



SUBJECT	Increase International Undergraduate Acceptance Deposit
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	November 20, 2024
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	<p>APPROVAL REQUESTED</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"> <i>i.</i> an increase to the acceptance deposit for international undergraduate students from \$1000 to \$3000; <i>ii.</i> classification of the international undergraduate acceptance deposit as a non-refundable deposit, except for students who provide proof acceptable to the Registrar of being denied a study permit, in which case the acceptance deposit, less a \$150 processing fee, shall be refunded to the student; and, <i>iii.</i> changes to be effective starting with incoming students for the 2025 Winter session of the 2025-26 academic year.
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
SUPPORTED BY	Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan Bhushan Gopaluni, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Faculty Planning, UBC Vancouver Rella Ng, Associate Vice-President Enrolment Services and Registrar

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Currently, at the time of admission offer acceptance, each newly admitted undergraduate student is required to pay an acceptance deposit to secure their place in the program. The deposit structure for an international undergraduate student is \$1,000, and \$3,000 for Vantage College students.

The deposit is applied toward the student's first-term tuition and is currently partially refundable. For international students, 50% of the deposit is refundable if the student withdraws from the Summer session by March 31 or from the Winter session by July 31. Acceptance deposits for Vantage One program students are non-refundable. In the past three years, about 200 students have been approved for a 50% refund.

2021	2022	2023
231	226	207

Increasing the international acceptance deposit will encourage good faith acceptance of an offer of admission. This will ensure applicants accepting an offer of admission are serious about attending UBC, encouraging good faith acceptance. A higher deposit will likely reduce the number of students who withdraw after accepting an offer, leading to a reduction in melt rate, enabling the University to meet enrolment targets. Having greater certainty in the number of newly admitted students who are planning to attend the University will enable faculties to allocate resources and plan for courses, instructors and classrooms accordingly. In addition, increasing the international acceptance deposit will help with the management of UBC's allotment of the provincial attestation letters, as these cannot be transferred to another student should a student accept but decide not to attend UBC.

In the past five years, about 1,000 to 1,300 international undergraduate students accepted their offer of admission but did not attend UBC.

Total: Both Campuses

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total International Students Who Accepted Offer*	4372	4729	4851	4693	4267
Total International Students Who Accepted Offer But Did Not Register**	1064	1207	1197	1329	1055
% Accepted Offer But Did Not Register	24%	26%	25%	28%	25%

UBC Okanagan

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total International Students Who Accepted Offer*	850	933	929	819	731
Total International Students Who Accepted Offer But Did Not Register**	268	265	298	284	192
% Accepted Offer But Did Not Register	32%	28%	32%	35%	26%

UBC Vancouver

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total International Students Who Accepted Offer*	3522	3796	3922	3874	3536
Total International Students Who Accepted Offer But Did Not Register**	796	942	899	1045	863
% Accepted Offer But Did Not Register	23%	25%	23%	27%	24%

*Data is based on accepts as of July 31 of each year.

**Data is based on registration as of November 1 of each year.

The last increase in the international undergraduate acceptance deposit occurred in 2015, and several post-secondary institutions are considering increasing their international acceptance deposits for the 2025 Winter session. The table below shows the current and proposed acceptance deposit for international undergraduate students at other Canadian universities:

Institution	2024W Deposit	2025W Deposit	Comments
University of British Columbia	\$1,000		Partial refund
University of British Columbia – Vantage College	\$3,000		Partial refund
University of Alberta	\$1,000	Considering \$2,000	Non-refundable
University of Calgary	\$500		Non-refundable
Dalhousie University	\$0	Considering \$2,000 to \$5,000	Non-refundable
McGill University	\$400	Considering an increase	Non-refundable
McMaster University	\$2,000		Non-refundable
Simon Fraser University	\$5,000*	\$5,000	Non-refundable; refundable if study permit denied, less \$150 processing fee
Queen's University	\$0	Considering an increase	Non-refundable
Université de Montréal	\$0		
University of Ottawa	\$0		
University of Toronto	\$1,000	Considering \$3,000 to \$5,000	Non-refundable
University of Victoria	\$750	Considering \$5,000	Non-refundable
University of Waterloo	\$0	Considering \$2,000	Non-refundable
Western University	\$1,000**	\$1,000	Non-refundable

*SFU increased from \$750 to \$5,000 mid-cycle for the 2024 Winter new admits

**Western University introduced a \$1,000 non-refundable deposit for 2024 Winter new admits

To ensure financial stability, resource allocation and student commitment, UBC recommends increasing the international acceptance deposit from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for 2025W. Additionally, UBC recommends changing the partial refund policy to a no-refund policy, except in cases where a student is denied a study permit.

The VP Students Office and AVPS Office UBCO conducted an e-consultation with the AMS, GSS and UBCSUO between September 4, 2024, and October 4, 2024. No submissions were received from AMS, GSS or UBCSUO and no individual student submissions were received. A copy of the consultation report is attached.

APPENDICES

1. UBC International Undergraduate Acceptance Deposit Program Tuition, Fee, Deposit Consultation Report
2. UBC International Undergraduate Acceptance Deposit (July 29, 2024)

UBC INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE ACCEPTANCE DEPOSIT

PROGRAM TUITION, FEE, DEPOSIT CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office and the Associate Vice President, Students Office (UBCO), in partnership with the Enrolment Services, conducted a student consultation regarding the increase of the acceptance deposit for UBC International Undergraduate Students and Vantage College Students. 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)
- Students' Union Okanagan (SUO)

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 Wednesday September 4, 2024 to Friday October 4, 2024.

Summary of Student Feedback: Submissions were not received by AMS, GSS or SUO 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, Associate Vice President, Students (UBCV) and Dale Mullings, Associate Vice President, Students (UBCO)*****

Hello everyone,

There is a proposal by Enrolment Services regarding the increase of the acceptance deposit for UBC International Undergraduate Students and Vantage College Students.

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to **the acceptance deposit 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 acceptance deposit increase proposal.**

The consultation will consist of:

1. e-consultation

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

- The proposal overview,
- The summary of fees identified.

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 FRIDAY OCTOBER 4TH 2024 AT MIDNIGHT.

Confidentiality

- Comments will be collected by the Vice President Students Office and the Office of the Associate Vice President Students (UBCO), and only analysts within these offices will know the identity of individual students submitting comments. At no time will anyone outside of these offices 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 and Dale

Dr. Samantha Reid Ph.D. (She, Her, Hers)

Associate Vice President, Students

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UBC International Undergraduate Acceptance Deposit

July 29, 2024



Background

- At the time of admission offer acceptance, each newly admitted student is required to pay an acceptance deposit when they accept their offer of admission to secure his/her/their place in the program
 - \$1,000 for international undergraduate students
 - \$3,000 for Vantage College student
- The deposit is applied toward the student's first-term tuition. The acceptance deposit is partially refundable
 - For international, 50% is refundable if the student withdraws from summer session by March 31 or from winter session by July 31.
 - For Vantage College students, acceptance deposit is non-refundable.



Current International Deposit and Benchmarking

Institution	2024W Deposit	2025W Deposit
University of British Columbia	\$1,000	
University of British Columbia – Vantage	\$3,000	
University of Alberta	\$1,000	Considering \$2,000
University of Calgary	\$500	
Dalhousie University	\$0	Considering \$2,000 to \$5,000
McGill University	\$400	Considering an increase
McMaster University	\$2,000	
Simon Fraser University	\$5,000*	\$5,000
Queen’s University	\$0	Considering introducing
Université de Montréal	\$0	
University of Ottawa	\$0	
University of Toronto	\$1,000	Considering \$3,000 to \$5,000
University of Victoria	\$750	Considering \$5,000
University of Waterloo	\$0	Considering \$2,000
Western University	\$1,000**	\$1,000



*SFU increased from \$750 to \$5000 mid-cycle for the 24W new admits

**WU introduced a \$1,000 non-refundable deposit for 24W new admits

Current Challenges

Risk of Non-commitment:

- A low acceptance deposit can result in more students accepting multiple offers of admission.
- Ontario universities partially resolve this challenge since the OUAC system prevents students from accepting more than one Ontario university offer. Students could still accept an Ontario offer and an offer from another university outside of Ontario.
- Students who have a paid a smaller deposit might be more likely to withdraw at the last minute if they receive a more attractive offer from another institution. This can leave UBC with unfilled spots that are difficult to fill on short notice.
- With lower deposits, UBC can experience higher variability and uncertainty in actual enrolment numbers. This makes it challenging to accurately to determine our enrolment numbers and whether we are at target.

Competitive Disadvantages:

- Several peers have or will have a higher acceptance deposit; a lower acceptance deposit may make UBC appear less competitive or prestigious in comparison



Recommendations

1) Propose to increase the acceptance deposit for international undergraduate students from \$1,000 to \$5,000.



2) Propose to change the partial refund from:

- “New international undergraduate students who do not register in or withdraw from all Summer Session courses by March 31 or from all Winter Session courses by July 31 may have \$500 of their acceptance deposit refunded”.

To:

- “Students who provide proof of a denied study permit will be provided a full refund of the acceptance deposit less a \$150 processing fee.”

3) Propose to increase the acceptance deposit for Vantage College students from \$3,000 to \$5,000

Rationale

- Increasing the international undergraduate acceptance deposit will encourage good faith acceptance of an offer of admission.
- Will ensure that applicants accepting an offer of admission are serious about attending UBC.
- Greater certainty about the number of newly admitted students planning to attend the University will enable faculties to allocate resources and plan courses, instructors, and classrooms accordingly.
- The University's international undergraduate and Vantage College acceptance deposit has not increased for the last 10 years.
- Increasing the international undergraduate acceptance deposit will bring this in line with other PSIs.
- Increasing the Vantage College acceptance deposit will create institutional alignment.



Percentage of International Students at UBC who accepted offer but not attend

- Past 5 years, about 1,000 to 1,300 international undergraduate students accepted their offer of admission but did not attend UBC.



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Total International Students Who Accepted Offer*	4372	4729	4851	4693	4267
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