



SUBJECT	New Program Tuition Bachelor of Secwépemc Language Fluency Degree, UBC Okanagan
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	June 3, 2025
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	APPROVAL REQUESTED IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, the Finance Committee approves tuition of \$202.64 per credit for domestic students and \$1,651.62 per credit for international students for the Bachelor of Secwépemc Language Fluency at UBC Okanagan, in alignment with current tuition for the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency, St’át’imc Language Fluency and Bachelor of Nfeʔkepmx Language Fluency, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Indigenous languages are under threat almost everywhere in the world. In Canada, over 50 languages are under threat. British Columbia has an extraordinarily rich linguistic heritage, being the ancestral home of more than half of the Indigenous languages of Canada; of the 10 genetically distinct language families in Canada, seven are found in BC. All of the 34 extant First Nations languages of BC are critically endangered, many facing the loss of their last generation of fluent speakers within the next decade.

Indigenous communities know very well how deeply intertwined language and culture are, and understand how language loss marks a crucial threshold in the compounding consequences of colonization. Communities and their institutions, along with collaborators in the wider education system, have been working to find innovative ways to sustain and revitalize language traditions, restore language competence, and protect the knowledge of their communities.

In direct alignment with [strategy 17 on Indigenous Engagement](#) from UBC’s strategic plan, the Bachelor of Secwépemc Language Fluency (B. Stat.) approved by the Okanagan Senate on February 28, 2025, is intended to create new speakers in communities whose languages are critically threatened. Upon the successful completion of the 63 credit hours of coursework required for the foundation Diploma in Secwépemc Language Fluency from NVIT (Nicola Valley Institute of Technology), the B. Secw. at UBC Okanagan requires an additional 63 credit hours of coursework.

The proposed tuition for the B. Secw. program is in accordance with the current tuition for the other already existing Indigenous Languages programs at UBC Okanagan: the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency, the Bachelor of St’át’imc Language Fluency; and the Bachelor of Nfeʔkepmx. This is the last Indigenous language fluency degree the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UBC Okanagan aims to offer.

Upon approval from the Board of Governors, the program will be submitted for Ministry approval for implementation in 2025-2026.

APPENDICES

1. Tuition and Fee Assessment Details
2. Student Consultation Report for the Bachelor of Secwépemc Language Fluency Degree (B.Secw)



Appendix 1 – Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

Program Description: Bachelor of Secwépemc Language Fluency Degree (B.Secw.)

Anticipated Start Date: Fall 2025

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	\$202.64	\$1,651.62
Application Fees (Undergraduate) – Note 2	\$77.00	\$170.00
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Note 3	\$500.00	\$3,000.00

Note 1 – Proposed tuition is aligned with the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency, Bachelor of Nteʔkepmx Language Fluency, and Bachelor of St’át’imc Language Fluency, and will be subject to annual increases as established by the university.

Note 2 – These are the current fees for the 2025W application cycle and is subject to annual increases. The approved fees for the 2026W application cycle are \$78.50 for domestic students and \$173.25 for international students.

Note 3 – The non-refundable acceptance deposit will be applied toward the first tuition installment.



Appendix 2 - Student Consultation Report for the Bachelor of Secwépemc

Language Fluency Degree (B.Secw)

The Bachelor of Secwépemc Language Fluency is intended to create new speakers in communities whose languages are critically threatened. Upon the successful completion of the 63 credit hours of coursework required for the foundation Diploma in Secwépemc Language Fluency from NVIT (Nicola Valley Institute of Technology), the B.Secw. requires 63-credit hours of coursework as follows:

- 12 immersive language courses (3 credits each)
- 1 capstone course (6 credits)
- 4 language revitalization courses (3 credits each)
- 3 other required courses on Indigenous methodology, composition, and a summer course to support students' transition to university (3 credits each)

Modes of consultation

- student leaders in the student Union were invited to provide feedback for the consultation

Confidentiality

Comments will be collected by the Office of the Associate Vice-President (Students), and only analysts within that office will know the identity of individual students submitting comments. At no time will anyone outside of the Office of the Associate Vice-President (Students) 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 Faculties and the Board of Governors verbatim.

Comments received from student organizations will be reported as coming from those organizations, and provided to the responsible faculty and the Board of Governors as received.

Program Overview

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system have been working to find innovative ways to sustain and revitalize language traditions, restore language competence, and protect the knowledge of their communities.

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Proposed Tuition

The tuition for the proposed B.Secw. program is in accordance with the current tuition for the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency, Bachelor of Nteʔkepmx Language Fluency and Bachelor of St'at'imc; which for 2025/26 is \$202.64/credit for domestic students and \$1,651.62/credit for international students. Tuition is reviewed annually by the Board of Governors. In recent years, tuition increases have been 2% for continuing domestic students and 3% for continuing international students.

Results of the Student Consultation

The Associate Vice-President, Students Office, invited elected student leadership to participate and to share with their student members the opportunity to provide feedback on this proposed new program tuition. Such invitation for either written submissions or Zoom engagement was done via email with a deadline of April 7th, 2025. No feedback was submitted and no requests for e-consultations were received either.