



SUBJECT	Domestic and International Tuition Reduction: Master of Global Surgical Care Program
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	November 20, 2024
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	APPROVAL REQUESTED IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, under authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves a reduction in Master of Global Surgical Care program tuition fees for domestic students from \$5,169.05 per instalment to \$4,500.00 per instalment, and for international students from \$9,963.45 per instalment to \$5,000.00 per instalment, effective 2025 Winter Term 1 for all new, incoming students, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
SUPPORTED BY	Dr. Simon Bates, Associate Vice-President and Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Master of Global Surgical Care (MGSC) is a two-year, 30-credit program that aims to prepare surgical care professionals to contribute to finding solutions to the unmet surgical care burden of disease in low-resource settings globally. Launched in 2018, this first-of-its-kind program offers online graduate courses with a field-based practicum in a low-resource setting. Since its inception, the program has admitted and graduated learners from across Canada and around the world, including those from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The purpose of this proposal is to reduce domestic and international tuition rates to a level that aligns with the proposed tuition rate of comparable programs at UBC, including the Faculty of Medicine's new Master of Global Health (MGH) (currently pending final approval by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills). The MGH is a comparable 30-credit program in an analogous field of study to the MGSC, but has a significantly lower proposed tuition rate compared with the current MGSC tuition. The substantial discrepancy between the tuition of the two programs, despite their similar content areas and structure, will present a challenge to future enrollment and the continued sustainability of the MGSC.

Pending approval, the Department intends to adjust the rates effective 2025 Winter session for new, incoming students. No changes to tuition rates for currently enrolled students are planned. To illustrate the change, the approved rates for 2024/25 are presented below, but subject to increases leading up to the 2025 Winter Session, as approved by the Board.

	Instalments per year	Minimum # of instalments	Domestic tuition (per instalment)	Domestic continuing fee per instalment	International tuition (per instalment)*	International continuing fee per instalment
Current	3	6	\$5,169.05	\$574.34	\$9,963.45	\$657.78
Proposed	3	6	\$4,500.00	\$574.34	\$5,000.00	\$657.78

*The 2024/25 international tuition fee currently varies between \$9,222.29 and \$9,963.45 based on a student's program start year. If the reduction is approved, based on 2024/25 tuition rates, total program tuition for domestic students would reduce from \$31,014.30 to \$27,000 and international tuition would reduce from \$59,780.70 to \$30,000.

A financial model was prepared to model the impact of the tuition reduction and it is anticipated that the proposed reduction will not have a negative financial impact. While the tuition reduction will result in a decrease in revenue on a per-student basis, we anticipate that the lower tuition will allow for more students to enroll in the program overall, resulting in an increase in total revenue and net neutral effect from a financial perspective.

After consulting with the Office of the Vice-President Students on similar tuition reduction proposals, it was determined that this proposed tuition reduction did not require a student tuition consultation as per Policy LR4.

The MGSC program has received feedback from current learners, alumni, and many students who have been accepted into the program and interested in enrolling, regarding the financial burden associated with the high tuition. There has been a significant attrition rate between our offers of admission and yield over the last number of years (for example, in 2023 > 40% of admitted students did not enroll in the program: 20% among domestic applicants, 80% among international applicants). In our review of this attrition rate, the cost associated with the high tuition rate was cited by most students (and by *all* international applicants) as the reason why they were not able to enroll in the program. In addition, we have had some students defer their studies or withdraw from the program entirely after enrollment and completion of a portion of the program, due to an inability to cover tuition costs.

By enhancing access to this online program, surgical care leadership at the local level in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will be strengthened while at the same enriching the knowledge and experience of all (non-LMIC included) learners in our programs.