Unceded territory of [x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm](#) (Musqueam) Peoples



## International Undergraduate Application Fees Consultation Report

### Instructions

There is a proposal by the Enrolment Services and Registrar's office regarding a non-refundable international undergraduate application fee that is required from applicants interested in attending UBC. These fees help support the Undergraduate Admissions office, to ensure that every application is assessed in an accurate, equitable, and timely manner.

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to the **fee increase proposal** for this, 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 fee increase proposal.**

The consultation will consist of:

#### 1. e-consultation

Please find attached a document which outlines the details of the fee increase proposal, including:

- an overview of the proposal,
- the fees rationale, and
- the proposed 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 Michelle Lowton, Director Office of the Associate Vice President Students ([michelle.lowton@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.lowton@ubc.ca))**

#### 2. Virtual Meeting

If requested by student representatives, we can arrange a virtual meeting on Zoom with Registrar's office 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 FRIDAY AUGUST 6TH AT MIDNIGHT.**

#### Confidentiality



- Comments will be collected by the Associate 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 Associate 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.

### Confidentiality

Comments will be collected by the Office of the Associate Vice-President (Students), and only analysts within that office will know the identity of individual students submitting comments. At no time will anyone outside of the Office of the Associate Vice-President (Students) 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 Faculties and the Board of Governors verbatim.

Comments received from student organizations will be reported as coming from those organizations, and provided to the responsible faculty and the Board of Governors as received.

### Program Overview

A non-refundable undergraduate application fee is required from applicants interested in attending UBC. These fees help support the Undergraduate Admissions office, to ensure that every application is assessed in an accurate, equitable, and timely manner.

Some programs have supplemental application fees which are out of scope for the proposal below.

The undergraduate application fee at UBC is one of the lowest in Canada among research intensive universities. For 2024 Winter and 2025S applications: application fees for domestic undergraduate students: \$75.50; for international undergraduate students: \$127.75.

students: \$75.50; for international undergraduate students: \$127.75.

### Proposed Tuition, Fee or Deposit Change



The approved international undergraduate application fee for applications to be received for the 2024W and 2025S sessions is \$127.75.

The proposed international undergraduate application fee for applications to be received for the 2025W and 2026S sessions is \$170.00 (approximately 33% increase).

### Proposed Tuition, Fee or Deposit Change rationale

In 2023/24, UBC expects to receive \$5.1 million in application fee revenue, but the total cost to effectively process applications is \$7.0 million.

The undergraduate application fee at UBC is one of the lowest in the country for research intensive universities. The table below reflects benchmarking at other universities across the country.

| Universities  | Domestic Application Fees | International Application Fees |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| University of British Columbia                        | \$74.25                   | \$125.25                       |
| University of Victoria <sup>1</sup>                   | \$81.00                   | \$142.00                       |
| Simon Fraser University <sup>2</sup>                  | \$81.00                   | \$81.00                        |
| University of Northern BC                             | \$76.50                   | \$153.00                       |
| University of Alberta                                 | \$125.00                  | \$125.00                       |
| University of Calgary                                 | \$125.00                  | \$145.00                       |
| Dalhousie University                                  | \$70.00                   | \$70.00                        |
| McGill University                                     | \$125.75                  | \$125.75                       |
| University of Manitoba                                | \$100.00                  | \$120.00                       |
| University of Saskatchewan                            | \$90.00                   | \$90.00                        |
| Ontario Universities' Application Centre <sup>3</sup> | \$150.00/156.00           | \$160.00/166.00                |
| University of Toronto <sup>4</sup>                    |                           | \$180.00                       |

The proposed increase would bring UBC in line with an international undergraduate application fee with the University of Toronto, a peer institution. This would result in a \$769k incremental revenue above a 2% increase for applications received for 2025W and 2026S, and help to offset the total cost to effectively process applications.



## Results of the Student Consultation

The Associate Vice-President, Students Office, invited elected student leadership to participate and to share with their student members the opportunity to provide feedback on this proposed new program tuition.

### Student Representative Bodies Invited to the Consultation

University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan, were invited by email on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to consult and/or provide written comments by August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Mode of Consultation

The UBC Okanagan Students Union was offered an opportunity to provide feedback in writing or to have e-consultations scheduled at their request.

The following feedback was submitted by a member of the elected leadership:

*As an advocate for the rights and well-being of international students, we address a matter of utmost importance: the proposed non-refundable international undergraduate application fee increase at UBC. This document outlines some concerns and recommendations grounded in the belief that every student deserves equal access to quality education, regardless of background or nationality. International students are integral to our academic community, contributing diverse perspectives and enriching campus life. The consistent rise in tuition fees has generated dissatisfaction among international students, who already face significant financial strain. This sentiment, coupled with an application fee increase of 33%, increases the financial barrier for entering students and causes frustration among the current international student population. Moreover, it threatens the accessibility of UBC for prospective international students and compromises our commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive community. The proposed application fee increase emphasizes the importance of equitable cost distribution. While recognizing the need for revenue generation, we should meet any rise in international student application fees with an equivalent adjustment in domestic student application fees. This balanced approach ensures that both groups share the financial responsibility. As advocates, we tirelessly strive to enhance transparency in decision-making processes. We call upon UBC to reciprocate by increasing transparency from its end, allowing for a more inclusive platform for student opinions and concerns. The university should also establish robust communication channels to facilitate meaningful dialogue between students and decision-makers. An application fee increase should signify more than just financial implications; it should also signify increased support for international students. We recommend accompanying any fee increment with a commitment to provide enhanced financial aid opportunities based on both merit and financial need. This proactive approach aligns with our collective goal of providing equal educational opportunities. We urge the university to consider our recommendations and work collaboratively*





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Okanagan Campus

*towards creating an environment where education is accessible, transparent, and supportive for all.*



August 21, 2023

UBC Okanagan Student Union

RE: Student Consultations for International Undergraduate Application Fees

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the proposed international application fee increase. We appreciate the feedback and the opportunity to address your points. As representatives of the UBC Okanagan Student Union, we understand and appreciate your commitment to advocating for the best interests of international students. We also acknowledge the potential impact an application fee increase can have on the ability of students to apply to UBC.

We would like to clarify that the application fee increase is primarily intended to address the rising costs associated with administering and processing undergraduate admission applications and the impact of inflation. While the proposed fee increase aims to mitigate the rising costs associated with administering and processing admission application fees, it is important to note that even with the increase, the fees collected would still not fully cover the expenses incurred in this process.

In response to your suggestion of an equivalent adjustment in domestic student application fees, we would like to clarify that the domestic application fee is governed by provincial guidelines. Unfortunately, the University's ability to adjust domestic application fees is limited to a maximum increase of 2%, as set by the province. While we are unable to match international application fee increases on a one-to-one basis, we remain committed to exploring avenues within the tuition framework to ensure international students are supported. Each year, 7.5% of international tuition is set aside for international student financial assistance.

The University is dedicated to maintaining a high-quality application system and providing a thorough and efficient evaluation of each application. However, the costs involved, including technological advancements, additional personnel, and other resources, have continued to rise over the years. In addition, since 2011, the increase in international application fees has generally lagged behind the increase in international tuition fees. The proposed increase will bring us in line with the fees charged by other U15 universities. This adjustment allows us to continue providing a high standard of service while remaining competitive within the academic landscape.

We also recognize the unique challenges international students face, particularly those from marginalized or low-income backgrounds, who must navigate financial independence and overcome significant burdens. We appreciate your insights into the importance of affordability and accessibility in post-secondary education. We assure you that UBC remains dedicated to

fostering an inclusive and collaborative environment that supports students' well-being and success.

Your feedback is crucial to us. We are committed to upholding our University's reputation as a leader in international education and ensuring that international students are not left behind. We share your vision of an affordable and accessible education for all students. We will continue to work closely with various stakeholders to address these concerns and create a supportive environment that fosters academic success and inclusivity.

Thank you for your thoughtful input and dedication to making UBC a better place for all students. We value your perspective and remain open to ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

Warm regards,



Dr. Rehan Sadiq  
Provost and Vice-President Academic  
UBC Okanagan



Rella Ng  
Associate Vice-President Enrolment Services &  
Registrar

# 2023 INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FEES INCREASE

RELLA NG, ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT ENROLMENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR



# BACKGROUND

- The undergraduate application fee at UBC is one of the lowest in the country for research intensive universities (for 2024W and 2025S applications: \$75.50 for domestic students and \$127.75 for international students).
- Provincial mandate allows only 2% annual fee increase for mandatory fees, so UBC is unable to adjust its application fee for domestic students (which is considered a mandatory fee).
- In 2023/24, UBC expects to receive \$5.1 million in application fees and the total cost to effectively process applications is \$7.0 million.
- Due to this gap, an increase greater than 2% is proposed to the international undergraduate application fee in order to assist with funding the gap in budget for the UBC's undergraduate admissions office.
- The analysis presented in the following slides assume the same approximate volume in future years as FY22 actuals.



# BENCHMARKING

| Universities                                | Domestic Application Fees | International Application Fees |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| University of British Columbia              | \$75.50                   | \$127.75                       |
| University of Victoria*                     | \$81.00                   | \$142.00                       |
| Simon Fraser University**                   | \$81.00                   | \$81.00                        |
| University of Northern BC                   | \$76.50                   | \$153.00                       |
| University of Alberta                       | \$125.00                  | \$125.00                       |
| University of Calgary                       | \$125.00                  | \$145.00                       |
| Dalhousie University                        | \$70.00                   | \$70.00                        |
| McGill University                           | \$125.75                  | \$125.75                       |
| University of Manitoba                      | \$100.00                  | \$120.00                       |
| University of Saskatchewan                  | \$90.00                   | \$90.00                        |
| Ontario Universities' Application Centre*** | \$150.00/156.00           | \$160.00/166.00                |
| University of Toronto****                   |                           | \$180.00                       |

\*transcripts came from institutions within Canada: \$81; transcripts from institutions outside Canada: \$142

\*\* International students typically apply for Simon Fraser University through the Fraser International College, which has an application fee of \$250

\*\*\* Listed base application fee is concurrently applied toward initial 3 program choices. Applications from applicants attending high school outside Ontario is charged \$6 more. Additional program choices can be added for \$50 each. Some universities then have a supplemental document evaluation fee for applicants attending high school outside Ontario as per [list](#). Some examples are \$90 for University of Toronto, \$95 for McMaster University and \$90 for York University.

\*\*\*\*Applying directly to University of Toronto



# PROPOSAL

|                               | FY23-24     | FY24-25     |          |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
|                               | Current     | Scenario A  | Increase |
| Total Application Fee Revenue | \$5,077,642 | \$5,947,542 |          |
| Domestic Application Fee      | \$75.50     | \$77.00     | 2%       |
| International Application Fee | \$127.75    | \$170.00    | 33%      |

- Propose to re-baseline the international application fees to benchmark against Ontario institutions, which includes large research universities (e.g. University of Toronto).
- The proposal also increases domestic application fees in alignment with Tuition Limit Policy.



# ONE-TIME INCREASE

|                          | Baseline     | One-time increase |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 25W/26S Rate             | \$ 130.25    | \$ 170.00         |
| 25W/26S % Increase       | 2%           | 33%               |
| FY25 Revenue             | \$ 2,522,287 | \$ 3,292,044      |
| FY25 Incremental Revenue |              | \$ 769,757        |

- An increase of 33% would bring UBC in line with an international undergraduate application fee with our peer: University of Toronto.
- This results in a \$769k incremental revenue above a 2% increase for applications received for 2025W and 2026S.

## Pros:

- Allows Undergraduate Admissions some coverage of its annual costs for staffing and Broad Based Admissions with additional revenue.

## Cons:

- Might seem excessive to students when compared with the regular 2% increase.





## NEXT STEPS:

- Obtain approval from the Provosts and VPAs and the Executives.
- Discuss with Provosts and VPAs and Central Finance to transfer the incremental fee revenue to Enrolment Services to support Undergraduate Admissions (currently all application fee revenue goes towards Central).
- Consult with VP Students about preparations for student consultation.
- Include the proposed international application fee increase in the student consultation webpage and upcoming Board dockets.
- Undergraduate Admissions should notify the IRP team in advance to use the new rate in Workday Student's Admissions system next year, and confirm to proceed following the Board approval.
- Consult the Ministry about whether to increase domestic application fees by more than 2%.





THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

