SCARPlandia

the (un)official 2017/2018 incoming student handbook
We would like to acknowledge that this book was created on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam People.

Disclaimer: Just Our Opinion

Welcome to the second edition of SCARPlandia. Your first couple of weeks at SCARP will be busy, so we (your second-year counterparts) created this book to help you hit the ground running. This guide is compiled of student input and isn’t the ‘official word’. For bureaucratic details and processes, there are tons of resources on the SCARP website, so make sure to check that out as well. We hope you will add your own thoughts and improve the guide next year.

If you can’t find an answer to your question, don’t be afraid to ask. SCARP really is a community and we want you to feel a part of it.
Welcome from the PSA President and VPs

Hello, new SCARPies, and welcome! We are so excited to meet you all in September.

You’re about to join a wonderful and talented group of humans who are here to make the change that they want to see in the world. It sounds cliched, but not one of us is here without that reason. It starts with the SCARP community. The student culture in WMAX is remarkable: an incredibly supportive environment where we are challenged, and challenge one another, to broaden and develop our ideas and abilities. We (obviously...) know that SCARP attracts some of the best people, and we are keen to learn from all of you. It’s a one-of-a-kind environment to be a part of, and one that we know you will add to and help shape.

One of the great things about SCARP is that everyone brings their own background of experiences and expertise. Please share your knowledge, get involved, and join the conversation right away. Our only expectations are you be respectful, open-minded, and practice ‘calling in’.

Our best advice is show up whenever you can, listen, talk to your classmates and to second years (though if you’re not a fan of puns, maybe don’t talk to Alex). The SCARP community is full of advice and likes to be helpful. They’ll be your best resource here and after you graduate.

It’s going to be busy at times. If you’re feeling unsure or overwhelmed, it’s likely others are too. Talk to someone. We’re here to help. SCARP’s strength is that it’s collaborative, not competitive. One of the worst kept secrets is that everyone does well here.

MCRP is a fairly new program, and the MA/MSc program is just being rebooted this year. The year before us did a whole lot of work towards improving the program for us and everyone who follows. Our goal is to do the same. If you have any questions, suggestions, or issues please bring them forward. The PSA is here to advocate for you personally, academically, and especially socially.

So, get ready to spend a lot of time together, to re-examine your ideas and values, and to make new lifelong friends. Take risks, test out ideas, and own your experience.

We can’t wait to meet you all.

Alex, Hudson, and Michael
In the 2015/2016 academic year, SCARP transitioned from a research-based degree (MA and MSc) to a professional degree, the Masters of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP). The previous research-based program offered at SCARP had streams (transportation, urban design, etc.) and students were required to do a large project or thesis in order to complete the program. SCARP is just bringing back the research-based masters program, so there’ll be a few incoming students working on a different program from you. This is new and past cohorts did not experience this, but you’ll still see each other in some classes and get to know one another.

The renewed MCRP program represents a significant change in the organization and content of the degree. Faculty, administration, and students are still working to solidify what the proposed program looks like when its running. You can be proud to say that you will be the third graduating class of the MCRP. The things that make SCARP SCARP remain (WMAX, name dropping Bill Rees, and community), even when the program changed. So, although we as second-years think we know what’s happening when it comes to the MCRP, keep in mind that what’s below might change!

Because there are “core” classes that all MCRP students must take, you won’t find much room for electives in the first two semesters (especially if you are in ICP). The schedule below is just a rough outline of what to expect. In any semester, you might do slightly more or fewer credits or switch your internship for an elective. Taking more than 12 credits is possible, although you should discuss this with your faculty supervisor to make sure it’s the right call for you. You will need to take core classes with your cohort, so choose your electives wisely. Often times, it can be difficult to choose which classes to take because they all sound so interesting. This is a good problem to have and is reassurance that you’ve come to the right place. Don’t worry too much; SCARP has tons of great classes to offer. Don’t be afraid to speak to some of the second years about their experiences with certain courses. With that said, they’ll probably provide their unsolicited advice regardless.

To say the least, you’ll be very busy over the next two years. It’s going to be great.
# Example Course Schedule for MCRP 1st-Years

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<th>YEAR 1 TERM 1</th>
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*Up to 6 non-planning. **More for ICP and Urban Design

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**Casual international negotiations**

**Classes are always difficult**
Welcome! We’re excited to have you at SCARP. In the previous two years, SCARP did not offer the MAP or MScP program, as it made its transition to the MCRP degree. While the MCRP degree is more professionally focused, your degree is research intensive.

As MCRP students, we have yet to experience life with MAP/MScP students, but we’re extremely excited! We don’t have all the details on your program, but speaking to admin as well as your faculty supervisor should help clear things up. At the end of the day, we are part of the SCARP community and look forward to interacting with you as much as possible.

We are sorry there isn’t more information we can provide you on your program, but don’t hesitate to ask admin and faculty questions. There may be a few MAP/MScP students hanging around (see Super SCARPies) who will have a bit of insight on your program. Look out for them roaming around WMAX.

For all students: faculty advisor roles

Your faculty advisor plays an important part in your degree. They will sign off on your course schedules, help you construct your specialization, be there for professional (and perhaps moral) support. Our PSA worked hard with admin to hammer out an agreement on what the student/faculty advisor relationship should look like. Make sure to check it out before coming. It will be super helpful to understand all that your faculty advisor can assist you throughout your time at SCARP.

Remember, it’s your faculty advisor’s job and responsibility to be there for you, so don’t be hesitant to reach out!
Capstones & Studios

Students in MCRP (but not including ICP students) have two additional courses that require special attention: the capstone project and studio course. The capstone currently exists as one of two options: a professional portfolio submission or a major project (which can be combined with a 3 credit directed study). You will need to discuss this with your supervisor closer to your second year. Until then, if you want to know more, the SCARP website has more information.

The studio course will join students into small groups to work with organization and community partners on real projects. Partners will determine how, and if, projects will be implemented. Last year was the first year of the studio course. Students were organized into small teams working on projects that they expressed interest in working on. Partners included BC municipalities, First Nations, UBC Campus and Community Planning, and neighbourhood groups. Studio courses are very common in American planning programs and are intended to give students real-world planning experience prior to graduation. These projects put all the skills you learn at SCARP to the test.
Some Tips for Urban Design

It would be useful to start practicing drawing/getting more comfortable with design software (like Adobe Creative Suite) as soon as possible.

In order to get the most out of each course, be fully invested in it. This may mean a greater time and energy commitment, but it’s the best way to develop your design prowess.

The ability to work with a team and collaborate with other students is likely your greatest asset - everyone has different strengths and skill sets so you should do your best to learn from others.

Although many resources are now online, some of the greatest sources of design inspiration are classic books.

Have fun with it!

Also, all planning students should take the first urban design course (if possible) to get a good sense of graphic representation, learn site analysis techniques, and get to know your fellow SCARPies better!
To our incoming Indigenous Community Planning students: Welcome! Leonie will likely gather you together during Orientation Week for a meet and greet, and the Year 2s will definitely organize a cross-year get-together. Getting to know one another across cohorts is a great way to have an idea of how your second year will shake out, and you’ll have formal opportunities to learn more about practicum in addition to chatting with Year 2s! We look forward to meeting you, learning from each other, and continuing the incredible ICP specialization.

More about the ICP Program

The Indigenous Community Planning (ICP) specialization is a specialization within the MCRP program that has been running for six years. Students in the ICP are in all of the MCRP’s core courses, but most of their electives are taken up by additional classes required for ICP. The specialization tries to have a 50/50 split of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, but this hasn’t always happened. ICP students have a variety of reasons for applying to and joining the program. Many have experience working in Indigenous communities, but not everyone does. For all, the ICP specialization involves a lot of self-reflection to help students find their purpose in the context of Indigenous community planning.

Logistically, the ICP specialization involves a lot of weekend classes. You may be able to pick out the students in ICP classes pretty easily on Monday mornings -- they will be the ones looking exhausted after doing some emotionally draining classes Saturday and Sunday PLUS all their other coursework. Be kind.

In Year 1, ICP classes focus on practical skills like negotiation, facilitation, and community engagement. There is also an Indigenous Community Planning class that discusses the history of colonization of Indigenous peoples in Canada, as well as the role that planning has played in the colonial project and how planning by Indigenous communities is starting to repair some of this damage. ICP students highly recommend their classes for ALL students as it’s important for any planner working in Canada to understand the complex impacts of colonialism, the shifting Nation-Nation relationships and understanding of Indigenous rights in Canada, and the implications of these factors for planning today.
In Year 2, ICP students are paired into teams and work with an Indigenous community for their practicum. The structure of the ICP specialization was actually used as a model for the MCRP when it was redesigned -- think of the second year ICP practicum as the MCRP studio, although practicum is worth 12 credits, versus the studio’s 6. This means ICP students can look forward to more weekends away. Before you ask an ICP student where their practicum will be -- no, they don’t know their placement yet. No, not soon. Not until August right before second year. Or maybe even later than that. No, they don’t even have a faint guess. They’ll let you know when they find out!

A big, important note (that if you do not yet understand the need for, you will soon) for all SCARP students: there are specific protocols associated with contacting Indigenous communities. If you would like to do work with or receive information about an Indigenous community, do not contact them without talking to Leonie Sandercock first. She acts as the liaison between SCARP, ICP, and communities as she has spent the time to build these relationships.
A Message for International Students

Canada is a multicultural country and Vancouver especially is home to many nationalities and ethnic groups; therefore we hope you feel at home at UBC.

UBC provides a comprehensive guide for international students. In addition to this guide you can also book an appointment to talk to an International Student Advisor (RCICs) at isa@students.ubc.ca located at International House.

All you need to know about settling in at UBC in also provided here. You’ll find information on campus housing, getting a UBC card, health insurance, and even finding child care services for your family.

Getting a Cell Phone (Mobile phone) and Internet

Using a cell phone is a norm in Canada. You need to get a phone when you arrive in Vancouver. Rogers, Fido, Telus, Virgin, Bell, Freedom, Koodo, and Chatr are some of the main cell carriers in Vancouver. They often have packages for students so make sure to bring your student card when visiting their store to sign up.

If you are living on campus you should have access to UBC’s high speed internet. However, if you live off campus you can contact companies such as Shaw and Telus to get high speed internet. They come to campus during the first 2 weeks of September to sign up new customers. The booths are usually set up close to the NEST or along Main Mall. You can get good deals from them during this time period, for example Shaw offers students a special package.
BC Identification Card

Your Canadian Driver’s License can act as your official ID. If you do not have a driver licence and don’t want to carry your passport around all the time, you can apply to get a BC ID from ICBC.

For more support contact SCARP International Student Reps:
Saki Aono - sakiaono@outlook.com
Filippos Gkekas - filipposgkekas@gmail.com
Devon Harlos - devonaharlos@gmail.com

Habitat III looking fresh

Can never have too many bakesales

Some got the apres-ski theme...
Welcome From Student Development

Student Development provides programs, events, and initiatives to enhance your learning experience at SCARP. Whether you are looking for ways to get more out of your degree or connect with the planning profession, we’ve got many opportunities to help you build professional skills and enhance your leadership potential!

Orientation

You’ll start your time at SCARP with a two-day on campus orientation program, beginning September 5th and finishing with a trip to Whistler. You will get the chance to learn about SCARP, Applied Science and UBC, meet the faculty, and get to know your fellow SCARPies.

Mentoring

Our mentoring program is an excellent opportunity for you to gain valuable insights into the planning profession and connect with community partners. More information about the program will be provided during your orientation.

Internships

The SCARP Internship Program is an essential and integral component of the MCRP program and is designed to connect you with experienced planning professionals in your field of interest, allowing you to gain valuable hands-on experience while also earning academic credit. Make sure to check out more details on internships on the website!

Professional Development

Professional Development provides workshops, programming, and initiatives to enhance your learning experience and career development at UBC, offering you many opportunities to build your professional skills.
The Planning Student Association -- PSA for short -- is the student organization that represents Planning Masters students at UBC, and we’re a pretty busy group of people. We create space for important dialogues on equity, sustainability, and other challenging topics to occur; we work with the administration to sort out snafus and ensure the program is meeting student expectations; we organize a lot of social events and learning opportunities outside of the classroom, like professional development workshops and lunchtime dialogues; and we represent UBC planning students to the greater UBC and professional planning communities. Perhaps most importantly, we engage in current planning issues facing us today and make opportunities to learn the skills we need to be successful planners when we graduate that may not be taught in the classroom.

Getting involved in the PSA on one of our many committees is easy to do, and absolutely encouraged! In fact, most of the current cohort holds at least one, if not two PSA positions. It’s a great way for you complement your academic schedule. All of our PSA positions run on a January to December cycle, which means that in September you’ll get an intro to what you can do, and then spend your first semester of your Masters getting your feet wet. In November, you can run for an elected position or sign up for a non-elected position.

The UBC PSA has a beautiful new website here. Visit to learn a little more about UBC’s Planning Student’s Association and our different committees and their functions.

Fees

Be prepared, we will ask you to pay a fee at the start of the year to join the UBC PSA (~45$) and we will also ask you to pay to attend the Whistler Weekend that finishes Orientation Week (~45$). Please contact treasurer Filippos Gkekas (filipposgkekas@gmail.com) if you are unable to attend this getaway due to financial constraints. There may be a bursary available.
Symposium

Every year SCARP first-year students put on an AMAZING symposium dealing with a variety of planning issues. Several of you will form the main committee and seek input and help whenever needed. It is a huge undertaking and it not possible without all hands on deck, so start thinking about how you like to help. Consider organizing a panel, finding funders or just taking on the whole thing! See what happened last year here!

Socials

There are tons of SCARP social events from chill hangouts to party nights, many of them regular weekly occurrences. Support your social committee and these events! Sometimes, you just gotta take a break. Make some memories!

Facebook pages

SCARP has a Facebook page which is where we share information about classes, jobs, questions and conversations rather than flood the “current students” listserv. The group’s membership has hundreds of SCARP students from over the years. Please request to be added to this group and follow this group before you arrive (and for the first couple weeks) at least!!! Important textbook information and updates will appear here. We’ve gone ahead and created a Facebook group for your own cohort so that you can discuss issues and events specific to your year (don’t worry, the second years in the group will leave it once one of you becomes the group admin). Request to join it here.
**Google Calendar**

We have a SCARP Google Calendar which is a great way to view SCARP events and other things happening around the city. To add it to your own calendar, head to this page and click the “+Google Calendar” button at the bottom of the calendar.

**Campus Life**

**WMAX:** Your home away from home.

- **First floor WMAX:** it’s a mixture of quiet space, informal, meeting and classroom spaces, as well as PhD student offices. Pay attention to the signage for room guidelines. SCARP administration also have offices and work part-time from here. They are located here so they’re more accessible to students, so make sure to say hello!
- **Second floor WMAX:** it’s only used for quiet study due to faculty offices and some classes in the 240 classroom. No group meetings upstairs are permitted. Please respect faculty space. Extra washrooms are also upstairs if those downstairs are busy.

**Lasserre:** The location of some faculty offices and the SCARP administration office. Also houses the UBC architecture department. Don’t forget to visit Ivy Mountain!

**Grad Student Lounge:** There’s a lounge in the AMS Nest up on the 5th floor exclusive to grad students. It’s tucked away in the back, but can be a great resource. It has non-bookable office spaces and group work rooms and is generally quite quiet. You’ll need your UBC student ID to access the space by scanning your card.

**Computer Labs:** Found across campus, but here are the two you’ll need to know.

- **Informal Learning Space:** A small computer lab in WMAX with Adobe Design Software. This is a Mac lab and is open at all times to all SCARP students!
- **Koerner Library:** The “grad” library close to SCARP has 2 computer labs in the basement that have ArcMap and a plotter. The GIS librarians are very nice and can help you with any GIS questions.
1. **Seedlings ($)** Cheap but SO good. Usually vegan and often raw. They also have the cheapest coffee near WMAX and great space to work. Note: it doesn’t open until around October, so check before going.

2. **Koerner's Pub ($$)** - The food is a little expensive but Taco Tuesdays are life. It’s the grad pub so it’s very relaxed.

3. **Stir it Up Cafe at Buchanan ($$$)** - they have two hot entrees with rice, soups, sandwiches, pastries, organic fairtrade coffee, etc.

4. **Sprouts ($)** Seedlings sister store at the SUB/NEST. Again, cheap and delicious they also have bulk food for sale. On Fridays, they have Community Eats by donation. Make sure to bring your own container!

5. **The NEST ($$)** - The food court at the student’s centre has sushi, pizza (PieR²!), wraps, soups, cheap sandwiches, frozen yogurt, a small grocery store, etc.

6. **Loaf ($$$)** - In the Alumni Centre and very expensive. Rumour has it the food is very good. They also serve Cartems donuts, a must eat in Vancouver.


8. **Trio Os ($$)** - Open late. Authentic Vancouver food. Cheap Tuesdays!

9. **Mercante ($$)** - UBC food services run. Kind of expensive. You’ll eat at least one pizza from there this year.

10. **The Loop Cafe at CIRS ($$)** - they always have one hot vegetarian and one meat entree with rice, plus a salad bar, sandwiches, pastries, organic fairtrade coffee, etc.

11. **Food trucks ($$$)** - The food trucks are actually just UBC food services, so don’t be fooled. They are pretty good.

12. **Harvest ($$)** - A little bit expensive, but it’s a small convenience store with a deli on the ground floor or the Ponderosa Commons. It’s the closest place from WMAX to get something quick.

13. **Great Dane Coffee ($$)** - Behind the Walter Gage Towers. Said to be the best coffee on campus. They also serve pastries, sandwiches, etc.
SCARP, the GSS & AMS

As members of the Graduate Student Society, you have a health and dental plan through the Pacific Blue Cross. You also have access to many of the same resources as undergrad students through GSS agreements with the AMS. The Thea Koerner House is the Graduate Students Centre where Koerner’s Pub & Seedlings are located.

Sports

Some SCARPies like sports (it can be confusing for the rest of us but to each their own). Play on the Single Family Homers (softball), Soccertes (soccer), or start another one. This year, we also had people playing basketball, soccer, curling, and even long boating. Go local sports!

Grocery Stores

On campus:
Harvest - Ponderosa Commons
Grocery Check Out - AMS Student Nest
Granville Island Produce - University Village (5767 Dalhousie Rd, Vancouver, BC)
Save on Foods - on 16th Ave (5945 Berton Avenue)

Off campus:
Safeway - on 10th, before UBC (4575 W 10th Ave)
Persia Foods - on Broadway (2827 W Broadway)

Printing

Library - you need to create an online account in order to print or copy at UBC libraries. Here are the instructions. Copies Mart at the University Village is also a good and cheap option for all things printing (5728 University Blvd #103).

Buses/Transit/Compass card

You need to have a Compass card in order to use the public transportation system. Here are the instructions to get a Compass card. When you get to Vancouver, make sure you go grab one at a station, London Drugs, or other location. A monthly bus pass (activated through Compass) is included in your student fees.
Where to live

A nice Vancouver rental may be expensive and hard to find. Although some neighbourhoods are pricier than others, there are still affordable rental places in most neighbourhoods. Be prepared to make a decision quickly when you find somewhere you like.

Basically, apartment costs tend to go down the farther you travel from campus as UBC is located at the edge of a wealthy neighbourhood. The “I-just-moved-here” classic is a basement suite, so be prepared to consider how much more you are willing to pay to live above ground. You’ll notice many of the neighbourhoods listed are very close together – so close you may say they are the same place (or made up).

The most direct transit route to UBC is the 99 B-line, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t crowded and slow. Students usually try to live near it, but there are many other East-West routes that will take you to UBC with slightly less convenient service.
Neighbourhoods in Vancouver

1. UBC
Living on campus means you can avoid driving or busing, but rent is very expensive (despite what UBC says). It's basically a small town with grocery stores, restaurants, museums, banks, etc. so you'll never need to leave campus. But, try to leave anyway to explore the rest of the city because the action is definitely off-campus. If you want to travel back to campus after the buses stop running, you're in for an expensive cab ride. Bike back instead.

2. Point Grey
The closest you can get to campus without living on campus. You're about a 6 minute bus ride to campus, totalling 15 minutes to the SCARP trailer park. Perfect if you like to roll out of bed 20 minutes before you have to be in class. There isn't much going on in the neighbourhood, so you have to bus to downtown (45m) or Main (45m with a transfer), or walk over to your neighbour Kitsilano to find some fun and entertainment. Houses are huge so you can find a decent sized basement apartment, or a spot in a few of the above ground apartments. Very family oriented neighbourhood with only a 15 minute walk to the beach!

3. Dunbar-Southlands
If you hate early mornings but don't want to live on campus, Dunbar might be the choice for you! It's a fairly quiet area, with mostly single family homes -- and an active and vocal neighbourhood association. If you're lucky you can find a gem of a basement suite or rent a whole home with a few other people. The trade-offs? The neighbourhood itself is a bit sleepy, you're a little far from other neighbourhoods in Vancouver, and bus rides can be a bit long and cabs a bit pricey.

4. Kitsilano (South of 4th Ave)
aka Kits. If you hate living above ground, and don't mind a lil' dank mold smell here or there, Kitsilano might be the choice for you! Lots of older single family homes that's not too close, but not too far from campus. There's lots going on on Broadway. Close to campus and lots of grocery and dining options. Bonus points for a landlord who asks if the sudden water leak in your ceiling that is causing it to sag can “wait til Monday.”
If you love lounging on tree-lined beaches (who wouldn’t), feeling inferior to yuppies with rock hard abs, and visiting obnoxiously expensive stores, this humble community boasting 360 degree views of Arcteryx, the North Face, and Patagonia might just be right for you. Bonus: its home to the original Lululemon (and their current global headquarters), better known to locals as “the only acceptable form of attire.” Range of pricing from expensive nice places, to many cheap basement suites.

6. Fairview
Kitsilano’s poorer, less-yuppie-ish cousin, you’re probably pretty close to at least one B-Line stop. This is the area east of Burrard, west of Cambie, and north of 16th. This area has almost certainly the highest number of 2-3 storey apartment buildings in the city. Bonus 3am ambulance noise if you live in my old building at Oak and 12th! Slightly cheaper than Kits, but still close to UBC. A happy middle. Most importantly, the neighbourhood is home to Zaccary’s Pizza - truly delicious and from a man not named Zaccary. Max’s Deli is also the spot for ginger snap cookies. Bars are a little scarce but it’s easy to hop on over to our ironically moustachioed friends to the east. South Granville is home to lots of shops, but is a well-known food desert (don’t be fooled by Meinhardt!). Probably a half hour transit ride to campus unless rush hour is especially bad.

7. South Cambie
A lot of variation depending on where along Cambie you live. Closer to False Creek, you’ll be close to many grocery stores, the Canada Line, and the 99 B-Line. City Hall is at Cambie and Broadway.

8. Strathcona
A bit of a cocoon, and a few transfers to get to UBC, but an eclectic mix of housing and residents. Super charming heritage homes, boulevard gardens, and friendly community vibes. Around the corner from Chinatown and a hop, skip, and a jump to DT. Grocery options in this area are the pits though. Rent on par with Commercial & Mt. Pleasant.
9. Mt Pleasant
Close to a 99 stop. Easy to get around and located proximity to other “cool” areas (Commercial Drive and Main Street). Diverse neighbourhood with a KFC nearby. Lots of cool bars, restaurants, and breweries around, and a mix of 2-3 story apartments and single family homes. The area has historically been home to industrial lands in Vancouver, and as such, is now quite a contentious neighbourhood from a planning perspective.

10. Riley Park
If making fun of hipsters that are just a little too behind the times to have moved to Fraser (so hot right now), Main Street is your place. Do you want coffee? There’s lots of that. Antique stores clinging for dear life against ever-increasing rent pressures? Yup. Poodle on a Pole? You bet your sweet ass. Moderately priced, relatively.

11. Fraserhood (Kingsway and Fraser)
Not designated on the map, but essentially the intersection of Mt. Pleasant and Riley Park. With the highest “Gluten Free Bakery” to person ratio, Fraserhood is the place to be - if that’s your thing. You can stop by Matchstick Coffee, where half months rent gets you a latte. Although the coffee is expensive, rent is relatively cheap. Depending on the buses that day, you are located between 40 and 90 minutes from UBC. The local business bureau will probably call Fraserhood “An up and coming Neighborhood,” but in reality, it has been a culturally rich area for a long time. Changing faster than UBC’s campus this info may be out of date by the time of publication, but there are a number of SCARP kids kicking around the neighborhood so it’ll feel like home in no time.

12. Kensington-Cedar Cottage
aka the No-frills neighbourhood. You’ll find absolutely nothing trendy or hip in this neighbourhood, but that’s what makes it great. Cheap basement suites are readily available, as are low-cost Asian grocery stores and very affordable restaurants (lots of vietnamese). Several options for getting to UBC, but it’s about a 45 to 50 minute commute by bus (no transfer!). You’re also well situated between the two skytrain lines which really opens up the whole region, and biking places is a breeze.

13. West End
aka Best End. If you want small community living in the big city, the
West End is the place for you. Perfect for foodies and anyone who wants the beach steps from their door. You can also get an express (the 44) bus to UBC, but it only runs weekdays with no late night service or weekends. Rents are pretty affordable *for a downtown location* with a two bedroom around $1650.

14. Commercial Drive
One of the last remaining eclectic areas in the city. The neighbourhoods surrounding “the Drive” are diverse in culture and socio-economic status, with an occasionally edgy feel where folks “let their freak flag fly”. Here, you are spoiled for choice with affordable restaurants, grocery stores and cafes, and rents in apartments and shared houses are reasonable. However, expect a 45-70 minute commute to SCARP, by bike or express bus. Commercial-Broadway Station is great to be near if you’re travelling anywhere east of Vancouver.

15. South Van
SCARPies don’t believe it exists, but it does!

Neighbourhoods in Metro Vancouver

If you’re new to Metro-Vancouver: Burnaby, Surrey, Richmond, North Van, West Van and New West are quite far from the action and UBC. We generally wouldn’t recommend moving there unless you have some connection to these areas and/or a private vehicle...and even then....

16. North Vancouver
Aka North Van aka Lolo. Nestled in the mountains, there are many options for outdoor recreation including mountain biking, skiing and hiking (both leisurely and not so leisurely) while you are skipping school because it is very far from UBC. Although some have biked to UBC regularly and efficiently from North Van, I would suggest public or private motor transit because I did not have three days to get to class which is how long biking would take me (and sometimes how long it feels on the bus..). However, North Van’s trendiest hood Lower Lonsdale, or Lolo if you will, is seeing new development and has more than...
one bar now, creating a bumping patio scene and allows for very easy accesses to downtown via the seabus (it sounds cooler then it is) in 15 minutes.

17. Metrotown
A sprawling, consumerist haven filled with anything one may desire. Also a great place to park your car if you’ve been meaning to smash in your own windows but just haven’t found the time. Hungry? You could go to the food court, but why bother when you could eat at Uncle Willies?! Conveniently located in the lush parking lot of Metrotown itself, this is an all you can eat buffet featuring chow mein, fried chicken AND jello (The Big 3), while you eat you may even be serenaded by the sounds of casual gunplay from outside. Getting to UBC will be difficult from here, but you won’t mind because you’ll never feel like leaving. Rent is currently relatively cheap but may soon change as the older buildings are being demolished to give way to new high rises, so get in now while you still can!

18. Sapperton, New Westminster
Right by two skytrain stations and HWY 1, which makes it convenient for life, but way too far if you’re at UBC. An excellent post-Scarp-I’m-determined-to-live-in-Metro-Van choice for cheaper rents and affordable-ish houses. An area with a history in the labour movement, a progressive Council, and an overwhelming one or two excellent restaurants.

19. Richmond
A little disconnected from Vancouver and mainstream cultural. Sometimes it’s a struggle to meet people, but there’s lots of food and convenient shopping along the Skytrain line. Transit to UBC is bad, unless you live close to the Canada Line. Most Scarpies living here end up driving to school. You get to cross a bridge everytime you go to school!

Additional Tips on Finding a Place

If you are having trouble finding a place to live, please post in the SCARP group and you may find others looking for roommates, or people who have places for rent.

Craigslist, PadMapper, UBC Buy/Sell Facebook page, and Kijiji are
popular websites where you find accommodation, used/new furniture and even second-hand textbooks. Since you may be buying items directly from the seller, always be careful if you are going to the seller’s home. Go with someone or inform people about where you are going just to be safe. For smaller items, suggest you meet at in a public space like a mall or at the student’s centre (NEST). See our advice on where to live below!

Students living off campus tend to live in Kitsilano, the West End (which is in the downtown peninsula, and not to be confused with the separate city of West Vancouver), and East Vancouver (which is a part of Vancouver city proper).

Strike a balance between living close enough to the university and close enough to major social (and other) amenities near the centre of the city.

**Where to Play**

Traditionally, SCARP students head to Portland during the February “spring” break for 3 or 4 days. This trip is usually planned by two (or more) people in the year one for the year one cohort. Last year, those who went to Portland visited Alta Planning, got an awesome lecture from a Portland State planning prof and DANCED! An excel document with details can be shared with anyone interested in organizing.

There are lots of other areas around Vancouver and the surrounding cities and regions worth visiting. If you visit any of them, help expand this section next year.

**Hints & Tips**

**Textbooks**

Before you spend a lot of money on textbooks, go to orientation and class. SCARP students have previously used copies of books and digital editions (more on the Facebook group). Last year, the 2nd-year students held a textbook sale for 1st-years, so look out for that. You may also find many of the textbooks can easily be shared between groups of students.
Laptops & Software

The program isn’t picky about the type of computer you have, so any type of PC or Mac is fine. The most basic computer will do. If you want to use your personal laptop for design or GIS, then you might want something a bit more advanced, but all students have access to computers with Adobe Creative Suite as well as ArcGIS on campus. You can totally make it work by just using the programs on campus, which many current students do. If you’re buying a new computer, just consider whether you’d like to have the options to add other programs down the road.

Part-time Job Expectations

SCARPies may work on-campus or off-campus. Unlike a typical research graduate programs, the SCARP faculty will not find you a RA or TA position. However, there are TA & RA positions that come up in Planning, Geography, or Architecture that you will likely hear about. Most students work no more than 10-15 hours a week, if at all. If you’re looking for RA work, approach faculty members for opportunities. They’re all doing some form of research and might be looking for capable helping hands.

SCARP staff

SCARP has a small and dedicated staff. You’ll get to know Cate, Sherli, Laura, and Penny quite well throughout your time at SCARP, especially if you’re part of the PSA or have a major role in planning the symposium. Visit this page to see who you should contact with your question.

Pro tip: check the SCARP website and dig around before emailing admin with your questions; they’re very busy and the information is often on the website. This will make their lives much easier and everyone will be happier overall. It’ll be great.
Tips and advice from 2nd-year SCARPies

| SCARP is truly what you make of it. Make sure to pursue opportunities that tie to your passions (and learn to turn down the ones that don’t) in and outside of the classroom. You’ll get out what you put in! |
| It’s never too early to start thinking about your internship. If there’s an organization you’d like to work with, reach out to them. You’ll be surprised what showing initiative can do. |
| If you don’t have much planning background coming in, don’t sweat it. People come with varying levels of experience and nobody is at any serious disadvantage. You’re all here for a reason. |

Chat with your advisor, or any professor at SCARP. They’re here to help and can often clear up any concerns you may have rather easily. Make sure they know what you want from SCARP so they can help facilitate that.

Come with an open mind. What you’re interested in now likely won’t be all that you’re interested in when you leave, and that’s great! It means you’re growing.

Go to the Whistler trip during Orientation Week. It’s a great way to get to know all your new classmates. The sooner you’re close with your cohort, the better. You’ll be working together closely over the next two years!

When thinking about student loans, financing, etc., remember that SCARP tuition is paid in the winter, spring, and summer semesters. Regardless of how many credits you take, tuition is the same each term.

The second-years are here to help you! We’re always game to chat about our experiences. It’s likely you’ll see some of us in your electives too, so be sure to branch out.

Make sure to spend time outside of the classroom with your fellow SCARPies. You’ll find life-long friendships here that go way beyond academic or professional pursuits.

Everyone comes to SCARP with such different backgrounds; we all have our strengths and weaknesses. Share your strengths with your classmates and lean on your friends to improve your weaknesses.

SCARP has a huge network of alumni that are working throughout the region and beyond. Reach out on Linkedin, buy them a coffee to pick their brain. SCARPies are generally willing to help new SCARPies.

Get familiar with Adobe Creative Suite. It’s always a helpful tool to have, regardless of your interests. It will certainly be useful when you start your second-year studio course.
SCARP Glossary

**Studio:**
There were only so many words that could fit in the SCARP dictionary, so this one has three definitions:
1) a field course, usually during the break, that travels to a different city or country
2) a two-term course in Year 2 where teams work to complete real projects
3) a physical space set up with personal space and team space for project work

**WMAX:**
West Mall Annex aka “the Trailer Park” aka your home away from home.

**ICP:**
Indigenous Community Planning, not insane clown posse.

**SCARPy/SCARPies:**
Friendly term for students currently enrolled in SCARP.

**SuperSCARPIE:**
Third year and above SCARP student. Also known as Legacy SCARPIes. Totally gonna finish this semester…

SCARP Myths

• From time to time you’ll hear scurrying above the ceiling panels in WMAX. Rumour has it that the sound comes from rats. This is totally not true. We were able to confirm that they’re squirrels.
• A project is in the works to run a power extension cord to Wreck Beach, so we can work outdoors.
• SCARP will have a nice building someday.

If you have more questions, ask the SCARP Facebook group!