



<b>SUBJECT</b>	New Program Tuition   Graduate Certificate in Migration Studies
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Finance Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	March 13, 2024
<b>SESSION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>REQUEST</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL REQUESTED</b></p> <p>IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Tuition for the Graduate Certificate in Migration Studies of \$0 per credit for both domestic and international students. Students will be assessed tuition in alignment with their primary program of study for which they are concurrently enrolled, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.</li> <li>ii. A one-time student fee of \$75.00 to be assessed in the first academic period where the program is tied to the student’s record, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.</li> </ul>
<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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) in the Faculty of Arts is proposing a new Graduate Certificate in Migration Studies. The focus of the certificate is knowledge enhancement in migration and mobilities research that is informed by multiple disciplines and grounded in interdisciplinarity. This program would be open to all graduate students enrolled in any master’s, doctoral, or professional graduate degree program at UBC, providing students with an opportunity to pursue a migration studies credential alongside their graduate degree program.

Following approval of the program by the UBC Vancouver Senate in February 2024, the request for approval of the Graduate Certificate in Migration Studies was forwarded to the Learning & Research Committee under the Committee’s March 2024 agenda. Pending approval from the Board of Governors, the program aims to admit its first cohort of students in September 2024.

There is no proposed tuition for the program, for either domestic or international students. Students will be assessed tuition in alignment with their primary program of study for which they are concurrently enrolled. Where students are assessed tuition on a per-credit basis in their primary program, such as in some professional master’s programs, any additional courses a student takes will be charged the per-credit rate of their program, even if the course counts only towards the graduate certificate rather than their primary program. No additional tuition fees are anticipated for students enrolled in a primary program which assesses tuition per instalment.

The program will only be open to students currently enrolled in a UBC graduate program, where they will already be paying graduate program tuition. Based on program design, the CMS anticipates that, for many students, they may only be required to complete one additional course and the 1-credit seminar course (which will be taught by the CMS Co-Directors as part of their role as Co-Director at the CMS) so they did not feel it necessary to charge additional tuition for the program. The Faculty has completed financial modelling and determined that the program can be implemented and supported with existing resources. The CMS will cover unforeseen expenses incurred by the certificate.

Students will be required to pay a one-time \$75.00 student fee, to be assessed in the first academic period where the program is tied to the student's record. This fee will offset the costs accrued by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies who will provide administrative support for the program, including student systems enablement, enrolment, registration, and conferral management. This fee is subject to annual 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 January 08, 2024 to February 07, 2024. Submissions were not received by AMS or GSS and no individual student submissions were received.

The certificate specifically addresses the following UBC Strategic Goals:

[Strategy 4: Inclusive Excellence](#): Migration is the primary driver of racial, linguistic, and religious diversity. The core of migration research revolves around the study of diversity, inclusion and exclusion dynamics, and struggles for belonging and equity. Opting for a specialization in migration studies prompts students to cultivate skills in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as they navigate the complexities of studying diverse communities. The program's core course introduces students to decolonizing perspectives in migration studies and equips learners to critique foundational concepts in the field through a decolonial lens. The program is designed to enhance the integration of inclusive excellence into graduate education.

[Strategy 14: Interdisciplinary Education](#): This program complements existing disciplinary graduate curricula by offering students multi- and interdisciplinary knowledge enhancement in migration and mobilities research. Through taking at least one course outside their home department, students gain exposure to varied disciplinary approaches in studying migration and mobilities. The core course of the program introduces a diverse cohort of learners to the challenges and advantages of interdisciplinary knowledge creation and nurtures their capacity to effectively communicate their expertise to a multidisciplinary audience.

[Strategy 15: Student Experience](#): For students with an interest in migration and mobilities, being part of an interdisciplinary and inclusive academic community can foster a strong sense of belonging. Housed within the Centre for Migration Studies, this program provides an intellectually open space guided by the Centre's values of EDI and decolonization. The year-long core seminar in the first year is specifically designed to build a cohesive cohort, encouraging peer support and a strong sense of community. This approach allows students to cultivate a sense of belonging beyond their disciplinary home unit, providing faculty and peer support that enriches their graduate education more broadly.

---

## APPENDICES

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

## Appendix 1 – Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

**Program Description:** Graduate Certificate in Migration Studies

**Anticipated Start Date:** September 2024

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per instalment/credit – Note 1	\$0	\$0
Application Fees (Graduate)	\$0	\$0
Supplemental Application Fees	\$0	\$0
Other Faculty and Course Fees (Program Fee) – Note 2	\$75.00	\$75.00

Note 1 – There will be no additional tuition fees associated with the Graduate Certificate. Students will be assessed tuition in alignment with their primary program of study.

Note 2 – This \$75.00 fee will offset the costs accrued by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies who will provide administrative support for the program, including student systems enablement, enrolment, registration, and conferral management. These fees are subject to annual increases as approved by the Board.

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MIGRATION STUDIES**

**STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION**

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Faculty of Arts conducted a student consultation regarding the launch of Graduate Certificate in Migration Studies. This report outlines the consultation process and summarizes student feedback.

**Student Representative Bodies Invited to the Consultation**

- Alma Mater Society (AMS)
- Graduate Student Society (GSS)

**Mode of Consultation**

The consultation consisted of an e-consultation. Student representative groups were invited to the consultation through email, and asked to distribute the invitation to their constituents as they felt appropriate. Student representative groups were also offered a face-to-face/zoom meeting to discuss the tuition proposal. A meeting was not requested by student representatives.

**Basis of Consultation:** The consultation was based on a tuition proposal and rationale document created by the Faculty. Please see Appendix 1 for the invitation and tuition rationale document.

**Timelines:** The e-consultation was conducted over the period of Monday January 8, 2024 to Wednesday February 7, 2024.

**Summary of Student Feedback:** Submissions were not received by AMS or GSS and no individual student submissions were received.

## 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 to offer a new Graduate Certificate in Migration Studies. This program would be open to all graduate students enrolled in any master's, doctoral, or professional graduate degree program at UBC, providing students with an opportunity to pursue a migration studies credential alongside their graduate degree program.

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 proposal if they wish. **Please note: the scope of this consultation process is limited to the acceptance tuition proposal.**

The consultation will consist of:

### 1. e-consultation

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

- an overview of the program,
- the student consultation that has happened to date,
- the tuition and fees rationale for the program, and
- the proposed tuition and fees.

Please share the document and this email as you see appropriate. **Comments and student organization submissions on the tuition proposal can be provided to Irena Deretic – Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Vice President Students ([vpsassist@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:vpsassist@mail.ubc.ca)).**

### 2. Face to Face/Zoom meeting

If requested by student representatives, we can arrange a face-to-face/Zoom meeting with the program leads regarding this tuition proposal. Please advise as soon as possible if you would like us to arrange a meeting.

**THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WILL END ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7<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 me know if you have any questions about the process.

Thank you,

Samantha

**Samantha Reid** Ph.D. (she/her)

**Executive Director**

**Office of the Vice President Students**

The University of British Columbia | Musqueam & Syilx Okanagan Nation Traditional Territories

6328 Memorial Road | Vancouver BC | V6T 1Z2

Phone 604 827 2922 | [samantha.reid@ubc.ca](mailto:samantha.reid@ubc.ca)



**THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

\*\*\*\*\*

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Centre for Migration Studies in the Faculty of Arts is proposing a new **Graduate Certificate in Migration Studies** to be delivered on the traditional and unceded territory of the x̣ʷməθkʷəỵəm (Musqueam) people. This program would be open to all graduate students enrolled in any master's, doctoral, or professional graduate degree program at UBC, providing students with an opportunity to pursue a migration studies credential alongside their graduate degree program.

[A note on terminology: "Migration" is a term more closely associated with the social sciences (in particular sociology, economics, political science, demography, and law) whereas "mobilities" is a term more commonly used in the humanities (e.g., cultural studies, anthropology, literature). Both terms refer to the movement of people across space, both within and across borders.]

The focus of the certificate is knowledge enhancement in migration and mobilities research that is informed by multiple disciplines and grounded in interdisciplinarity. It pursues 3 objectives:

1. provide students with multi- and interdisciplinary knowledge enhancement in migration and mobilities research
2. provide students with knowledge about pathways to non-academic employment in the migration and immigrant integration sector
3. foster an inclusive, engaged, and interdisciplinary academic community that provides students with a sense of belonging

Students will be required to fulfill 10 course credits to complete the certificate:

- 9 credits of graduate course electives from a list of approved courses or, by approval of the program director, select courses completed any time during the student's graduate degree; 3 of the 9 credits must be taken outside of the student's home department.
- ASTU 505 (1 credit) "Interdisciplinary Research and Professional Practice in Migration Studies" which is a year-long program core seminar that will meet roughly every other week for 1 ¾ hours for a total of 13 sessions

Note that any number of the elective credits may also be applied to the requirements for students' graduate degree program of study, at the discretion of the student's degree program.

On completion of the Certificate, students will be able to

1. Recognize, value, and apply diverse disciplinary and paradigmatic approaches to the study of migration and mobilities
2. Build capacity for interdisciplinary engagement with peer migration and mobilities researchers
3. Critique foundational concepts in migration studies through a decolonial lens

## STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

CMS consulted students regarding the value, feasibility, and desirability of a migration focused graduate certificate during the spring of 2023. A survey was sent to all graduate students on the CMS mailing list and received a 30% response rate (28 students). Focus groups were conducted with 6 students. Both the survey and the focus groups point to the graduate certificate being both desirable and feasible.

### Feasibility of the credit structure

9 credits (at least three of which would need to be from outside the student's home department) was said to be feasible from the point of view of students. Only four students (14%) from the survey said they would *not* have been able to complete the requirements. The others said that they would have definitely had the time or that they would have had some time and could possibly have made it work.

An important note on feasibility is that students from both the survey and the focus groups said that they would need to be intentional about how to complete the certificate requirements as there are often limitations to number of electives permitted within a program of study, and further to that, there can often be scheduling issues for certain courses that are only offered every couple of years. Additionally, there can often be restrictions or the need to seek special permissions for enrolling in courses outside the home department. Given these scheduling considerations, students requested that there be flexibility in terms of when during their program of study they will be expected to complete the courses needed for the graduate certificate.

### Likelihood of enrolling

89% of survey respondents (25 students) said it would have been extremely likely or somewhat likely that they would have enrolled in this certificate if it was on offer when they started their program of study. Only 3 respondees said it would have been unlikely that they would have enrolled, and they flagged current workload issues as being the biggest barrier. Those students who flagged a likelihood of enrollment said they were attracted to the following characteristics of the certificate:

- the interdisciplinary and non-siloed nature of the certificate
- having an institutional home for their interest in migration studies
- networking and relationship building with professors and students of like mind
- the collated and maintained list of relevant courses
- obtaining the formal certification which can be used in the job market

### Value of a formal certificate

Both the survey and the focus groups probed the value of the formal certificate. Below is a summary of the value that students associated with a formal program.

**Administrative support:** A defined process, or maybe even support from the Centre, for accessing courses outside of one's own department.

*Quote: Having a certificate which would allow me to take courses without seeking permission, and signing forms, and contacting the grad coordinator of that program and then my program would be helpful.*

**CV builder:** A formal designation which can be added to students' CV and be narrated in job interviews can help to make sense of the specialization in migration studies, especially for non-academic positions and if your graduate research did not focus on migration issues.

*Quote: If your research is already focused on this topic, then there might not be an added benefit [to the formal certification] because your research already provides you with the vector for application. I don't need a certificate to justify my experience because I have a dissertation, but those who have a dissertation that is tangential, then they could really benefit from this certificate.*

**Meaningful breadth:** A certificate in migration studies could be meaningful breadth for students interested in migration, but whose primary research is focused elsewhere.

*Quote: I have friends who have taken classes with me, who are interested in migration, who would like to learn more, but do not want to focus their dissertation on this topic, so they would really benefit from this kind of certificate.*



**Visibility or sensemaking:** It can help external stakeholders understand the area of specialization and engagement.

Quote: *It'll make sense to employers; it'll help others see and understand what it is that I focused on; it'll help translate work across domains.*

**Defined container:** Having defined program parameters can be motivating for students. It can create a sense of belonging, both with the topic of study as well as with the other enrollees. Additionally, a defined program container can create a sense of immersion and working towards something intentionally scoped.

Quote: *[With a certificate] you feel more immersed in the topic. It means you won't just be in random courses, but you'd have a cohort with the same dedication. There is a psychological element to it. That feeling of working towards something, and wanting to complete it, counts for something.*

Quote: *Sense of achievement, a program to progress within, and that will help me build a sense of self*

### **Specialization of the certificate**

Students from both the survey and the focus groups indicated that this certificate could provide particular value for those interested in careers outside of academia. Many suggested that the certificate could involve a more 'applied' (or service-learning) component of migration studies which perhaps could complement the research orientation of the Grad Fellows program.

Quote: *If you want to go into academia, I'm not sure what extent it has value. For that you'd need research. If you want to work outside of academia, it would be useful to have this certificate on the CV or transcript to show the completion of a program that is comprehensively centered on migration.*

Quote: *This training should include workshops and opportunities to connect with the non-academic sector related to migration (e.g., policy making, settlement sector). Maybe an optional internship would be interesting.*

On the whole, students are looking for a certificate that offers strategic and substantive value-add that enhances their employability (especially if outside the academy) and their academic experience, but that does not create tick-box burdens on their time.

## **TUITION AND FEES RATIONALE**

### Tuition

There is no proposed tuition for the program, for either domestic or international students. Students will be assessed tuition in alignment with their primary program of study for which they are concurrently enrolled. Students assessed tuition on a per-credit basis in their primary program, such as in some professional master programs, any additional courses a student takes will be charged the per-credit rate of their program, even if the course counts only towards the graduate certificate rather than their primary program. No additional tuition fees are anticipated for students enrolled in a primary program which assesses tuition per instalment.

The program will only be open to students currently enrolled in a UBC graduate program, where they will already be paying graduate program tuition. Based on program design, the CMS anticipates that, for many students, they may only be required to complete one additional course and the 1-credit seminar course (which will be taught by the CMS Co-Directors as part of their role as Co-Director at the CMS) so they did not feel it necessary to charge additional tuition for the program. The Faculty has completed financial modelling and determined that the program can be implemented and supported with existing resources. The CMS will cover unforeseen expenses incurred by the certificate.

CMS has existing staff capacity to manage graduate programming and to advise graduate students, including the management of applications, selection of students, program orientation, reporting on program requirements, curricular advising, and program evaluation. Any direct program expenses will be paid by the CMS including, honoraria for guest speakers and hospitality costs (e.g., food, coffee at some core seminar meetings).

Fees

Students will be required to pay a one-time \$75.00 student fee, to be assessed in the first academic period where the program is tied to the student’s record. This fee will offset the costs accrued by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies who will provide administrative support for the program, including student systems enablement, enrolment, registration, and conferral management.

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

### Appendix 1 – Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

**Program Description:** Graduate Certificate in Migration Studies

**Anticipated Start Date:** September 2024

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per instalment/credit – Note 1	\$0	\$0
Application Fees (Graduate)	\$0	\$0
Supplemental Application Fees	\$0	\$0
Other Faculty and Course Fees (Program Fee) – Note 2	\$75.00	\$75.00

Note 1 – There will be no additional tuition fees associated with the Graduate Certificate. Students will be assessed tuition in alignment with their primary program of study.

Note 2 – This \$75.00 fee will offset the costs accrued by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies who will provide administrative support for the program, including student systems enablement, enrolment, registration, and conferral management. These fees are subject to annual increases as approved by the Board.