



SUBJECT	Fees Field Course Fees for the Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship Program
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	March 13, 2024
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	APPROVAL REQUESTED IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves a field trip student fee of \$800.00 for each of the following undergraduate courses in the Faculty of Forestry: ILS 100, ILS 200, and ILS 300, to be assessed starting in 2024-2025 and subject to annual increases as approved by the Board of Governors.
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
SUPPORTED BY	Christina Hendricks, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Teaching & Learning <i>pro tem</i> Bhushan Gopaluni, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Faculty Planning

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has been considered by the Finance Committee on [November 20, 2020](#) (OPEN SESSION); Request: Tuition Approval.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Starting September 2024, the Faculty of Forestry will launch its Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship (BILS) program. This interdisciplinary program has been created to bring together Indigenous students and students interested in becoming well-prepared allies to provide instruction in diverse areas such as Indigenous ways of knowing, ecology, law and governance, economics, communication, business management, research and data management methods, and community capacity building.

This program was approved by Senate in September 2020, the Board of Governors in December 2020 and the Ministry in May 2022. The program will launch September 2024 when it admits its first cohort of students; as such, no tuition or student fees have yet to be assessed to students.

The program was originally developed to be delivered in classrooms in and around the Westbank First Nation (WFN) (in the Okanagan). This included three, 5-day, in-person required field courses (ILS 100, 200, and 300) that would have students together at field location(s) in British Columbia (not yet determined at the time of approval). At the time of program approval, the Faculty and WFN had an MOU related to the delivery of the program and its courses at Westbank or near Westbank lands. However, the WFN leadership has since changed, and after much discussion and feedback within the Faculty and with Indigenous partners, a new plan was developed to offer the program from the UBC-Vancouver campus. The Faculty’s Dean has had a number of meetings with the Musqueam Nation and the Faculty is in the process of developing an agreement with them on their involvement in the program. In the meantime, they have given approval to offer this program on their territory.

While the academic curriculum of the program remains unchanged, due to the change in location from Westbank to the UBC-Vancouver campus, the location for three field courses (ILS 100, ILS 200, and ILS 300) has been determined: they will be offered at UBC’s Maple Ridge Research Forest (Malcolm Knapp Research Forest – MKRF).

All students will be required to attend in-person the three required field courses (ILS 100; ILS 200; and, ILS 300), respectively held in Year 1, 2 and 3. The Faculty is seeking a field trip fee for each course as follows:

- ILS 100 (3) Indigenous Views of Landscapes: \$800.00 field trip student fee
- ILS 200 (3) Field Measurements: \$800.00 field trip student fee
- ILS 300 (3) Interventions on the Land: \$800.00 field trip student fee

These fees would be assessed starting in 2024-2025 and are subject to annual increases as approved by the Board.

In December 2020, at the time when tuition for the BILS program was approved by Board of Governors, the Board approved the following, as it relates to student fees for these field courses:

In addition to tuition, there will be fees associated with field school programs, which will be held over two weeks each year; the assessed cost is estimated to be \$200-\$300 per year. These fees will be paid by students directly to the vendors and will not be collected by UBC.

Given these required courses will be offered at MKRF (and will be five days each, rather than the two weeks stated above), the fees required to be assessed to students to cover the cost of each field course (including transportation, accommodation, and food) will be \$800.00 per year, rather than between \$200.00-\$300.00. Additionally, what was stated in the original proposal that “students would pay the vendors directly” will not be possible as the MKRF is part of the Faculty of Forestry; as such these fees will need to be collected by UBC.

The fees approved by the Board of Governors in 2020 (noted above in italics) will not be assessed as the proposed new field trip fees would cover all required expenses.

The fees recommended are similar to other field courses organized by Forestry: students will be required to meet at the UBC Forestry building on the Vancouver campus, and then be taken on buses for the 1-hour shuttle to MKRF in Maple Ridge, where students are provided with accommodation and food for their 5-day course.

The three required field courses will be offered concurrently so that Years 1, 2 and 3 students can interact, as well as facilitate mentorship opportunities amongst the students. This also allows for all faculty and staff involved in the program to interact in person with all the students in one place; rather than spreading the team thin to three different locations.

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. No submissions were received from the AMS, GSS or individual students.

APPENDICES

1. Student Tuition Consultation Report

**FIELD COURSE FEES FOR STUDENTS IN THE BACHELOR OF INDIGENOUS LAND STEWARDSHIP
CONSULTATION**

PROGRAM TUITION, FEE, DEPOSIT CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Faculty of Forestry conducted a student consultation regarding the launch of the Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship (BILS) program in September 2024. This proposal pertains to changes in field course student fees. 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 field course fees proposal and rationale document created by the Faculty. Please see Appendix 1 for the invitation and fees 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,

The Faculty of Forestry is set to launch the Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship (BILS) program in September 2024. While the academic curriculum of program remains unchanged, due to a change in the location from Westbank to the UBC Vancouver campus, the location of the three field courses (ILS 100, ILS200, and ILS 300) has been determined: they will be offered at UBC's Maple Ridge Research Forest. Each of these courses are required and must be completed in-person. This proposal pertains to changes in field course student fees.

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to the field course fees 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 field course fees.**

The consultation will consist of:

1. e-consultation

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

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

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

2. Face to Face/Zoom meeting

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

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WILL END ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7TH 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

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

FIELD COURSE FEES FOR STUDENTS IN THE BACHELOR OF INDIGENOUS LAND STEWARDSHIP CONSULTATION

BACKGROUND

Starting September 2024, the Faculty of Forestry will launch its first offering of the Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship (BILS). This interdisciplinary program has been created to bring together Indigenous students and students interested in becoming well-prepared allies to provide instruction in diverse areas such as Indigenous ways of knowing, ecology, law and governance, economics, communication, business management, research and data management methods, and community capacity building.

This program was approved by the UBC Senate in September 2020, the UBC Board of Governors in December 2020 and the Ministry in May 2022. The program will launch September 2024 when it admit its first cohort of students; as such, no tuition or student fees have yet to be assessed to students.

Originally, the program was developed to be delivered in classrooms in and around the Westbank First Nation (WFN) (in the Okanagan). This included three in-person required field courses (ILS 100, 200, and 300) that would have students together at field location(s) in British Columbia (not yet determined at the time of approval). At the time of program approval, the Faculty and WFN had an MOU related to the delivery of the program and its courses at Westbank or near Westbank lands. However, the WFN leadership has since changed, and after much discussion and feedback within the Faculty and with Indigenous partners, a new plan was developed to offer the program from the UBC-Vancouver campus. The Faculty's Dean has had a number of meetings with the Musqueam Nation and the Faculty is in the process of developing an agreement with them on their involvement in the program. In the meantime, they have given us approval to offer this program on their territory.

While the academic curriculum of the program remains unchanged, due to the change in location from Westbank to the UBC Vancouver campus, the location for three field courses (ILS 100, ILS 200, and ILS 300) has been determined: they will be offered at UBC's Maple Ridge Research Forest (Malcolm Knapp Research Forest – MKRF). Each of these courses are required and must be completed in-person.

The three required field courses, ILS 100, 200 and 300, will be offered concurrently so that Years 1, 2 and 3 students can interact, as well as facilitate mentorship opportunities amongst the students. This also allows for all faculty and staff involved in the program to interact in person with all the students in one place; rather than spreading the team thin to three different locations.

STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

During program development, students, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, were engaged. Undergraduate and graduate students were consulted at UBC-V, UBC- O, and NVIT, and facilitated discussion on their student learning experiences and challenges, as well as areas that could be improved. We shared the curriculum, pedagogy, and overall concept and ethos of the BILS program and received feedback from students, which we used to revise the curriculum and concept. We accessed a broad range of current and future students through Indigenous representative organizations, such as the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Haida, and Tahltan, Ktunaxa, and Westbank First Nations.

PROPOSED FEES RATIONALE

All students will be required to attend in-person the three field courses (ILS 100; ILS 200; and, ILS 300), respectively held in Year 1, 2 and 3. The Faculty is seeking a field trip fee for each course as follows:

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These fees would be assessed starting in 2024/25 and are subject to annual increases as approved by the Board.

In December 2020, at the time when tuition for the BILS program was approved by Board of Governors, the Board approved the following, as it relates to student fees for these field courses:

In addition to tuition, there will be fees associated with field school programs, which will be held over two weeks each year; the assessed cost is estimated to be \$200-\$300 per year. These fees will be paid by students directly to the vendors and will not be collected by UBC.

Given these required courses will be offered at MKRF, the fees required to be assessed to students to cover the cost of each field course will be \$800.00 per year, rather than between \$200-300. Additionally, what was stated in the original proposal that “students would pay the vendors directly” will not be possible as the MKRF is part of the Faculty of Forestry; as such these fees will need to be collected by UBC and will be noted in the UBC Calendar

The fees originally approved by the Board of Governors will not be assessed as the proposed new field trip fees would cover all required expenses.

The fees recommended are similar to how UBC Forestry organizes transportation for its several other field courses, students will be required to meet at the UBC Forestry building on the Point Grey campus, and then be taken on buses for the 1-hour shuttle to MKRF in Maple Ridge, where students are provided with accommodation and food for their 5-day course.

The proposed field trip fees are not covered by tuition. We anticipate that some students may have their costs covered by the government or organization that might be supporting them complete the program and the Faculty is committed to establishing additional field school funds and bursaries and/or subsidies to mitigate costs for students in financial need to attend field courses.

UBC Forestry operates several field schools out of the MKRF each year for students in the BSc Natural Resources Conservation program, BSF Forestry program, BSc Forest Sciences program, and BUF Urban Forestry program. We teach over 200 students across five different field schools at MKRF each year.

As originally included in the proposal (and the previous tuition consultation with students), students in their 4th year will also be required to cover the costs associated with the completion of their capstone project course to develop a stewardship plan. Depending on where students choose, they may require to travel out of town. These travel costs are not covered by tuition and would be covered by the student. Students may have their costs covered by the government or organization for which they are completing the field course.