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<b>SUBJECT</b>	Continuing Fees   Master of Arts in Economics
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Finance Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	March 13, 2023
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. a reduction of continuing fees for international students in the Master of Arts in Economics to align with standard domestic Master’s degree program continuing fee rates, effective September 2024; and,</li><li>ii. assessment of the continuing fee after instalment 3, rather than after instalment 6, for domestic and international students in the Master of Arts in Economics, effective September 2024,</li></ul> 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>	Christina Hendricks, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Teaching & Learning <i>pro tem</i> Bhushan Gopaluni, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Faculty Planning

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**PRIOR SUBMISSIONS**

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

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Vancouver School of Economics (VSE), in the Faculty Arts, offers a Master of Arts in Economics degree with two streams available: a 12-month course-based option and a 24-month thesis-based option. The approved 2024-2025 international tuition rate is \$9,888.20 per instalment (assessed at 3 instalments per year, with a minimum of 3 instalments) and continuing fees are currently assessed after instalment 6.

The international continuing fee is currently aligned to be the same as each international tuition instalment (\$9,888.20), while the continuing fee for domestic students is substantially lower (aligned with the continuing fee rate used by standard master programs at \$839.97 (2024-2025 approved rate)). The VSE would like to:

1. Reduce international continuing fees to align with standard domestic continuing fee rates;
2. Reduce the number of instalments of when continuing fees are assessed from after instalment 6 to after instalment 3 for all students.

Standardizing continuing fees for domestic and international students, which will primarily benefit students in the thesis-based stream, pertain to their primary involvement in research activities during their second year as opposed to fees required to cover program costs incurred due to required coursework. The current fee structure does not adequately reflect this shift in academic focus and resource utilization for international students. The existing structure is also misaligned with tuition structures for comparable programs such as the Master of Business Administration, which sets the continuing fee at the same level, currently \$839.97, for domestic and international students.

The changes will apply to both existing and new students, effective 2024 W1. To illustrate the change, the approved rates for 2024-2025 are presented below and are subject to increases as approved by the Board.

	Current	Proposed
Instalments per year	3	3
Minimum # of instalments	3	3
<b>Continuing fee assessed</b>	<b>After instalment 6</b>	<b>After instalment 3</b>
Domestic tuition (per instalment)	\$1,838.57	\$1,838.57
Domestic continuing fee per instalment	\$839.97	\$839.97
International tuition (per instalment)*	\$9,888.20	\$9,888.20
<b>International continuing fee per instalment *</b>	<b>\$9,888.20</b>	<b>\$839.97</b>

\* The 2024-2025 international tuition fee currently varies between \$9,332.11 to \$9,888.20 based on student's program start year.

In the past ten years, there have been no cases of students choosing the thesis stream option. However, VSE plans to recruit a few students for the stream in the future. These will be highly qualified students and may be selected from a different pool of applicants. There have been very few cases in the past ten years where a student in the course-based stream required an extension beyond the regular 12-month period. As such, the financial implications of the proposed change are minimal.