Canada
Fall and Year

2012-2013 Program Guide
The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University’s student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.
YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

Local UCEAP Support

Campus EAP Office
The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientations, and academic advising; and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office
The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates UCEAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

- **Program Advisors** provide academic and operational program information to you and your campus as well as administrative support for all aspects of your participation.
- **Operations Specialists** manage the logistics of the program. They coordinate document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, acceptance and placement by host institutions, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements.
- **Academic Specialists** advise on academic policies, review courses taken abroad for UC credit, and document your registration, grades, petitions and academic records.
- **Student Finance Accountants** assist primarily with UCEAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

**Program Advisor**
Liam Brenner
Phone: (805) 893-5926; E-mail: lbrenner@eap.ucop.edu

**Operations Specialist**
Jeanie O’Connell
Phone: (805) 893-5926; E-mail: jgoconnell@eap.ucop.edu

**Academic Specialist**
Lisa Read
Phone: (805) 893-2810; E-mail: lread@eap.ucop.edu

**Student Finance Accountant**
Antonette Escarsega
Phone: (805) 893-4023; E-mail: stufinance@eap.ucop.edu

**UCEAP Systemwide Office**
6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200
Goleta, CA 93117-5823
Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583
UCEAP Online

Bookmark your Participants program page. This resource lists requirements and policies you need to know before you go abroad, including your Predeparture Checklist, UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets, and payment instructions.

Connect with us! Join our Facebook network via the UCEAP Canada page.

UCEAP Liaison Office Abroad

A UCEAP Liaison Officer and other local staff administer the program on site and advise students on academic matters, assist with housing, and provide information on cultural events.

Breanne Ringheim, Advisor
Go Global: International Learning Programs
The University of British Columbia
1783 West Mall
Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6T 1Z2

Phone: (604) 822 8334
Fax: (604) 822 9885
E-mail: breanne.ringheim@ubc.ca
Skype: breanne.ringheim

Katherine Beaumont, UCEAP Liaison Officer
Go Global: International Learning Programs, Director
The University of British Columbia
(address same as above)

Phone: (604) 822-9613
E-mail: katherine.beaumont@ubc.ca
**UECACP STUDENTS SAY...**

"I was very happy with the program and my experience. I made a lot of friends and learned a lot about people in general, my classes were excellent, and I loved the city.

Don't expect to perform academically as well as at UC. It takes time to adjust to a new educational system.

The UBC environment is a little different from UC. Not all UBC’s library resources are computerized, making research more difficult. Access to computer labs is slightly more restricted."

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**ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

Please see the **Academic Information** chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad for critical academic information and policies, including unit requirements, taking less than the program requirements, the MyEAP Study List registration process, changing courses, petitions, and grades. While abroad, direct all academic questions to the Canada Liaison Officer first, with one exception: direct any questions regarding satisfying home UC department degree or major requirements through UCEAP coursework to your UC department or college advisor.

**University of British Columbia**

The University of British Columbia (UBC), established in 1908, is one of Canada’s leading research universities and is consistently ranked among the top 40 in the world. The university attracts 54,000 students from across Canada and 140 countries around the world to two major campuses. As a top-ranked research university, the Vancouver campus is home to many leading facilities.

The **UBC Library** is one of Canada’s leading academic libraries, while the **Centre for Interactive Research in Sustainability** is “North America’s Greenest Building.” Outstanding science facilities include **TRIUMF**, one of the world’s leading laboratories for subatomic physics; the **Beatty Biodiversity Museum**, housing Canada’s largest blue whale skeleton; and the world-class UBC **Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research**. Other highlights include the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, one of the world’s great concert halls; the **Museum of Anthropology**, Canada’s largest teaching museum; and the **Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre**, 2010 Winter Olympics Ice Hockey Venue.

See the UBC website for further information about the University of British Columbia.

**ProgramDescription**

You have access to a wide range of academic fields. During the program, you will take courses in your major or in an allied field. Recommended fields include anthropology, Asian and Pacific regional studies, biological sciences, forestry, marine sciences, psychology, and women’s studies.

There is limited availability of courses in the departments of Architecture, Commerce, Counseling Psychology, Creative Writing, Education, Engineering, Film/Film Production, Kinesiology, Landscape Architecture, Music, Political Science, Theater, and Visual Arts. Exchange students may not take courses in Audiology and Speech Sciences, Dentistry, Journalism, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Rehabilitation Sciences. Graduate students, or those interested in taking graduate-level courses, should contact their UCEAP Operations Specialist with questions.

**Academic Culture**

You must be independent and self-motivated, particularly regarding your choice of coursework. UBC has a rigorous academic schedule, and coursework and grading are competitive. You will need to work more independently than you have been used to, with less direction, fewer in-term assessments, and less sense of how your performance will finally be judged. You will often be expected to take responsibility for managing your own workload, rather than being tested regularly by quiz or exam to verify that you are completing the required readings, and understand the material. A course grade can be entirely
**UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...**

"I immediately met people in my major and discussed biology topics with them. I found that we were at the same level taking the same classes.

The volume of reading tends to be less at UBC than at UC; however, a more thorough understanding of the readings is required. Most of my courses relied on survey texts, whereas at UC more of the texts are original sources.

The classes are of high quality with good professors and much student interaction. The classes were comparable to those at UC except that I had more contact with professors at UBC. I was required to do more research and I had the opportunity to do group work."

Dependent on one or two big exams, so you will need to maintain very strong study habits. You may not know where you stand academically in some courses until final exams at the end of the semester.

Depending on your area of study, however, you may be graded on class participation as well as regular quizzes, presentations, or papers. Some courses may have lab, tutorial, or discussion components which also contribute to a final course grade. This is discipline-specific. Even in disciplines where there is more regular assessment, however, much of the final grade is still dependent on the final exam or paper.

The advantage of such a system is that you can set the agenda of your own education and tailor it to your interests. Students who keep up with their work, seek help balancing their workload to avoid falling behind, and go beyond the required readings to explore suggested resources have enjoyed and done well in UBC classes.

The UCEAP Liaison Officer is experienced in helping UC students adjust to the academic rigor and structure of the UBC system. If you have any academic difficulties, see the Liaison Officer as soon as possible. Do not wait until the term is nearly over to address issues, with either faculty or the Liaison Officer.

**Course Information**

**Course Load**

While on UCEAP, you are required to take a full-time course of study and enroll in a total of 24 UC quarter units each term. This unit load is equal to four UBC courses, each worth 6 UC quarter units.

Courses at UBC numbered between 100 and 199 are first-year courses, 200 to 299 are second-year courses, 300 to 399 are third-year courses, and 400 to 499 are fourth-year courses. Most UCEAP juniors and seniors should enroll in the 300- and 400-series courses. Courses listed as 500 and above are graduate level. These are not available for undergraduates unless special permission is granted.

**Registration & Advising**

You are required to register for courses prior to departure. Choose your coursework carefully in order to best meet your academic objectives.

You must submit a proposed course list to the UBC Student Exchange Office with your initial application; later, after the UBC course schedule is released, you will submit final course selections. UBC will send you relevant information. The final course selections should list up to 20 courses for the year program and at least ten courses for the fall semester program. List the courses in order of preference. The UBC Student Exchange Office will attempt to register you in your preferred courses.

If a course is canceled, filled, or if you do not meet the course requirements (for example, major or honors), the Student Exchange Office will enroll you in your next course choice.

In addition to registering at your host university, you must also complete your MyEAP Registration Study List. The Liaison Officer will guide you through this process and advise you of deadlines for course changes and petitions. Be sure to read all e-mails regarding the registration process and review your final Study List carefully, as it determines how your UBC courses will appear on your UC transcript.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

"Be prepared for long finals months—a big change after UC’s stressful, week-long cram sessions. It’s hard to stay motivated to study. Year-long classes, unless really excellent, can drag out at the end.

In the smaller classes, especially the year-long courses, try to meet some people. Meeting people can make long classes seem a lot shorter.

My directed studies course allowed me to pursue my own interests, which coincided with the interests of the professor I worked with."

Graduate Students

If you are a graduate student with UCEAP-approved study plans, you can be accommodated in many fields. UBC has strong graduate programs in biology, microbiology, sociology and anthropology, Asian studies, geography, physics, chemistry, forestry, public health, and neuroscience. Research may be arranged. In addition to reviewing information in this guide, contact your Campus EAP Office. Some areas of study are not open at the graduate level.

Marine Science Opportunity

The Bamfield Marine Station (BMS) is a unique marine-oriented research and educational facility. It is located in Barkley Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island close to the major Canadian government marine institutions. The pristine nature of the surrounding marine environment, coupled with a rich habitat and organismal diversity, makes it an ideal location to study behavioral ecology, evolutionary biology, marine plant aquaculture, microbiology, and toxicology.

If you are a junior (with at least two years of biology study), a senior, or a graduate student in marine and coastal sciences, you may take upper-division coursework at BMS. You will enroll in the five courses described in the following section. To be eligible, students of biology, botany, or zoology must have already completed at least two courses covering introductory ecology, introductory invertebrates, and/or nonvascular plants (highly recommended). The fall semester program runs from September through December. If you enroll in the fall semester Bamfield Marine Science program, you may elect to extend your stay in Canada and take courses at UBC during the spring semester. If you are interested in extending, submit an application to the Bamfield Marine Station in addition to the UCEAP application. Additional program information and the Bamfield application are available on the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre website.

Bamfield Marine Science Fall Courses

Ecological Adaptations of Seaweeds—Marine Science 425
The course will explore morphological, physiological, biomechanical, and reproductive adaptations of seaweeds to a variety of environments. Field experiments will demonstrate some of these adaptations, and field data will provide the basis for theoretical considerations.

Structure and Function in Animals—Marine Science 415
This course examines the structure and function of marine animals using a multilevel approach. Biomechanics, nervous systems and behavior, locomotion, and feeding will receive particular attention. A series of laboratory exercises will demonstrate some of the principles.

Current Topics in Marine Ecology—Marine Science 437
Recent ecological issues in marine science will be addressed in detail during this course. Content for the current year will be declared during the summer.

Directed Studies—Marine Science 490
Study will involve an independent research project in your field of interest. Projects are approved by a supervisor and designed to take advantage of laboratory and field opportunities. While at the station, mentorship will be provided by resident researchers, faculty, and staff.

Seminars and Papers in Marine Science—Marine Science 480
Discussion groups meet biweekly to debate issues generated by selected
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

Only take courses that you are sure you are prepared for! Try to take introductory courses on Canadian government, culture, history, etc. They are interesting and immerse you in the country.

The strangest thing was that the classes I expected to be large (second-year arts) were small (30 people), and the classes I expected to be small (foreign language) were huge (about 500 people).

There were many volunteer openings related to my major and personal interests.

Grades

For information about grades, see the Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.

In the Field

You may be responsible for additional fees incurred as part of enrolling in field courses.

Field study opportunities frequently are incorporated into regular UBC courses, especially those in forestry and in the biological and agricultural sciences. Consult UBC’s online course listings for more details.

Natural Resources Volunteers Program

The University of British Columbia’s Forest Science Department sponsors the Natural Resources Volunteers Program (NRVP), which allows you to participate in environmental science, conservation, and community-based volunteer activities. By using practical skills obtained in class during field exercises, you can gain valuable work experience while contributing to the community. The NRVP promotes connections among the environment, communities, and education, and strengthens these bonds by pairing student volunteers with environmental organizations and community projects.

The Natural Resources Conservation Field School at UBC is a full-time, four-month program offered every year during the fall semester. UC seniors with upper-division coursework in forestry are eligible to participate. The Field School is divided into three modules: 1) alpine, 2) grassland, and 3) aquatic. Emphasis is placed on learning field research and restoration methods, interpreting research results, and understanding the biological and social aspects of conservation problems. You can indicate your interest in participating in the Field School on the UBC Visiting Student Application.

UBC’s Faculty of Forestry sponsors a number of one-week field schools that take place immediately prior to the fall semester. These field schools are designed for juniors and seniors and are especially suited to UC forestry and agricultural science majors.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“
There is plenty of predeparture information available. Virtually every question I had could be answered by someone at UC. However, you must take the initiative to get questions answered beforehand instead of blaming the system for your frustrations.
”

CULTURAL AWARENESS

Educate Yourself

Get acquainted with your new host city, country, and culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites, such as Lonely Planet and Urban Lowdown, are excellent resources. The City of Vancouver website has a lot of great information to get you started. Another resource to browse is the UBC International Student Handbook.

Keep up with current events by reading newspapers such as The Vancouver Sun. You will also need to understand the local culture and history. These sources will help you prepare before departure.

Recommended Reading

Atwood, Margaret

Berton, Pierre

Bliss, Michael

Ferguson, Will and Ian

Francis, Diane

Pang, Guek-Cheng and Robert Barlas
ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Mandatory Arrival Date & Travel to Canada
You are responsible for making transportation arrangements to and from Vancouver and you will need to arrive in Vancouver on or by the “Last Date to Arrive” listed in the UCEAP calendar. Failure to arrive by this date is cause for dismissal from the program (see Student Agreement). Some students drive to Vancouver, but the majority of students fly. You must reserve and purchase your own airline ticket (even if you are on full financial aid). The Financial Aid Office is not responsible for purchasing tickets. You are strongly urged to purchase a changeable airline ticket. Standby tickets are not appropriate for UCEAP participation.

The start date of the program can change due to unforeseen circumstances. In addition, flights are routinely changed or canceled. You are responsible for making modifications in your travel itinerary to accommodate such changes. UCEAP is not responsible for any unrecoverable transportation charges incurred for independent travel arrangements.

Check e-mail announcements from your UC campus and UCEAP regularly. Be sure to keep your MyEAP contact information current.

Financial Aid Students
Your financial aid package is based partly on the UCEAP Student Budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to Canada. If your independent travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the UCEAP Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither UCEAP nor the Financial Aid Office can guarantee that the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.

Travel Precautions
Identify each item of luggage on the inside and outside with your name, home address, and destination. To avoid theft, never leave your luggage unattended.

Although your UCEAP Insurance Plan covers lost or destroyed property, you should assess the Personal Property Benefit provided in the policy and verify that it is adequate for your needs.

When traveling, always keep your passport, visa, ticket, prescription medications, and money with you. Never put valuables in your checked luggage. Leave extra credit cards at home and carry only what is necessary. Do not ask others to carry any items abroad for you (laptop, camera, extra bags, etc.) and do not volunteer to do so for others. Airlines may not allow you to take them and customs abroad may charge you a high duty. This is particularly a concern with electronic goods.
Travel Documents

- All travelers must present a valid passport when entering the country.

Additional information about passports, visas, and other required documents is provided in the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and in the Predeparture Checklist (PDC), which is located on the UCEAP Participants page.

Visa

U.S. citizens do not need a visa in Canada as long as they present proof of U.S. citizenship and a photo ID upon arrival in Canada.

Requirements for non-U.S. citizens may be different than those for U.S. citizens. Consult the Canadian consulate for your specific visa requirements.

Study Permit

If you are participating in a study program that is longer than six months in duration, you must obtain a study permit from the Canadian government to study in Canada. If you are in the fall semester program, you will not need a study permit unless you are seriously considering extending your UCEAP participation to the spring semester or planning to work in Canada.

You can apply for the study permit through a Canadian consulate prior to departure or when you arrive. Visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website and become familiar with the requirements. It is imperative that you complete all documents and submit them in accordance with the instructions.

Leaving & Returning

You may leave Canada and then return to study if the appropriate authorizations are in order. For example, you would not be allowed to return to Canada to study if your study permit expired while you were out of the country. Immigration officers at the port of entry will determine whether you meet the appropriate requirements for admission. Make sure that your passport and study permit remain valid.

Extending a Study Permit

If you need to extend or change your study permit, contact the nearest Canadian Immigration Center several weeks before the permit expires to obtain an extension application. Canada Immigration Centers are listed in local phone directories under Government of Canada, Citizenship, and Immigration Canada.

An extension of a study permit does not affect the visitor visa. To obtain a new visitor visa, apply outside of Canada. If you require a visitor visa in Canada, make sure it remains valid.

For more information, refer to the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website.
Climate & Dress

Due to its location on the Pacific, Vancouver has the most moderate climate of any city in Canada. The winters are mild and the summers are warm. The average winter temperature ranges from 33°F to 42°F, with an average of 20 days of rain. Although the winter may bring snow, it generally lasts for only a few days in the city. The average spring temperature in Vancouver ranges from 54°F to 65°F, with an average of 14 days of rain.

In general, Canadian students dress like American students. Your current wardrobe should be adequate, with some modifications for the cold, wet, winter weather. Take a warm coat and raincoat; warm sweaters, socks, and gloves; wool clothing; tights; an umbrella; and comfortable walking shoes. You may need a dressier outfit for more formal occasions. Take outdoor gear for camping, hiking, etc.

Electrical Appliances

The electrical current in Canada is the same as in the U.S. (60 cycles, 110-120V), so it will not be a problem to use small appliances from the U.S.
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

If you take your own car to Vancouver and have a valid U.S. driver’s license, there is no need to apply for an international driver’s permit. Driving laws vary, and you are responsible for understanding Canadian traffic regulations.

VIA Rail is the official train service of Canada and provides links between many cities around the country. Visit the VIA Rail website for details.

Air Canada, Air Transat, and WestJet are several Canadian airlines that provide transit within Canada.

➤ The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel abroad.

Transportation within Vancouver

Once registered in courses, you will be automatically eligible for the mandatory U-Pass (Universal Transportation Pass) that allows unlimited access to TransLink Bus, SkyTrain, and SeaBus services as well as a discount on West Coast Express fares. The U-Pass costs about $120 Canadian dollars per term and can be paid for through the Student Service Centre. You can pick up your U-Pass at the UBC Bookstore upon arrival.

Walking and cycling are also popular modes of transportation in Vancouver. For more information about biking, visit the AMS Bike Co-op. Check out the Bike Co-op’s bicycle-borrowing program for students, called the Purple and Yellow Bike Project.

Return Transportation

If you do not make round-trip arrangements, be sure to book a return flight with plenty of lead time once abroad. UCEAP staff in Canada can refer you to a local travel agency. Flights to the U.S. fill up quickly, and economy-fare seats are booked early.

If you purchase a round-trip ticket, make sure it allows changes to the return date for a relatively low fee.
It is important that you carefully read all of the information available in the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and discuss it with the person who will assist you with your finances while you are abroad.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances
Understanding your finances before, during, and after your program is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad:
- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to UCEAP
- UCEAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while abroad (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid?)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account
Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your UC campus financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. You can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard, American Express, or Discover). The fees that you owe UCEAP will be applied to your account after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP. For the amount due to UCEAP prior to fees being posted on your account, refer to the UCEAP Student Budget Payment Vouchers. Program fees are subject to change.

UCEAP Student Budget
Carefully review your UCEAP Student Budget. Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. Review your UCEAP Student Budget frequently. The Payment Vouchers are on the second page of the UCEAP Student Budget.

Instructions
- Download and print your UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your UCEAP bills. Sign this person up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you will be receiving financial aid, see also the UCEAP Financial Assistance web page.
Handling Money Abroad

Although the unit of currency is the Canadian dollar, U.S. currency is also accepted. Before leaving the U.S., you may want to exchange $50 or $100 into Canadian dollars. Once abroad, you can open an account in Canada with U.S. cash, travelers checks, or money orders.

Banking

Most Canadian banks provide standard services Monday through Friday (except on public and bank holidays). There are four banks on the UBC campus: Scotiabank, BMO Financial Group, CIBC, and RBC. There are 24-hour ATMs at all four banks, as well as in the Student Union Building.

Most large U.S. banks maintain affiliate relations with prominent foreign banks. In order to simplify check cashing and money transfers, find out which Canadian bank your American bank is affiliated with and what services are available.

ATM Card

The best way to obtain money from your U.S. account is through an ATM. ATM cards provide a convenient way of getting cash, making deposits and transfers, and verifying account balances. There is no waiting period; money deposited in the U.S. is immediately available for withdrawal abroad. Check with your bank to make sure your ATM card and personal identification number (PIN) can be used to access funds in Canada. There may be limitations on the amount of cash accessible per transaction as well as fees.

If you decide to open a bank account in Canada, you will also receive an ATM card that you can use to make purchases, withdraw and deposit money, or verify your balance.

Credit Cards

Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in Canada. Check with your credit card company to see what services are offered and where.

Canadian Tax

Canadian sales tax is considerably higher than in the U.S.

The Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) in British Columbia is 12 percent, and it is added to most retail goods and services. Check to see if certain school supplies are exempt. You might be eligible for a refund of some of the sales taxes as an international student. See the tax section of the UBC International Handbook for details.
**COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD**

**Mail and Fax**
Until you get settled into your residence hall or apartment, you can receive mail and faxes at the following address:

[Your Name]
c/o Go Global: International Learning Programs
University of British Columbia
1783 West Mall (International House)
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z2
CANADA
Fax: (604) 822-9885

**E-mail**
E-mail accounts are available at UBC. To get an account, you need to first obtain a Library/AMS card. You can then go to the library computer lab and set up an e-mail account. The Student Exchange Office in Vancouver can give you more information about this process.

**Skype**
Many students use Skype for long-distance calls. Family and friends in the U.S. can call you, at low rates, using Skype from their computers. You can Skype family and friends from any computer with Internet access. Computer-to-computer Skype calls are free. You will need a headset or a microphone.
HOUSING & MEALS

Frequently Asked Questions

➢ For more details, be sure to read the housing section of the UBC International Student Handbook.

Q: Where will I live?
A: You can live on the UBC campus in residence halls or off campus in apartments, private homes, or town houses. All are located within a reasonable distance from campus.

Q: Who is responsible for the cost?
A: You are responsible for all room and board costs during the program.

You will make your own housing payments (even if you are on financial aid). The first financial aid disbursement is not sent until August. If you receive financial aid, you must still arrange to cover the UBC housing payments until financial aid is disbursed.

Q: When are housing payments due?
A: The first payment for on-campus housing is due to UBC in June.

Q: How can I obtain off-campus housing?
A: You will need to arrange your own housing off campus in apartments or private homes. Off-campus listings are posted in the International House and the Student Union building, and can be accessed by phone at (604) 714-4848. You can find Vancouver housing listings on the UBC Student Housing and Hospitality Services website.

Off-campus housing at UBC requires a commute. Fortunately, the mandatory U-Pass will give you unlimited access to all commuter train and bus services in the Vancouver area.

Q: How can I obtain on-campus housing?
A: Complete the UBC online housing application and pay your $50 application fee. You will receive further notification directly from UBC regarding your housing assignment.

Q: Will I automatically get the housing I selected on my UBC housing form?
A: All efforts will be made to place you in the residence of your choice, but placement is based on availability. If UBC is unable to place you in your first choice residence, they will try to place you in the alternate choice you indicated on the housing application.

Q: What types of on-campus housing are available?
A: There are four on-campus residences from which to choose. The following section provides a description of each residence.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Deciding to live off campus was a great decision. The bus system is good enough to get you where you need to be on time, and the expense is included in your fees.

On-campus housing is a good way to meet local Canadians (who are a diverse lot); however, for an older graduate student, I wouldn’t recommend it since it can get a bit noisy at times.

Try to get into the Gage High-Rise or Fairview Crescent. More students your age will be there. Totem Park and Place Vanier are for freshmen and sophomores.

Note: Linens are not provided for on-campus housing. You will need to bring them with you or purchase on arrival.

Room and Board in Residence

Totem Park and Place Vanier

Totem Park and Place Vanier are two on-campus residences that offer room and board and are geared towards first- and second-year UBC students. Both residences are located within walking distance of playing fields, tennis courts, sports facilities, and popular biking and jogging routes. Both houses have small floor lounges with a television and a large lounge on the main floor. Each room has Internet access and a phone outlet, a standard single bed with linens, built-in desk and bookshelves, clothes closet, chair, lamp, and bulletin board.

The dining rooms in Totem Park and Place Vanier are operated by the UBC Food Service Department and offer à la carte meal plans. With this plan, you pay only for the food you select. You may also use a meal card to make purchases at various locations on campus. Meals are served throughout the day, seven days a week.

Room Only in Residence

Walter Gage High-Rise

The Walter H. Gage Residence has three high-rise towers where students share quadrant apartments with cooking facilities. Each floor is divided into four furnished quadrants, each containing a small living/kitchen area shared by all six residents, a bedroom area consisting of six single furnished bedrooms, and a large communal bathroom. Quads and apartments have satellite television, wired Internet access, and phone outlets in the living room and each bedroom. Gage is a senior residence area; to be considered, you must be 19 years of age by December 31 of the year you move into Gage Towers.

Fairview Crescent Apartments

Fairview Crescent is designed for mature students. To be considered, you must be a full-time student at UBC during winter session and at least 19 years of age by December 31 of the year you move into Fairview Crescent (or be enrolled as a UBC graduate student).

Fairview Crescent consists of 186 four-, five-, and six-bedroom town houses. Residents of the complex are assigned to their own bedroom and share a living/dining room, kitchen, and one or two bathrooms with their roommates. The town houses are completely furnished. Bedrooms contain a single bed, desk, chair, small dresser, and two bookshelves. Electricity, heat, hot water, wired Internet access, and satellite television cable outlets are included in the rent. Every bedroom and the living area of each unit has a phone outlet.

Residents of Fairview Crescent may obtain meal passes to the Totem Park and Place Vanier Dining Rooms at a student rate. There are a number of snack bars, mini-marts, dining halls, and coffee shops available on and off campus for meals and snacks.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Look forward to meeting a lot of great people and making some adjustments to a new school and different culture.

The city of Vancouver has a great transit system and, for a UBC student, it’s a bargain. Leave your car at home.

Vancouver is an awesome city with lots to do.

I got to see some wonderful natural settings in and around Vancouver. Don’t just stay on campus; make sure you get out and explore.

There are a lot of differences between Canada and California—accent, currency, phrases, and so on—but there are also subtle differences: pace of living, a sometimes anti-American bias, and different values. I had to learn to accept these differences, but once I did, I made some of the best friends I’ve ever had!

Join the peer program. It’s a great way to make Canadian friends.

Be independent. Don’t hang out in groups with other UCEAP students.

Be as open with the people as possible and be willing to try new things.”

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Get Involved

Participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while on UCEAP is an excellent way to meet people and integrate more fully into the community.

Join sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; volunteer at local organizations; attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles; and get the most out of your time abroad.

Local staff can provide information about cultural and social events and will arrange some activities and excursions for the UCEAP group. Many excellent travel books about Canada and surrounding areas are available at local bookstores. Past students recommend Lonely Planet’s Travel Survival Kit for Canada and Let’s Go: Canada.

Things to do at UBC and in Vancouver

The gorgeous UBC Vancouver campus is surrounded by mountains, beaches and forests, creating the opportunity for a unique and exciting adventure wherever you turn. From on-campus coffee shops, performing arts theatres, and art galleries, to Wreck Beach and Pacific Spirit Park, there is no end to the cultural, athletic, and natural activities to enjoy. Campus highlights include the Nitobe Memorial Garden (ranked as one of the best Japanese gardens in North America) and the on-campus farm, helping to promote sustainability.

Just 30 minutes away from all this natural beauty is the thriving metropolis of Vancouver. Students can use bus passes throughout the year, making travel to the city center a breeze. The city’s close proximity to mountains and beaches means you can snowboard one day and sail the next. Nearby mountains offer skiing for eight months of the year. Downtown Vancouver has wonderful markets, shopping, and restaurants to enjoy. It’s a safe city, beautiful and cosmopolitan, surrounded by evergreen forests, snow-capped mountains, and the Pacific Ocean. Consistently rated one of the best places in the world to live, Vancouver is also home to an exceptionally diverse population of 1.8 million people.

In February, 2010, Vancouver welcomed the world to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The campus played host to Olympic ice hockey competitions in the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre. UBC is very proud to have been a part of this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Vancouver is located on the spectacular Pacific coast of Canada and is just 25 miles (40 km) north of the U.S. border. Vancouver is on major air routes from across Canada and around the world. The city has a temperate climate year-round, with warm, breezy summers and mild, wet winters. Snow is rare in the city, but is plentiful on the surrounding mountains. The mild climate and spectacular natural environment makes Vancouver a haven for people who love the outdoors. Snowboarding and skiing, kayaking, hiking, trail running, rock climbing—whatever your passion, you can get outside and enjoy it most of the year.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Remember to be courteous and friendly. Leave people with a good impression. Quite sadly, tourists often do not.

Go see Stanley Park, one of the best urban retreats in North America, with 1,000 acres of lush greenery, a zoo, an aquarium, hiking trails, and a 6.5-mile pedestrian seawall, all within walking distance of the city center.

Keep your sense of humor. Don’t take anti-U.S. sentiment personally. Get out during the winter months. It’s easy to stay inside when the weather is bad, but that can be quite depressing.”

Working in Canada

With a valid study permit, you may work up to 20 hours per week on campus, although most students work 10 to 15 hours per week. If you wish to work, you will also need a social insurance number. These are similar to U.S. social security numbers. The Go Global Office at UBC can provide additional information.

The spouse of a full-time student at a community college or university may apply for authorization to work. In such a case, the spouse should contact a Canada Immigration Center to obtain information and an application for the authorization. A spouse may work only during the validity of the partner’s study permit. A medical examination may be required.

Dependent Children

Dependent children may be able to attend school in Canada. If you plan to take children to Canada, phone the nearest Canada Immigration Center for information. Appropriate authorization is required before children attend classes.
Health

Seeking Medical Care

The level of public health and sanitation in Canada is high. Canada’s medical care is of a high standard but is government-controlled and rationed. If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention and contact the UCEAP Liaison Officer immediately. The Liaison Officer can recommend a clinic to visit, provide advice about the necessary UCEAP medical insurance claim process, and assist if arrangements need to be made with your professors due to an extended absence from classes.

- Medical care in Canada is excellent. Public ambulance service is reliable and well staffed.

Student Insurance

While abroad, you will be covered by two insurance policies: one is required by the University of British Columbia (iMED), and the other is required by UCEAP (the UCEAP Insurance Plan). The UCEAP Insurance Plan premium is paid by the University of California. There is no deductible or copay. You are also required by the University of British Columbia to carry iMED, a Canadian health insurance policy. iMED is required for all new international students attending UBC. In addition, students staying for the full academic year will require the B.C. Medical Services Plan (MSP). You’ll pay UBC directly for the iMED health insurance, and you can pay for MSP by various methods, including by credit card online. For details about the Canadian policies referred to above, see the Health Insurance and Health Care section of the UBC International Student Handbook.
In addition to the following sections, read the Safety chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.

SAFETY

Minimizing Risks Abroad

UCEAP takes the safety and security of participants very seriously and provides credible and timely advice during predeparture and while in Canada. However, as in the U.S., you are ultimately responsible for your personal safety. Before traveling, it is important that you ensure that you are fully prepared, that you are aware of any risks and that you have mitigated them. International travel is a great opportunity, and you should know how to optimize the experience for yourself. While UCEAP provides resources aimed at facilitating a safe travel experience, it cannot ensure that your travels and stay in Canada will be problem-free or account for all the potential health and safety risks that you might encounter.

Many students and their families have concerns about safety and security abroad. Study abroad, like most other things in life, involves risk. No one can guarantee your personal security, either in the U.S. or abroad. You and your family have a role to play in minimizing potential dangers, and UCEAP expects you to participate actively in minimizing your risks while abroad.

UCEAP cannot:

• Guarantee the safety of participants or ensure that risk will not at times be significantly greater than on a UC campus.
• Monitor the daily personal decisions, choices, and activities of individual participants any more than is the case on a UC campus.

UCEAP makes reasonable efforts to provide a safe environment abroad and counsel students on potential risks and necessary precautions. While there are some situations that are out of anyone’s control, you can take responsibility for your own personal behavior and follow certain basic precautions, such as being aware of your surroundings.

Crime

Compared to most major U.S. cities, the overall crime rate for Vancouver is below average. Property crime is by far the biggest crime threat in Vancouver. The property crime and most other crimes are closely related to the habitual drug scene within the East-side corridor of downtown Vancouver. The crimes commonly encompass habitual drug users and homeless persons who are involved in illicit activity to fund their addictions. Street crime targeting individuals for robberies is rare.

Tips:

• Take the same security precautions you would take while traveling to any major city in the United States.
• Practice sound security procedures and immediately report any unusual incidents to the local authorities.
• Avoid areas east of Hastings Street.
• Keep wallets, cash, and valuables in a secure location.
• Avoid displaying large sums of cash or jewelry in public.
• Avoid walking alone at night.
Criminal Penalties
Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Canada’s laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned.

Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Canada are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.

Police Response
The Vancouver Police Department handles local law enforcement related issues and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are responsible for the federal policing. Both services are professional and proactive with enforcing law and order. Officers generally respond to the scene of crimes in a timely manner. They are reliable and effective.

Road & Public Transportation Safety
Canada has a modern and robust road, rail, and public transportation system allowing easy access to most destinations. Public transportation in Canada consists of trains, taxis and bus service. All are available in the major cities, and smaller cities and towns at least have a bus service.

Vancouver’s highways and road conditions are similar to the United States and pose no unusual hazards. Pedestrians and bicyclists within the downtown corridors should use extreme caution, as there are often aggressive drivers or pedestrians who are not aware of oncoming traffic or not observing marked road crossings. Vancouver has a growing cycling community, that often holds peaceful demonstrations highlighting their call to expand cyclists’ rights and additional bike lanes.
Emergency Contacts

What Is an Emergency?
An emergency is a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. The following are considered emergencies:

- Any life/death situation
- A traumatic event requiring immediate assistance
- An arrest
- Civil unrest or natural disaster in the host country

In an Emergency
Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

If you are in the U.S.
- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact your Operations Specialist at the UCEAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

If you are abroad
Contact local emergency services first:

**Emergency Telephone Number: 911**
Call 911 if you have any type emergency or have been the victim of a crime.
If you call 911 from a cell phone, you need to let the operator know your location by giving them a building address. If you are calling regarding an emergency on campus, tell them you are at UBC.

**UBC Campus Security: (604) 822-2222**
Campus Security provides 24-hour assistance, seven days a week. Call if you have a safety concern or security situation.

**Go Global on the UBC campus:**
Breanne Ringheim/Florine Lawrance: (604) 822-8334; or
Katherine Beaumont: (604) 822-9613

Carry the local emergency contact information at all times.

If you have a health, travel, or safety emergency and do not have access to local or UCEAP representative emergency information, contact the UCEAP travel assistance provider, Europ Assistance, available 24/7:

- **Call international collect:** 1+202-828-5896 or
- **Call within the U.S.:** 1+866-451-7606
- **E-mail:** ops@europassistance-usa.com