

# Incoming Exchange Frequently Asked Questions

## Courses

- ***Can I add a course that is full, restricted, or blocked?***

If a course you hope to take is in the Arts or Science Faculty (excluding MATH and ECON courses) and is full or restricted, you may monitor the course to see if space opens up. If space does not open up, you may seek permission from the instructor of the course, AFTER you arrive on campus. You will need to use this form: [Registration Form](#), have it signed by the instructor, and return it to Go Global.

- ***How many courses am I required to take? Is there a minimum or a maximum?***

Undergraduate exchange students typically take between 9 and 15 credits per semester at UBC, depending on degree requirements at home university. Go Global is not able to advise you on the minimum course load required by your home university. Students must maintain registration of minimum of 9 credits per term to be considered as a full-time student at UBC. If you are living on campus or considering to work with a valid Study Permit, you must maintain your full-time student status. There is a credit limit for both full year (30 credits/year) and single-term students (18 credits/term).

- ***What does being on a course waitlist mean (am I in the course or not)? What is the likelihood of getting in?***

Waitlists are not available for all courses. Students on a waitlist should check their registration under [Student Service Centre](#) to see if they have been registered into the official course or not.

1. If there is a waitlist for the course, register for the waitlist
2. Check the departmental website to review their waitlist procedures
3. Keep your eye on the course via the SSC
4. Check the course on your SSC after the first class

- ***Can I take Distance Education courses?***

Exchange students are usually restricted from registering Distance Education courses. If you need to take a Distance Education course, please contact Go Global inbound advisor for permission after arrival.

- ***When would I be registered for courses?***

Mid-June to August for students admitted in May and July. November to December for students admitted in fall.

## Housing

- ***How do I apply for Housing (Term 1, Term2, Full Year)?***

1. Go to the [Housing and Conferences Online Service Centre](#) and log in under “UBC New Applicants, Students, Staff with CWL ID.”
2. Login with your CWL.
3. Select “Application,” and then “Apply.”

4. Select the application for the appropriate Winter Session (e.g. Term 1 (September—December), Term 2 (January – April)).
5. When asked for your faculty, enter “Exchange Program, year 1.”

There is a \$50 non-refundable application fee. A deposit must be paid by Visa or MasterCard and is due upon acceptance of your room offer.

- ***When will I know if I have received university housing?***  
UBC Housing usually contacts students in June/July via email with information about their residence placements for September and the next steps you will need to take. If you are joining us in January, you should expect to hear during November/December. If you have further questions please contact UBC Housing at [information@housing.ubc.ca](mailto:information@housing.ubc.ca).
- ***Can I move in before the move-in date?***  
Not usually, but please contact the UBC Housing ([information@housing.ubc.ca](mailto:information@housing.ubc.ca)) directly to see if you can make an arrangement as Go Global does not manage housing.  
Also, please refer to the following page: <http://vancouver.housing.ubc.ca/applications/fees-payments/early-arrival/>
- ***I have other questions about Housing.***  
Because Go Global does not manage housing, your inquiries would be best addressed by UBC housing at [information@housing.ubc.ca](mailto:information@housing.ubc.ca).
- ***Is there airport pick up?***  
No, but there are multiple ways to get to campus from the airport.

#### **Getting to UBC from the airport**

It is a good idea to plan to arrive at UBC on a weekday, between 9 am and 3 pm, as many university offices are closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and public/university holidays. If you are arriving in December, you should be aware that most offices and services on campus are closed between Christmas (December 25) and New Year’s Day (January 1).

Transportation page:

1. <https://planning.ubc.ca/transportation>
2. <https://www.ubyssey.ca/blog/how-to-get-to-ubc-from-yvr-airport/>
3. [Translink](#)

- ***Can I get help with my luggage?***  
When taking a taxi and a limo, you can ask the driver to help you with the luggage. It is customary to pay gratuity fees. Some drivers may expect additional tips if they help you with your luggage.

#### **Fees/Financial**

- ***What are these fees I see on SSC? Am I paying tuition? Do I have to pay them?***

Exchange students will not be charged any tuition fees. They will have mandatory International Health Insurance (IMED) and public bus pass (UPASS) fees assessed and charged to their student account. You may view and pay these fees on UBC's [Student Service Centre](#) (SSC) by logging in with your Campus Wide Login (CWL) Information. <https://ssc.adm.ubc.ca/sscportal>.

For more information, see: <http://students.ubc.ca/about/go-global/coming-ubc-exchange/costs-coming-ubc-exchange>

## Health Insurance

- ***What is iMED?***

iMED is a temporary health insurance that is automatically triggered by your course registration.

Shortly after course registration, exchange students are automatically enrolled in iMED, and the fees should appear on the SSC Financial Summary. Students will also receive an email from David Cummings Insurance Services (DCIS) approximately one month prior to the start of each academic term, with the iMED insurance card attached. Please keep your eye out for the email in your inbox and junk-mail folders. Print your iMED card and keep it with you at all times. The iMED fees will be due before the first week of classes at UBC.

iMED costs \$252 (Canadian dollars) for one-term exchange students at UBC (4 months of coverage), plus a \$9 direct billing fee. Full Year students are charged \$180 for 3 months of iMED coverage during the waiting period for MSP (British Columbia's health insurance, mandatory for all students residing in B.C. for more than 6 months). The UPASS is \$164 per term.

To ensure the health and safety of exchange students, iMED was implemented several years ago, after a number of instances in which international or exchange students incurred large medical costs in Canada due to not having sufficient insurance coverage. It is mandatory for all incoming exchange students who are not covered by a Canadian provincial government health care plan. Exchange students will be covered by iMED in addition to whatever other insurance you may have.

With your iMED card, you don't have to pay for your visit if you see a doctor at the Student Health Service at UBC or the University Village Medical and Dental Clinic in the Village on campus. Also, iMED covers emergency hospitalization and medical services (including outpatient treatment at a doctor's clinic) for an unexpected sickness or injury. The full policy is available on the iMED website.

To find out more information about iMED, please visit:

- <http://www.david-cummings.com/imed/>
- <https://students.ubc.ca/health/health-insurance/health-insurance-international/imed-temporary-health-insurance->

[international#:~:text=About%20iMED&text=iMED%20provides%20you%20with%20basic,student%20or%20a%20VIRS%20student](#)

- <https://global.ubc.ca/go-global/coming-ubc-study-abroad/coming-ubc-exchange/budgeting-exchange> (under “Medical insurance costs (iMED and BC MSP)”).

- ***How much does IMED cost?***

IMED costs \$252 (Canadian dollars) for exchange students at UBC for one term (4 months of coverage). Full Year students are charged \$180 for 3 months of coverage during the waiting period for MSP (British Columbia’s government health insurance mandatory for all students in Canada for more than 6 months).

To find out more information about iMED, please visit:

- <http://www.david-cummings.com/imed/>
- <https://students.ubc.ca/health/health-insurance/health-insurance-international/imed-temporary-health-insurance-international#:~:text=About%20iMED&text=iMED%20provides%20you%20with%20basic,student%20or%20a%20VIRS%20student>
- <https://global.ubc.ca/go-global/coming-ubc-study-abroad/coming-ubc-exchange/budgeting-exchange> (under “Medical insurance costs (iMED and BC MSP)”).

- ***What is BC MSP and why do I need it?***

Please review: <https://students.ubc.ca/health-wellness/health-insurance/health-insurance-details-international/medical-services-plan-msp-international>

Medical Services Plan (MSP) is a mandatory health insurance plan, for everyone who lives in British Columbia (BC) for six months or longer. Medical fees in BC are very high, so to protect yourself against surprisingly big bills that can go up to \$150 just to see a doctor. With MSP, you do not pay when you seek basic medical care, and the fees for emergency care are reduced to much less.

## Logistics/Admin/Transcripts

- ***How to order more transcripts?***

One copy of your transcript will be email or mailed to your home university approximately six weeks after the end of term. If you need to order an additional transcript, please visit:

<https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/records/ordering-transcript>

- ***When can I book my flight?***

You should wait until you receive official acceptance “Letter of Acceptance” from UBC before purchasing a ticket. However, if you chose to purchase your ticket before you receive your acceptance, make sure you buy cancellation insurance.

- ***When are the final exams?***

Final exam dates are posted on your [Student Service Centre](#) usually after the mid-terms. Please check the exam schedule before booking your return flight:  
<https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/exams>

- ***Can I stay in Canada to travel after my exchange?***

Please review the information contained here: <https://students.ubc.ca/international-student-guide/immigration/prepare-leave-ubc>

- ***Can I arrive late?***

Please notify Go Global at your earliest convenience if you think you will arrive late. You will also need to contact each of your UBC professors to inform them that you will be late and to request permission.

### **Immigration: Study Permits, Visas or eTAs**

For any questions regarding study permit or Visa/Electronic Travel authorization applications, or traveling to Canada, please review the UBC International Student Guide:  
<https://students.ubc.ca/international-student-guide>. For step-by-step instructions on how to apply for your student permit, please review UBC's online tutorial: [Tutorial: How to apply for an initial study permit](#).

If you have further immigration questions, you must connect with our International Student Advisors who are Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants/Regulated International Student Immigration Advisors. You can connect with them here: <https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/international-student-advising>. If you would like to contact them for an appointment, please review the instructions on their page and let them know you are an incoming UBC exchange student and share your UBC student ID number.