

UBC SCARP

WELCOME HANDBOOK

2024-2025

Source: University of British Columbia

PREPARED BY

PLANNING STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Wesbrook



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Source: Musqueam Indian Band

The Planning Students' Association at UBC recognizes that we operate on the unceded, ancestral and stolen territories of the xʷməθkʷəy' əm (Musqueam) people. As planning students studying on these lands, it is our responsibility to understand the historical and ongoing harm that professions of community and regional planning has done onto these communities. It is also our responsibility to aid in breaking these cycles and advancing areas of decolonization and reconciliation.

If you are not already aware, we strongly suggest that you learn about the history of colonialism, Indigenous displacement, and forced assimilation both in Canada and in British Columbia specifically.

The following website is a good introductory tool to learning about Indigenous lands and territories: native-land.ca



WELCOME



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on your admission, and welcome to the School of Community and Regional Planning at UBC! Whether you are an MCRP, MAP/MScP or PhD student, we hope this handbook provides some insight and direction for your academic, social, and professional life during your time at SCARP.

The PSA is your elected student society—we are elected by our peers to foster community and dialogue within SCARP and the greater UBC community. Through the PSA, we work academically, professionally, and socially to promote the well-being of students, provide opportunities to have fun and grow your skills, organize events, and act on behalf of students when issues arise. As you get accustomed to your first term, you will have a chance to join our meetings, pitch ideas, and help put on great events together.

As you prepare for your first day of classes, we are sure you have tons of questions for your fellow students. We hope to be an open resource for questions, concerns, and feedback to help make your experience at SCARP as awesome as possible!

Connect with us and your peers early by joining the SCARP 24/25 student group chat: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CRbkiACnYyJ51phcPHahcZ>



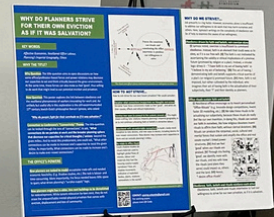
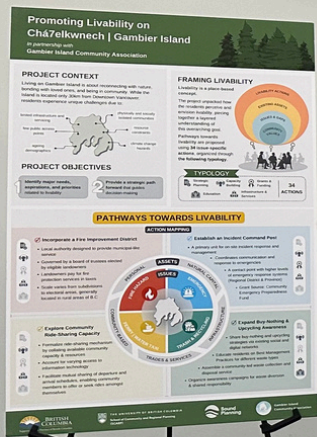


MESSAGE TO MCRP STUDENTS

Nine years ago, during the 2015/16 academic year, SCARP moved from having only research-based degrees (MA and MSc) to including a professional degree: the Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP). While the research-based program had specific streams and requirements for students to complete a large project or thesis, the MCRP is more skills-based and allows students to tailor their concentration and coursework based on their interests. The MCRP program has recently implemented a new comprehensive curriculum review in consultation with SCARP faculty, students, and alumni to improve the content and delivery of the program and maximum learning outcomes for students. During your time at SCARP, you will directly experience these changes and may have the opportunity to voice your opinions and help continue to shape the program for the future.

Core courses will make up a large portion of your coursework during your first year, but you will have the opportunity to take elective courses to dive deeper into your planning interests. Although SCARP has tons of great classes to offer, many students look outside of SCARP for these elective courses in faculties such as the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES), Public Policy and Global Affairs (PPGA), School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA), and Geography (GEOG), among many others! Don't be afraid to speak to some of the second years about their experiences with certain courses.

While you may be drawn toward finding courses that reflect your current interests, don't be afraid to broaden your planning knowledge by taking courses that may seem out of your comfort zone. You may be surprised by what other interests may emerge. All of us at the PSA wish you a wonderful next two years!



MESSAGE TO MAP/MSCP STUDENTS

Welcome to SCARP, MAP and MScP students! The Master of Arts and Science in Planning program is a more research-intensive program compared to our professional-oriented friends in the MCRP program. We are a small (but fun!) program, and as such, the curriculum does change regularly. It is therefore important to establish strong communication links with your supervisor and instructors. Even though your research and thesis are yours alone, you will still be collaborating with others throughout your courses—a great deal more than most other research-based master's programs. It is also advised that you tailor your courses to your intended research, so you can meet course requirements and move your thesis along simultaneously. Of course, you may take additional courses in and out of SCARP if they are related to your research, just discuss your selections with your supervisor. One of the greatest and most challenging aspects of the MAP/MScP program is its flexible and self-guided nature. Deadlines and deliverables are not concrete and at the discretion of yourself and your advisor. At times it may feel like things are up in the air, and a lot of times they are, so feel free to talk to the admin, faculty, and your supervisor.

Don't be afraid to ask questions! Of course, you can always reach out to your fellow MAP/MScP cohort. Also, don't forget that the MCRP students are also very knowledgeable and enthusiastic. It can really help to talk things through with them, or just hang out and let their positivity seep in. All in all, SCARP is a very social and supportive school. The students are great, as well as the faculty and administration. People want to see you succeed, and (when not too busy themselves) are eager to give a helping hand. We hope you feel welcome as part of the SCARP family, and we look forward to getting to know you and your research!



MESSAGE TO PHD STUDENTS

Welcome to SCARP, PhD students! The PhD program varies in curriculum and style from the Masters programs, but the campus and social life tips in this guide can be very helpful for you! The PhD program itself is structured such that the first 1-2 years are spent fulfilling course requirements, building a theoretical and methodological foundation for your research, and getting to know your advisor and fellow students. The second half of the program, typically 2-3 years, are dedicated to completing your research thesis.

The specifics of your research will be decided between you, your supervisor, and eventually your supervisory committee. More information on the program is provided on the SCARP website, through a PhD program handbook, and most importantly through your fellow PhD students!

For questions on receiving any of this information or getting in touch with the right person, please reach out to **Ana Polgár** (apolgar@mail.ubc.ca) or **Arunima Saha** (asaha@mail.ubc.ca) who are your student PhD representatives.



CAPSTONE + STUDIO

Students in MCRP (excluding ICP students) have two additional courses that require special attention: Planning Praxis and a Studio. The Planning Praxis course currently consists of a professional portfolio submission: a curated collection of works produced during the MCRP program complete with information that contextualises each piece of work and an accompanying synthesis report. This portfolio will be completed over the course of your two years at SCARP, with guidance from MCRP Chair, Mark Stevens, and your faculty advisor. However, it should be noted that this portfolio and the Planning Praxis course as a whole remain in development, and you may find the contents and intended outcomes of this course to change.

The studio course will group students into small teams to work with organizations and community partners on real world projects. Partners will determine how, and if, projects will be implemented. Students will be sorted into small teams working on projects that they expressed interest in. Past partners included BC municipalities, Indigenous communities/local First Nations, UBC Campus and Community Planning, and neighbourhood groups. Studio courses are intended to give students real-world planning experience and skills prior to graduation. These projects put all the skills you learn at SCARP to the test and help you build professional relationships with community partners. The studio course encompasses two terms from September to April of your second year.



FACULTY ADVISOR ROLES

Your faculty advisor will be a key participant in your experience at SCARP. Your advisor is a faculty member that is assigned to you in the summer before your first year, whose interests will ideally align with your own and will support you throughout your degree. They're here to support your overall experience at SCARP, whether it be academic, professional, or personal. Academically, they will help you choose courses each semester to make sure you're meeting minimum requirements and learning what you need for your goals. Professionally, your advisor might be a helpful person to talk to if you need ideas for internships, or they may be able to help you make connections through their professional networks. They also might be a good person to go to for moral support, getting through a graduate degree can be hard!

Overall, it's worth getting to know your advisor well. While most students will meet with their advisors one-on-one at least once per semester, you are free to reach out to them as often as you need. Your first chance to meet them will be at orientation, but you're welcome to reach out to them ahead of time through email. They will approve your courses each term, so you should reach out to them within the first few weeks of each semester for a meeting!



CONCENTRATION: URBAN DESIGN

Although the Urban Design Concentration is no longer an official concentration for SCARP, we wanted to provide some tips on how to tailor your degree towards this field.

Some Tips for Urban Design:

Design, as a practice in general, is multi-faceted and requires a variety of soft and hard skills—from addressing ambiguous questions and building on the lessons of the past to developing drawing/representation and verbal presentation skills. Naturally, this also requires creativity and willingness to adapt and respond to new information.

Here are a few more tips if you are aiming to add Urban Design to your basket:

- It would be useful to start practicing drawing and sketching, and also getting familiar with the basics of design softwares (like Adobe Creative Suite and AutoCAD) as soon as possible. So go get some pencils and a sketch book and start playing around on your laptops!
- As part of the revised curriculum, the introductory urban design course is required for all—use this as your starting point and understand your interest in urban design! To get the most out of each course, be fully invested in it. This may mean a greater time commitment, but it's the best way to develop your design style and skills.



CONCENTRATION: URBAN DESIGN

- The ability to work with a team and collaborate with other students is likely your greatest asset—everyone has different strengths and skills, 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.
- Want to practice your sketching skills? The Planning Institute of BC (PIBC) hosts free Sketch Walks across Metro Vancouver led by guest sketchers and volunteer PIBC members. Check it when the next sketch walk and other PIBC events are happening [**HERE**](#). After sketch walks, we all grab a bite to eat and chat about our sketches!





SPECIALIZATION

SCARP used to have formal concentrations to choose from in the MCRP program—although these have been removed, you will still find yourself drawn to a particular area or concentration within the broad field of planning. Once you have arrived at SCARP, you will find that there is an abundance of electives that will allow you to explore these areas. This is one of the great things about our school - it brings together students and faculty with a wide range of planning interests! Through the MCRP program, you do have some opportunity to shape your course schedule to align with your planning interests. We suggest working with your faculty advisor to help tailor your choices to the specialization you wish to pursue (or keep it varied to explore your options), and review your selected courses to ensure they will support you and your area of interest.

Here are a few helpful tips if you are struggling to decide on a specialization throughout your first year:

- Don't be afraid to look outside of SCARP for courses aligned with your areas of interest. Many students have taken courses in the School of Population and Public Health, Geography, the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Urban Forestry, Civil Engineering, Public Policy, and many more!
- Please reach out to second years for suggestions as many of us have taken great courses all across campus in both Graduate and Undergraduate departments.
- It is also super important to take a variety of courses. Try your hand at a couple of broad knowledge courses, at least one skills course, and one in-depth knowledge course, some of which may even include field experiences and activities!

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY PLANNING (ICP)

Hello incoming Indigenous Community Planning students! Welcome to SCARP!

You are entering an exciting time of transformative change towards reconciliation in Canada. Your cohort's program has been updated to address some of the biggest challenges facing society today, including climate change, systemic injustice, and planning for more resilient communities; as well as ongoing efforts to repair relationships with Indigenous people and decolonize planning in Canada.

During your orientation week, Dr. Maggie Low (Co-Chair of the ICP concentration) will likely gather you together for a meet and greet. The second year ICP students are looking forward to meeting you and will be organizing a get-together some time in the Fall semester. Getting to know one another across cohorts is a great way to have an idea of how your second year will be, and you'll have a few formal opportunities to learn more about practicum in addition to chatting with second years! We look forward to meeting you, learning from each other, and continuing the incredible ICP Concentration.



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY PLANNING (ICP)

The ICP concentration was established in 2012 by then-ICP Chair Leonie Sandercock and Musqueam's Director of Treaty, Lands and Resources, Leona Sparrow. Accepting only six students for the first four years, then eight, ICP now accepts around ten students each year to the concentration. Students in the ICP will enrol in most of the MCRP's core courses, but have additional classes specific to ICP. The concentration 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. All students within the ICP concentration know that your time at SCARP will involve a lot of self-reflection and cultural humility in the context of Indigenous community planning.

Courses

Logistically, the ICP concentration often involves some evening and weekend classes. In year one, ICP classes focus on practical skills like 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 slowly 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-to-Nation relationships, understanding Indigenous rights in Canada, and the implications of these factors for planning today.



Source: University of British Columbia



ICP PRACTICUM

In year two, ICP students are paired into teams to work with an Indigenous community for eight or more months to work on a planning project (typically a comprehensive community plan). The structure of the ICP concentration 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. Typically, ICP students have been able to make trips to visit the Indigenous communities they are working with for their practicum. Practicum is an exciting opportunity to apply your knowledge and most importantly, learn how to build meaningful and respectful relationships with Indigenous communities in creating their community plan.

A big, important note for ALL SCARP students (that if you do not yet understand the need for, you will soon): 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 Dr. Maggie Low first. She acts as the liaison between SCARP, ICP, and Indigenous communities as they have spent the time to build these relationships.



Source: University of British Columbia

MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Canada is a multicultural country and Vancouver especially is home to many nationalities and ethnic groups; therefore there's a space for every one of you! We hope you feel at home at UBC and Vancouver (find tips for how to below!). It is not a big city, but sometimes it can feel overwhelming and lonely. Just don't forget that PSA, your cohort, SCARP faculty and admin are here for you and there will most likely be local communities that you connect deeply with. UBC provides a comprehensive ***guide for international students***. In addition to this guide, you can book an appointment online to talk to an International Student Advisor with International Student Advising.

These Advisors are more knowledgeable about specific issues relating to being an international student than SCARP's own administration because they deal with these issues on a daily basis. All you need to know about settling in at UBC is provided there. You'll find information on campus housing, getting a UBC card, health insurance, and even finding child care services for your family.



MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Local Planning Knowledge

Although you will be taking core courses that will help you build up your local planning knowledge, it is helpful to familiarize yourself with Canadian government structures prior to arrival. For instance, it is important to understand the distribution of power between the federal, provincial, and municipal governments. It is also important to familiarize yourself with the history of colonialism in Canada, indigenous displacement, and current treaties and relations between Indigenous nations and the Federal and Provincial governments. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) also has important and current implications for planning work in British Columbia, and would be a good reference. For more local Planning related information, we recommend watching **About Here**.

Visa and Work Permit

It is very important to make sure your student visa/permit allows you to be employed in a way that will work with SCARP's required internship. For instance, some student permits allow you to work part time or full time only if you are employed by the university. This could limit your eligibility for internships. You may need to apply for another permit that allows you to work while being a student. So make sure to double check!

MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

We encourage international students to submit the application for the co-op work permit during the first months of your first year (September - November). For this, make sure to ask for a letter from the department that states the requirement to complete an internship as a requirement for graduation. Once you have this letter you can apply for your co-op work permit through the **Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) web page**. This application has no cost and it will allow you to work full time during the summer.

Getting a Cell Phone and Internet



Using a cell phone is a norm in Canada and it is very convenient when it comes to communications. You would want to get a cell 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 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.

BC Identification Cards & Health Care Plan



Your International Driver's License can act as your social ID once you also apply for a Canadian Driver's License. If you do not have a driver license and don't want to carry your passport around all the time, you can apply to get a BC Services Card from ICBC with a cost of 35 dollars. In BC you need 2 pieces of ID to purchase or consume alcohol and tobacco.

You will also need to apply for a Medical Service Plan upon your arrival. The MSP is the health care plan provided by the BC government and required by law for everyone to have. It costs \$75 monthly and covers the basics of health care (general medical appointments, some prescription drugs, etc), but for specialised appointments (dental, vision, diet, etc) you may have to use your AMS-GSS Extended Health Plan. Check and take advantage of its perks by downloading the Pacific Blue Cross PBC app on your phone. There you can see the specific services and coverage of the plan. Use **medimap.ca** to find a specialist for walk-in appointments or to find a family doctor. Check their websites or call to inquire about their prices and compare them with the insurance coverage on the PBC app.

MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

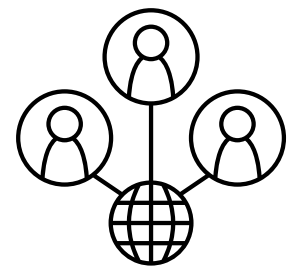
When and Where to Buy?

From the very first day, you may want/need to replace/upgrade your school supplies and equipment (computer, phone, tablet, mobile plan, winter clothes, etc). Therefore, you won't want to miss all the amazing sales and deals from the back-to-school season (June - September). Mobile plans see price drops, electronic devices get discounts for students, even banks offer interesting perks. Start planning your purchases soon! Of course, special mentions to Black Friday and Boxing week are to be made. Don't miss out on good opportunities! Keep an eye on Best Buy, Home Depot, Apple, London Drugs and many more!

Winter may be new for some of you. Although Vancouver has a mild winter, be ready for some snow. Locals transitioned from saying 'keep calm, it only snows a couple of days' to 'this weather is something never seen before!'. Learn the basics of layering and make sure you buy proper clothing beforehand, you don't want a sudden temperature drop catching you unprepared. As a starting point, some affordable and quality clothing shops are: Winners, Mountain Warehouse, Uniqlo, Walmart, among others. Templeton Outlets and Metropolis at Metrotown can be good locations to find different options. Try them out!



MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Get Involved

For international students, starting a new life from scratch is not an easy task. Creating a whole new professional/academic network can feel overwhelming but don't worry, PSA is always here to help! Talk with any of the PSA members about your interests and they will connect you with a faculty member, a student, or even a non-UBC person that would be open to chat with you. Assist to networking sessions, both PSA and non-PSA (for external networking events check job and career fairs). Try joining an organization as a volunteer! The City of Vancouver involves volunteers in many activities. Look on Eventbrite for Volunteering Information Sessions, networking events, and fairs.

Off-Campus Resource

Success Sphere is a new mentorship platform with a mission to empower international students in Canada. Starting in August, they will provide a range of valuable resources, including monthly in-person and online workshops, mentorship and networking opportunities, and various other tools to support international students throughout their journey of integrating into Canadian life.

Lastly, if you have any other questions before you arrive, feel free to contact the PSA's International Student Representative which will be determined shortly.



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! Since we are part of the Faculty of Applied Science, many of our professional development opportunities are designed and delivered by them too.

Orientation

Orientation for SCARP students takes place in the first week of classes and provides an opportunity to connect with both incoming and current students as well as faculty and staff. Orientation typically includes two days of on-campus activities followed by an overnight trip to Whistler for the incoming cohort. Specific details about the 2024 orientation will be provided by **Jake Lam** and **Megan Parno**, our second-year orientation coordinators.

Mentoring

The SCARP mentoring program matches first-year students with planning professionals based on the student's planning interest. It is an excellent opportunity for you to gain valuable insights into the planning profession and connect with community partners. The Student Development Coordinator will provide more information about this program towards the end of your first year!



STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Internships

The 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 to gain valuable hands-on experience while earning academic credit. Most students complete their internship during the summer between their first and second year, but it is not mandatory to do it during that time period. The Student Development Coordinator will provide students with guidance and advice about securing an internship.

There are a number of resources available to UBC students for assistance with their professional journey. One amazing—often underused—resource is the UBC Career Centre. The Centre offers numerous resume and cover letter writing workshops, one-on-one bookable appointments with career coaches, interview preparations, and many other programs and events to assist with your academic journey. Visit the **UBC Career Centre's** website for professional development news and contact details.

Professional Development

Professional development at SCARP provides various workshops, programming and initiatives to enhance your learning experience and career development at UBC. These opportunities will help in building your professional skills.

More to come in September!





SYMPOSIUM

A SCARP tradition that rests with the incoming cohort is the planning of a SCARP Student Symposium. This annual event brings students and planning practitioners to UBC campus for a day of panel discussions and keynote addresses. The event is organized by the second year MCRP students and allows you to engage with the most pressing planning issues our communities are facing, typically around a particular theme that reflects your cohorts values as planners.

While the 2021 and 2022 symposiums were cancelled due to COVID-19, last year's PSA revived the event to great success. We plan on continuing the tradition for Spring 2025. Stay tuned!

Key Contact:

Brinnae Cooper
Professional Development Coordinator
2nd-Year MCRP Student



MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES



Graduate school can be stressful, life can be stressful, both at the same time can be very stressful—but we want you to know that your mental health is important, and that there are plenty of places to get help. SCARP professors have been pretty understanding of life circumstances and mental health issues, so please do not be afraid to ask them for accommodations if you need them. There are also a lot of free or low cost mental health supports that you as a student can access:

UBC Counselling Services

Students can contact UBC Counselling Services at 604-822-3811 to schedule an appointment, available from Monday to Friday. First time appointments are booked for the same day. These appointments can be one time sessions, wellness advising, group counselling, or short term counselling (multiple sessions) for a specific issue. These services are free of charge.

AMS/GSS Student Health Benefits for Counselling

As a registered UBC student, your AMS/GSS Health and Dental plan covers up to 100% of the cost towards psychotherapy services from a licensed psychologist, registered clinical counsellor, or a therapist with a Master's degree in Social Work. Submit your receipts to claim up to \$1250 per policy year. Review the health benefit details and use the Pacific Blue Cross mobile app to enter your claims. A list of reduced-cost counselling options in Vancouver (as of April 2023) can be found **here**.

Student Assistance Program

Offered by Aspiria, the UBC Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a free, 24/7 wellness resource for students. Services include personal counselling, life coaching, group programs and more based on your needs. Access SAP by phone at 1-833-590-1328 (within North America) or 1-604-757-9734 (outside of North America), or through the Aspiria website by using UBCV for both the student code and password. These services are free of charge.

UBC Psychology Clinic

The UBC Psychology Clinic offers comprehensive psychological services for adults. Their clinical services are provided by graduate students from UBC's doctoral programme in clinical psychology. Student clinicians are closely supervised by Registered Psychologists from our faculty and the community. Most services are offered in the form of individual therapy, however, group treatment may also be offered depending on the frequency of referrals for particular problems.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES



Their services are offered on a sliding scale - with prices as low as \$15 for individual therapy sessions.

Website: clinic.psych.ubc.ca | Phone: 604-822-3005 | Email: clinic@psych.ubc.ca

AMS Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC)

SASC is committed to the education, support, and empowerment of people of all genders who are survivors of sexualized violence as well as their friends and family. They provide free and confidential services to UBC students, staff, faculty, and those connected to the UBC-Vancouver campus community. Their services include: **crisis and short-term emotional support, support groups, advocacy, safety planning, and education and outreach.** SASC believes that everyone deserves to live free from violence and abuse — everyone deserves to feel safe. If you or someone you care about is experiencing violence, abuse or an unhealthy relationship, we are here for you. No question is too small. Connect with a Support Worker at 604 827 5180 if you have any questions or want to learn more about available support options. SASC's services are free and confidential.

Here2Talk

Here2Talk is a provincial government service that connects students with mental health support when they need it. Through this program, all students currently registered in a B.C. post-secondary institution have access to free, confidential counselling and community referral services, conveniently available 24/7 via app, phone and web. To get started, visit **<https://here2talk.ca>** or call 1-877-857-3397. This service is free of charge.

Access and Assessment Centre

The Access and Assessment Centre (AAC) located at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) provides a pathway for individuals and families to access mental health and/or substance use services in Vancouver and offer an alternative to the Emergency department for people having a non-life threatening mental health and/or substance use issue. Call 604-675-3700 or walk in between 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m (7 days a week). The Joseph & Rosalie Segal & Family Health Centre is at 803 West 12th Avenue Vancouver - enter through the Level 1 East Entrance, which is located at the back of the health centre building. This entrance can be accessed through a laneway/service road off of 10th Avenue.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

SCARP students, faculty, and staff are constantly striving to prioritize EDIB in the curriculum and in day-to-day activities. One notable example is the Planning Equity Coalition, which branches off the PSA. We aim to foster an environment where each and every student can bring their best self to learn and flourish.

If you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions, please contact an Equity Coordinator (EC)—or anyone from the PSA.



Source: University of British Columbia

KEY CAMPUS SPOTS



SCARP-Related



West Mall Annex = WMAX. Your home away from home.

- **First Floor WMAX:** A mixture of studying, learning, meeting and chilling spaces. You'll find the lounge, kitchens, classrooms, studios, and PhD offices. Pay attention to the signage for room guidelines.
- **Second Floor WMAX:** Classroom 240 makes a great study spot, but quiet only please! No group meetings are allowed upstairs as this is where many offices are located. This floor also features sleek, minimal studio spaces and an extra set of washrooms.
- **Lasserre Building (LASR):** Some faculty offices and the main SCARP administration office. Also houses the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, non-SCARP friends.
- **Grad Student Lounge:** A bright, spacious lounge tucked away on the 4th floor of the AMS Nest exclusive to grad students. It has an open study area, bookable office spaces, a large meeting room, a basic kitchen and is generally quite quiet. You'll need to scan your UBC student ID to get in. It's also bookable!

Libraries and Study Spaces

- **Koerner Library:** The main 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. There are also ample study spaces and basic printing access.
- **Peter Allard Law Library:** Shhh...don't tell the law students, but this is a great, QUIET and beautiful place to study
- **Irving K Barber Library (or IKB):** One of the oldest buildings on campus. Lots of unique study spaces, including the infamous "Harry Potter Library"!
- **Forestry Building:** A bit of a trek, but worth it for the beautiful wood interiors and indoor trees. A mix of more social and quieter study areas.

KEY CAMPUS SPOTS



Museums and Related

- **Residential School History and Dialogue Center:** Hosts events, dialogues, and exhibits that aim to address the colonial legacy of residential schools and other policies imposed by the Canadian government on Indigenous Peoples. The perfect place to start off your learnings related to colonialism and Indigenous ways of knowledge.
- **Beaty Biodiversity Museum:** Exactly what the name implies. You can't miss it along the main mall—just look for the 26 metre-long blue whale skeleton.

Recreation

- **The Aviary:** UBC's very own rock climbing wall. Get a cheap belay lesson here.
- **The UBC Pool:** Free for students and there's a hot tub! Great for those rainy days.
- **The BirdCoop and ARC Fitness Centres:** Tend to get busy, but have highly affordable rates, including classes. The 'Coop' also has a hidden bouldering wall. These generally cost \$40/semester.

DID YOU KNOW WE
NOT ONLY COOK
YOUR VEGGIES,
WE GROW THEM
TOO!!

* UBC FARM





Source: University of British Columbia



- Open Kitchen/The Gathering – Buffet-type, all-you-can-eat.
- Koerner's Pub (\$\$) – Close to WMAX. A great place to grab drinks and food! Also hosts some great events (Drag @ UBC).
- Tim Hortons (Tim's/Timmies) (\$) – Canadian staple. Cheap coffee & doughnuts with 3 locations on campus:
 - Sauder (closest to WMAX)
 - North Campus (near the LIFE building/North Parkade)
 - Forestry (South Campus)
- International Food Court (\$) – A food court in the basement at the UBC village. A little far from WMAX, but has lots of international selections at a cheap price. Some highlights include:
 - Donair Town (\$) – Great portion sizes for the price. Try the potatoes with garlic sauce.
 - My Home Cuisine (\$) – A Chinese food staple.
 - Miyamae Sushi (\$) – A great place to grab sushi, much better than the sushi in the Nest!
- The LIFE building – more food options!
 - Sprouts (\$) – a great student-run place for vegan eats
 - Booster Juice (\$)
 - Starbucks (\$)
 - Pacific Poke (\$\$)
 - Subway (\$)
- Harvest (\$\$) – A little bit expensive, but it's a small convenience store with a deli on the ground floor. It's the closest place from WMAX to get something quick.



- The AMS Nest (\$\$) – The selections at the Nest are always changing (and will likely change over the course of your time here)! Here are some current highlights:
 - Blue Chip Cookie (\$) – The BEST cookies on campus (maybe even in Vancouver), for when you just need a sweet treat. Try the Marbelous cookie!
 - The Delly (\$/\$\$) – Has some great grab-and-go options. You can also build your own sandwich. Their fudge brownies are amazing!
 - Porch (\$) – Has great vegetarian and vegan food. The tomato soup and grilled cheese combo is highly recommended.
 - Flavour Lab (\$) – A new food option; UBC Food Services staff try out new recipes here.
 - The Gallery (\$\$) – Also in the Nest, but more of a sit-down restaurant than the others listed above. Has some great share plates and pitcher deals! Also a great patio to enjoy on a nice day.
 - Triple Os (\$\$) – Open late. Hamburgers, milkshakes, etc.
 - TIP: Go on 'Triple O Tuesdays' – the classic burger is \$5! (but be warned, the line will be long at lunch time)
 - Mercante (\$\$) – Pizza!
- Great Dane Coffee (\$\$) – Behind the Walter Gage Towers. Said to be the best coffee on campus. Serves really good sandwiches and soups. Great study space but gets busy. (Tip: there are two separate areas where you can sit!)
- Loafe (\$\$\$) – In the Alumni Centre and a little more on the expensive side. They also serve Cartems donuts, a must eat in Vancouver. Good place for professional meetings/networking. Good Happy Hour options.
- The Point (\$\$\$) – Located in Marine Drive Residence. Another nice sit-down spot with a variety of food (menu changes seasonally).
- Kokoro (\$\$) – Located in University Village (above the Underground Food Court). Has great ramen/mazesoba!
- University Boulevard – there are a lot of new options here:
 - Jam-Jar (\$\$) – Lebanese Canteen. Pretty good value for the amount of food you get.
 - Browns Crafthouse (\$\$) – A great sit-down spot. Some Happy Hour options.
 - Steve's Poke Bar (\$\$) – Great poke, but can get busy at meal times.
 - Chatime (\$) – Solid bubble tea chain.

TRANSPORTATION & GETTING TO CAMPUS



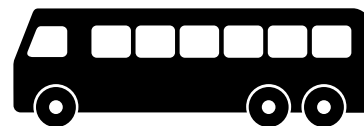
There are many ways to get to campus, and many types of transportation choices for travelling in and around Vancouver. While Vancouver does have Uber and Lyft, we're going to focus on other ways to get around the city: transit, car shares and carpooling, ferries, bikes and scooters, and walking.

Google Maps works well to plan trips, but you're also going to want to download the **Transit** app to get more accurate transit timings.



Source: University of British Columbia

TRANSPORTATION & GETTING TO CAMPUS

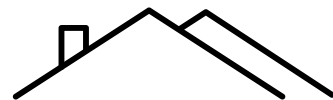


Transit

Most SCARPIes take transit to UBC. The City of Vancouver has an excellent transit system (run by TransLink), that has many efficient connections to neighbouring communities such as North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, New Westminster, and the Tri-Cities.

This system is made of 4 different transit modes: buses, rapid transit (SkyTrain and Canada Line), SeaBus, and West Coast Express.

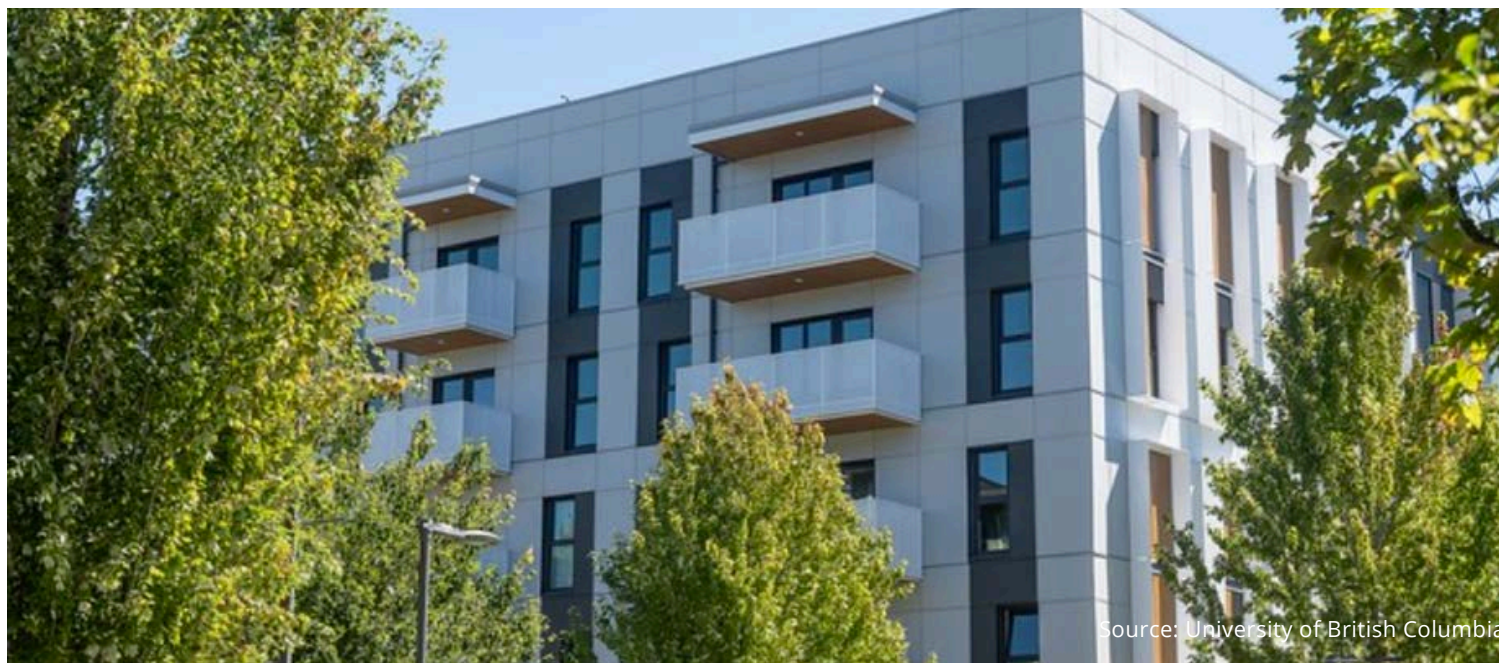
HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS



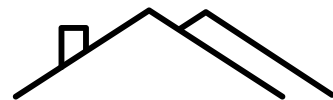
Some of you might have applied for campus housing already and got an offer. If so, that's great! Living on campus is extremely convenient, but sometimes you may feel trapped on the UBC peninsula. Living off-campus is very common among UBC students since campus housing is always scarce. There are a lot of fun neighbourhoods in the city! That being said, a nice Vancouver rental may be expensive and hard to find. Although some neighbourhoods are pricier than others, there are still "relatively affordable" rental places in most neighbourhoods. Be prepared to make a decision quickly when you find a place you like. Luck plays a huge factor, but we're sure you'll find a home!

Where to look:

- Craigslist - this is the go to place to search for apartment rentals!
- Zumper
- Padmapper
- Facebook Marketplace
- Facebook Groups:
 - **UBC students looking for roommates, housing rental/sublet**
 - **UBC Graduate Student Housing Group**
 - **UBC Roommates and Housing**
- If you are in Vancouver: walk around your desired neighbourhood(s) and check for vacancy signs - some landlords no longer post units online
- Ask people you know in Vancouver to keep an eye out for you!



HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS



Vancouver housing is some of the most expensive in the world - as of June 2023, it is likely that you will need to live with roommates if you want to pay under \$1800/month for housing. The Facebook groups listed above are relatively good for finding cheap(er) housing - this is where you will find the unicorn ~\$1000/month one-bedroom units to rent. Generally, studios/one bedrooms go for \$1400-\$2400/month, and a room goes for \$800-\$1500/month. If it's your first time looking for a place to live, be aware of scammers and signs of bad living situations. Some tips:

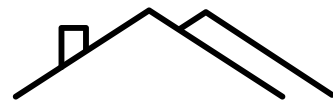
- *For Apartments and Basement Suites*

- NEVER give a deposit without reading the tenancy agreement and viewing the unit first, unit viewing fees are illegal.
- Micro-suites are cheaper, however unless they are on campus they are usually converted (or not converted) single-room occupancy units (displacing very low-income people) that often have pest/mould problems, have thin walls, and are in less desirable parts of town. There may be some good ones out there, but the ones located in or around downtown are not recommended.

- *For Rooms Within a Place*

- If you live in a house with the house owner as a roommate, you will have less rights than traditional renters - living in a shared house with other students/tenants which have signed a lease gives you more protections.
- A landlord that has limitations on cooking, guests, or penalties for specific behaviour (if you leave the lights on 3 times, you are out, etc) is generally a sign of a bad living situation. If you live with the homeowner they can impose more of these types of limitations on you, and you have little recourse.
- Signing a roommate agreement is a good idea, especially if you are not on the lease. Being on a lease is optimal, but not being on the lease is not a deal breaker - many shared living situations only have one person (the main tenant) as the lease holder.
- A room should have a window - if it does not, that is a closet. Do not live in a (or the) closet, you deserve better than that. Legally, bedrooms in BC must have a window. There are also issues with fire safety and adequate ventilation with windowless rooms.

HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS



- While rooms under \$800/month do exist, they are usually in shared houses with 4+ people and/or are very small. If the cheap advertised room is neither of these things, be cautious. Do not pay more than \$1500/month for just a room unless you have money to burn.
- For All Living Situations
 - Make sure you have a copy of the lease/roommate agreement you have signed, and make sure it includes a handwritten signature (otherwise it is not technically legal) for all parties.
 - Don't rely on the accuracy of the location pin for Craigslist and Facebook ads - make sure to check the address/cross streets yourself - some scammers post ads that are geotagged near UBC for units that are actually in Surrey.
 - Make sure that fire alarms are present and working.
 - Check the address on this [registry](#) to see if there have been any reports of bed bugs or other pests.

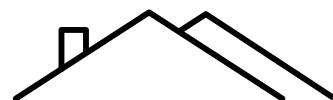
For more information on your rights as a renter in BC, please visit the **Starting a Tenancy** Provincial Website and the Tenant Resource Action Centre **Repairs and Maintenance page**. Room and apartment rental costs tend to go down the farther you travel from campus as UBC is located at the edge of a wealthy neighbourhood. The "I-just-moved-here" classic is a basement suite or a room in a shared house, so be prepared to consider how much more you are willing to pay to live above ground and/or by yourself. All the neighbourhoods listed in this map below are within the City of Vancouver boundary (approx. 15 min - 1.5 hour commute).



A stylized logo consisting of three black outlines of mountain peaks. The central peak is the tallest, flanked by two shorter peaks. The lines are simple and geometric.

Living on campus means you can avoid driving or busing, but rent is relatively expensive (despite what UBC says) compared to living in shared off campus housing. It is a cheap deal for studios or one bedrooms, though. UBC is 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 or Uber ride. Bike back instead—if you don't mind the rain—or take an Evo.

HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS



West Point Grey

This is the closest you can get to campus without living on campus. You're about a 6-10 minute bus ride to campus, totaling 15 minutes to WMAX. 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, you will have to bus to downtown (30min) 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, a spot in a few of the above ground apartments, and usually a decent sized bedroom. This is a very family oriented neighbourhood with only a 15 minute walk to Spanish and Jericho beach (the less crowded of the Vancouver beaches).

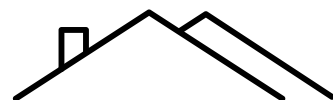
Dunbar-Southlands, Mackenzie Heights, and Kerrisdale

If you hate early mornings but don't want to live on campus, Dunbar-Southlands, Mackenzie Heights, or Kerrisdale neighbourhoods might be the choice for you! It's a fairly quiet area, with mostly single family homes with active and vocal neighbourhood associations. Dunbar Village is along Dunbar street and you can find some nice little restaurants and shops here for daily needs (including H Mart). Kerrisdale Village (41st and Arbutus) is another hub of restaurants, shops, and grocery stores. If you're lucky you can find a gem of a basement suite or rent a whole home with a few other people. Some trade-offs? The neighbourhoods themselves are a bit sleepy and you're a little far from other lively neighbourhoods in Vancouver (you will likely require 2 bus connections to get to east Vancouver). But, you are close to many essential amenities, and UBC! Transit time is 15-30 mins from your door to WMAX.

Arbutus - Ridge & Shaughnessy

This is one of the oldest and expensive neighbourhoods in Vancouver! Some of the grandest houses and wealthiest people are in this area due to their prime geographical location. However, there are still plenty of people renting out their nice basement suites or extra rooms at a reasonable price. If you love biking and jogging, this could be one of the best neighbourhoods because they are adjacent to the Arbutus Greenway Corridor. It has good connections to Kerrisdale Village. Transit time is 30-40 mins from your door to WMAX.

HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS



Kitsilano (South of 4th Ave)

A.K.A Kits. This area has lots of older single family homes and some low-rise apartments that aren't too close, but not too far from campus, with access to the 99, 84, and the 4. There's lots going on Broadway including some of UBC students' favourite restaurants and bars. Basically it's close to campus with lots of grocery and dining options. Transit time is 20-30 mins from your door to WMAX.

Kitsilano (4th Ave and North Edition)

If you love lounging on tree-lined beaches (who wouldn't), dining out at great restaurants, and poking into cute (but expensive) shops - this laid back, trendy neighbourhood might be for you. Bonus: it's home to the original Lululemon (and their current global headquarters), hence you'll see lots of yoga pants around. Range of pricing is from expensive nice places, to cheaper basement suites and rooms. Some apartments are fairly old (but that usually means bigger rooms), but Kits beach is only a few steps away so who could complain! Transit time is 20-35 mins from your door to WMAX.

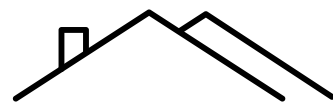
Fairview

Kitsilano's cheaper, less trendy cousin. If you live here you're probably pretty close to at least one 99 B-Line stop. It 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 near VGH at Oak and 12th! Slightly cheaper than Kits, but still close to UBC. Also a short walk to False Creek and the Broadway-Cambie SkyTrain Station (Canada Line). A happy middle. Bars are a little scarce but it's easy to hop on over to some of the most vibrant areas east via the 99. South Granville is home to lots of shops, but is a well-known food desert. This area is probably a half hour transit ride to campus unless rush hour is especially bad. Transit time is 35-40 mins from your door to WMAX.

South Cambie

There is a lot of variation depending on where along Cambie you live. Cambie village is undergoing major development so the streetscape is constantly changing (but there are a lot more food options now!). Closer to False Creek, you'll be close to many grocery stores, restaurants, the Canada Line, and the 99 B-Line.

HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS



City Hall is at Cambie and Broadway, so maybe you'll spot planners walking around your neighbourhood (Elysian Coffee and Caffè Artigiano are popular cafes for City staff). Transit time is 40ish mins from your door to WMAX.

Downtown Eastside (DTES)

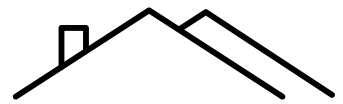
This area is generally considered a sub area of Strathcona and for the purposes of this handbook stretches from Carrall St to Clark St, and north of Keefer St. If you are not already familiar with this area, it is considered Canada's poorest postal code. There is significant visible homelessness and open drug use where police interactions are frequent.

We bring this area up because though there is very cheap housing in this neighbourhood (and sometimes in the Downtown Core), these places are usually single room occupancy units (considered "the last stop before homelessness", and generally seen as unsafe) or micro suites (converted single room occupancy units) that have displaced very low-income people and often have pest/mould/noise problems. If you choose to move to this neighbourhood, it can be a challenging place to live. Transit time is 1-1.25 hours from your door to WMAX. We support our unhoused neighbours, however, sharing this information is important for people who are not familiar with the area.

Strathcona (outside of DTES)

This area is a bit of a cocoon, and requires a few transit transfers to get to UBC, but it is a neighbourhood with an eclectic mix of housing and residents. It has super charming heritage homes, boulevard gardens, and friendly community vibes. Around the corner from Chinatown and a hop, skip, and a jump to downtown. You can get really cheap groceries from Chinatown but don't expect supermarket chains (support the locals!). Rent is on par with Commercial Drive & Mount Pleasant. There is a newer neighbourhood called False Creek Flats (between 2nd Avenue and Terminal St.) that has some student housing (mainly because it also has Emily Carr School of Art and Design, and two other satellite campuses for other postsecondary schools), many murals in the industrial area, a climbing gym, and some neat restaurants. Transit time is 1.25-1.5 hours from your door to WMAX.

HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS



Mount Pleasant

Most housing in this area is close to a 99 bus stop. This neighbourhood is pretty convenient, transit wise, and is located near other “cool” areas (Commercial Drive and Main Street). It is a diverse neighbourhood that also includes City Hall. This area has lots of cool bars, restaurants, and breweries around, and a mix of 2-3 story apartments and single family homes - with middling affordability. The area has historically been home to industrial lands in Vancouver, and as such, is now quite a contentious neighbourhood from a planning perspective. Visit the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House to connect with the community, have a free coffee and feel welcomed. Transit time is 45-50 mins from your door to WMAX.

South Main Street/Riley Park

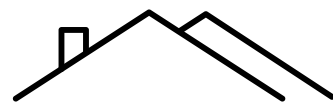
Main Street/Riley Park area is still a trendy area of Vancouver, though new development is displacing some of the culturally important businesses in the area. There are still a lot of cute coffee shops, boutique vintage stores, and wonderful restaurants in this area, and is home to multiple well known vegetarian/vegan establishments (MEET, Acorn).

This area is also home to Queen Elizabeth Park, Riley Park (with a baseball stadium and curling rink), so in the summer there are frequent community events happening in both places. Housing here is moderately priced, but is increasing due its popularity and gentrification. This area is full of mostly older single-family homes, and some new apartment buildings. A 50 min - 1 hr commute to West Mall Annex.

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 and affordable rooms are readily available, as are low-cost Asian grocery stores and very affordable restaurants (lots of Vietnamese). There are 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.

HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS



West 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* (higher than average). Davie Village is also home to many of our local LGBTQ2SI+ communities. Transit time is 45 mins - 1 hour from your door to WMAX.

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, the Fraserhood is an up and coming neighbourhood with a mix of older, culturally important restaurants/stores and trendier new shops. Although the coffee is expensive, rent is relatively cheap. Many former and current SCARPIes live in this area. Depending on the buses that day, you are located between 40 and 90 minutes from UBC.

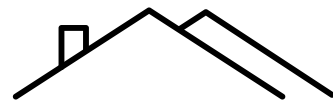
Commercial Drive/Grandview

One of the last remaining eclectic areas in the city, that is going through some severe gentrification. The neighbourhoods surrounding “The Drive” are diverse in culture and socio-economic status, with an occasionally edgy and artsy feel. Here, you are spoiled for choice with affordable restaurants, grocery stores and coffee shops, and rents in apartments and shared houses are reasonable. It’s one of the most regionally connected spots in Vancouver thanks to Commercial-Broadway Station, which is great to be near if you’re travelling anywhere east of Vancouver to other municipalities. Transit time is 1-1.5hr from your door to WMAX. The planner resident density in this area is high for both professionals and students, and it’s common to run into colleagues in Trout Lake Park or on the Drive.

South Van

Covering most of Oakridge, Marpole and Sunset neighbourhoods (everything under 41st St), this area is family oriented and ethnically diverse. The Punjabi Market is also in this area, with lots of other Asian grocery stores and restaurants too. Rent could range from fairly expensive to surprisingly cheap depending on which block you’re at.

HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS



Marine Drive Gateway is a transit oriented development that is rapidly expanding, and has cinemas and stores right beside the Canada Line skytrain station. Commuting to campus would range from 40 ~ 60 mins depending on buses.

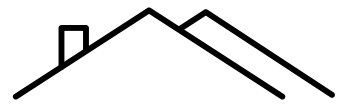
South East Van

This is a catch-all term for the Victoria-Fraserview, Killarney, Champlain Heights, and River District/East Fraserlands Neighbourhoods that is used only in this handbook - to be honest, most Vancouverites, and almost all Vancouver transplants don't know these neighbourhoods exist - or at least don't think about them. This area is Knight St to Boundary St, and from 41st Ave to the Fraser River, and is predominantly residential. Victoria-Fraserview and most parts of Killarney are single-family homes where you can find good quality housing (sometimes new!) for lower prices - but the trade off is that commutes to UBC by bus are anywhere from 50 minutes (by 41st avenue) to 1.5 hours (with super bad traffic) depending on how close to a bus stop you are. However, south Victoria street has a lot of cheap grocery stores and arguably the best Value Village in Vancouver, Killarney has a huge pool and skating rink, the River District has many shops and a scenic riverside walk, and Champlain Heights has Everett Crowley Park, a 40ha public park that is an internationally known example of post-landfill urban reforestation and habitat rehabilitation.



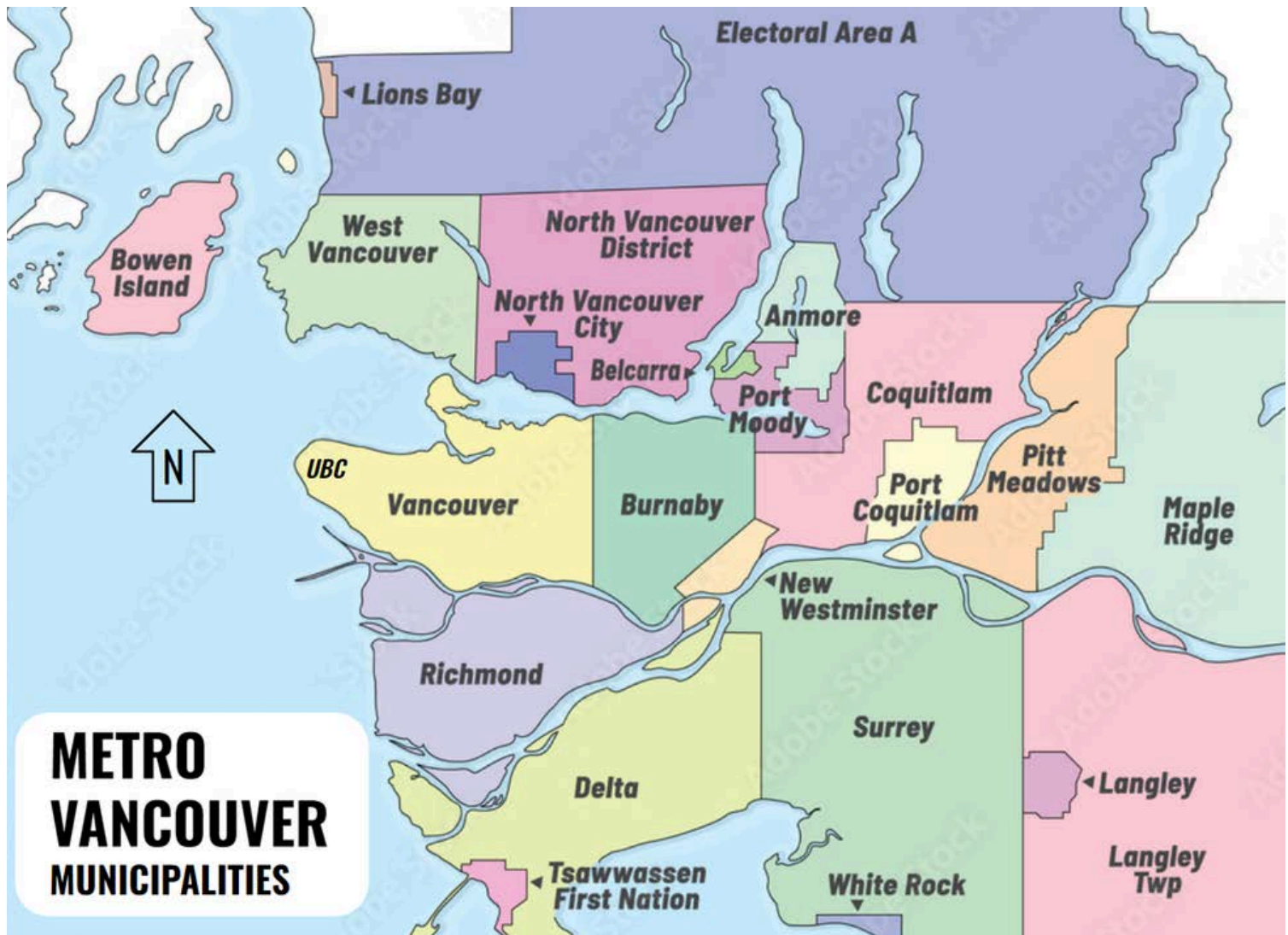
Source: City of Vancouver

HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS

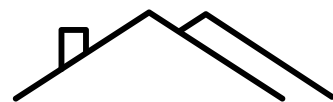


Other Municipalities

There are also nice places to live in other nearby municipalities such as Burnaby, Richmond, and North Vancouver, but they can have increased commute times to campus. However, SCARP students can and do live in these areas (they do have cheaper rents, generally) - and if you live in North Vancouver, you can take the SeaBus as part of your daily commute! If you plan on moving to a municipality neighbouring Vancouver, a good strategy for minimizing commute times is to find a home within walking distance of a SkyTrain station. We generally wouldn't recommend moving to West Van, east of Burnaby, or anywhere south or east of Richmond unless you have some inside connection to these areas and/or a private vehicle, as transiting from these areas to UBC can be 2hr+ each way.



HOUSING TIPS & VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS



A note: West Vancouver, the West End, and the West Side are all different geographies. West Vancouver is a municipality, the West End is a neighbourhood on Vancouver's downtown peninsula, and the West Side is anywhere in the city of Vancouver that is east of Ontario Street - which is the 0 block and where the numbered street names change from east to west (e.g. E 14th Ave changes to W 14th Ave at Ontario St.).

Additional Help on Housing

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

The AMS has a list of short-term housing options (hotels and hostels), and additional resources and links for finding housing at this link: <https://www.ams.ubc.ca/support-services/student-services/housing/resources/> They also have a Housing Advocacy Support service, and tips for renting, which can be accessed here: <https://www.ams.ubc.ca/support-services/student-services/housing/>

The Graduate Student Society (GSS) is also a resource for help with housing issues - they have the **Housing Security Aid (HSA)** fund to provide housing related support to graduate students who are facing housing insecurity or challenges with funding coverage ranging from: rent/security deposit assistance (including rent increases by landlord), moving-related expenses, assistance with temporary accommodations, and/or assistance with replacement of damaged items in the student's units which could necessitate fines by landlord. Funding is first come first serve, and up to \$1000. Find out more at this website: <https://gss.ubc.ca/housing-security-aid/>

The UBC HR website has additional resources for finding housing - these resources are meant for UBC employees, but many of them are also relevant to students. They also have excellent profiles for each Vancouver community on this webpage: <https://hr.ubc.ca/working-ubc/housing-immigration-and-relocation-services/finding-housing/rental-housing>.



UBC Varsity Outdoors Club (VOC)

UBC's VOC is a long-running, membership based student run club at UBC for outdoor enthusiasts. Activities range from beginner- to expert-level and run basically every weekend, year round. A year-long membership costs \$45 for UBC students and \$70 for everyone else and gets you access to member trips and all sorts of gear. Check out their website at [the link here](#) for more info!

UBC Clubs in General

Go to club day on Tuesday, September 6th to see UBC's VAST range of clubs. You can join in on (literally) whatever suits your interests, from the Fencing Club to Beads and Crafts Club.



Source: University of British Columbia



Drag Nights at Koerner's Pub

UBC's Koerner's Pub hosts drag nights featuring local Vancouver drag queens and kings! They're a great way to meet other drag-enthusiasts and get involved in UBC's LGBTQIA2S+ community. Tickets are sold on an event-to-event basis. Check out Koerner's Pub Facebook page for more information.

Sketch Walks

This is an event organized by the PIBC (Planning Institute of BC) south coast chapter. It happens monthly and is in a different neighbourhood each month. It's also advertised in the SCARP Digest, PIBC newsletter, and PIBC facebook page. Check out their Instagram [@vancouverurbansketchers](#) for more information!

Trivia Nights

Grab a few of your most knowledgeable friends, come up with a cheeky team name, and share a few drinks at one of the many trivia nights featured at Kitsilano bars! Bars we know of that have trivia nights include: Koerner's, Darbys, the Fringe, and Biminis. We also put on a SCARP Jeopardy night seen below!





Coffee Outside for Cyclists

This is a weekly camp coffee gathering that happens every Friday morning at 7am at rotating locations. It promotes inclusive bike culture! Check out [@coffeeoutsideyvr](#) on Instagram for more information.

A (very) ~Vancouver~ way to socialise with your friends is to grab a pack of beers or a bottle of wine to go share in the park or beach! Our most recommended parks and beaches are:

Kits Area

- Locarno Beach Park (allows drinking, has washrooms)
- Kitsilano Beach Park (allows drinking, has washrooms)
- Jericho Beach
- Spanish Banks (nice, quieter beach)
- Wreck Beach (arguably the nicest beach in Vancouver if you can muscle through the stairs - heads up, it's a nude beach)

Downtown Area

- English Bay (standard city beach!)
- Stanley Park of COURSE!! This park is infamous for a reason - go ride around the seawall and take in the salty sea air, then head up to Stanley Park Brewing for a drink and some lunch!

Mount Pleasant Area

- Jonathan Rogers Park (has washrooms, close to cool breweries)
- Dude Chilling Park (aka Guelph Park, but everyone knows it as dude chilling)
- Mt. Pleasant Park (has a skate park)

East Van Area

- New Brighton Park (allows drinking)
- Trout Lake Park (allows drinking, has washrooms)





Our Most Recommended Breweries

So many cool local places!

Main Street / Mount Pleasant Area:

- 33 Acres (a Vancouver staple - check out 33B Brewing Experiment right beside the main storefront for experimental beers)
- R&B (impeccable vibes for hanging out with friends)
- Brassneck (small, but great beer)
- Sing Sing (technically not a brewery, but they have a massive beer list, good vibes, and a menu of pizza and pho)

Commercial / East Van Area:

- Bomber Brewing (just delish)
- Strange Fellows (Vancouver staple!)

Our Most Recommended Cocktail Bars

Main Street / Mount Pleasant Area:

- The Narrow (sneaky and hard to find - but a really cool underground dive bar)
- Key Party (also sneaky and hard to find, it's disguised as an accounting office and is designed to replicate prohibition-era speakeasies)
- The Shameful Tiki (cute tiki bar)
- Tocador (cuban-style bar, upscale casual)
- Hero's Welcome (old legion converted into a hip bar! They got pool, skee-ball, trivia nights, and a photo booth. Old legion rules apply, so take your hat off ok?)



SOCIAL



Kits Area:

- Bimini's (standard spot for UBC's undergrad population)
- The Cider House (cute spot that's close to the beach with plant-based food)
- Darby's Public House

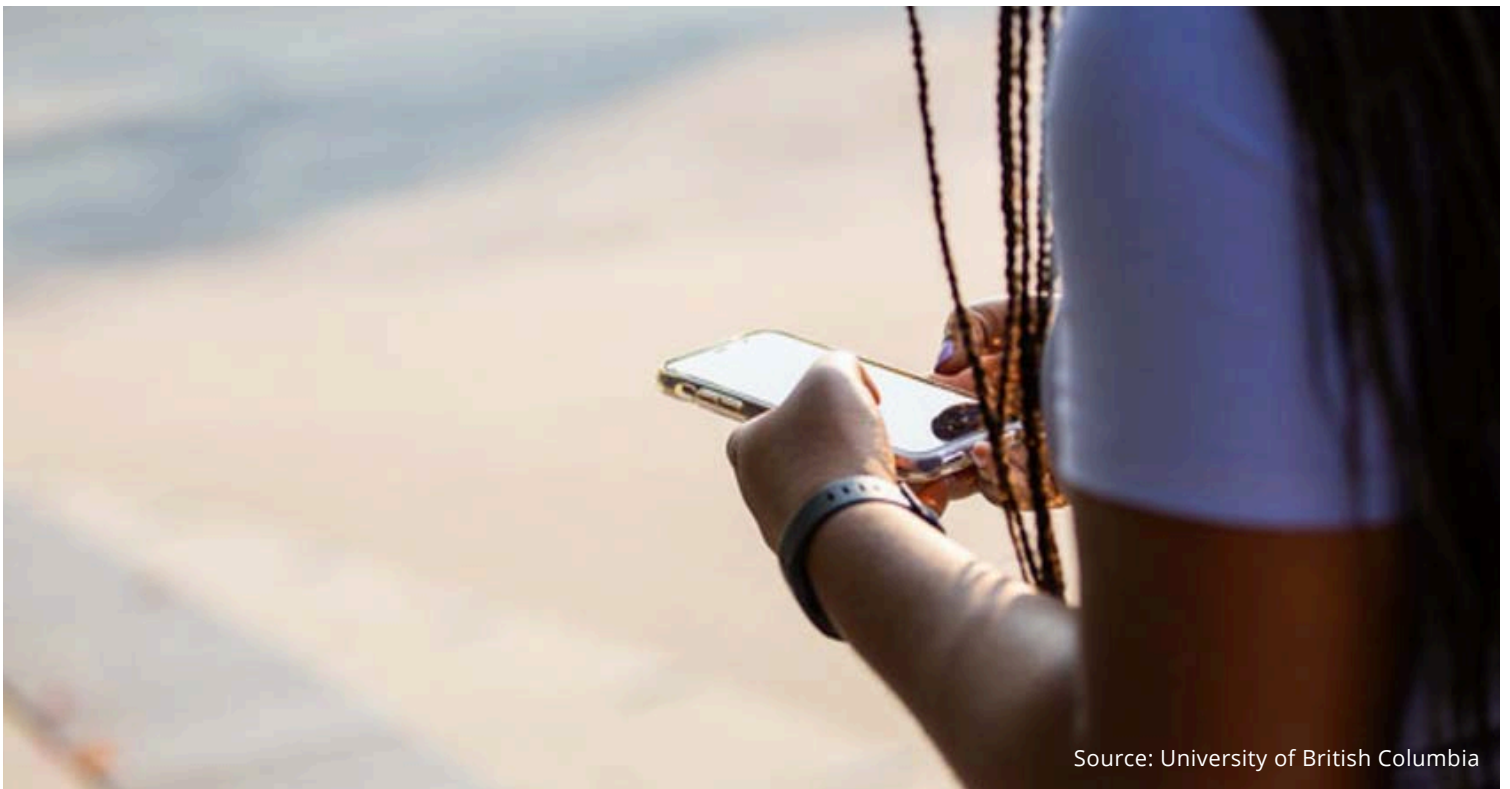
Commercial Drive:

- The Charlatan (bit dive bar-y, but cheap and there are always tables available)
- The Social (make sure you ask to sit upstairs)

If wine bars are more your thing, we have 3 natural wine bars that I highly recommend checking out:

- Juice Bar (in gastown, during the day it's a coffee shop called The Birds and The Beets. Low-key, cozy vibes)
- Bar Susu (off Main & 6th, this is the author's personal favourite spot - amazing wine, staff, ambience, and food. They also have great cocktails if that's more your thing)
- Grapes & Soda (cutie natural wine bar just outside of Kits)

There are some more of our favourite places listed on the MCRP Community Map - which you are also free to add to!



Source: University of British Columbia

CAMPUS RESOURCES



There are a variety of resources available from UBC to support your journey through grad school. Whatever area you need support or have questions, the university likely has an entire team or set of resources directly related. These areas include: academics, finances, housing, immigration, health (ALL health for body and mind!), career direction, and support following violence or sexual assault. Each of these areas are explored in detail here: [**https://students.ubc.ca/support**](https://students.ubc.ca/support)

Further, there are offices and entire groups on campus to support an inclusive and encouraging environment, as the university recognizes that we don't exist in a vacuum and these areas might overlap. You are entitled to support in all areas of your life, and these resources are here to help you thrive on campus (writing support, equity questions, accessibility, wellbeing, and much more): [**https://inclusiveteaching.ctlt.ubc.ca/resources/resources-for-students/**](https://inclusiveteaching.ctlt.ubc.ca/resources/resources-for-students/)



Source: University of British Columbia

FINANCES & BUDGETING



The MCRP Program divides the total cost of the program into 3 equal sections throughout the year: Winter Term 1, Winter Term 2, and Summer. Although you are not required to take classes in the summer, you will notice there is still an instalment due for these semesters. There are a variety of ways that students typically fund their studies.

Many students take out loans for their studies, often through the governments of their home countries or provinces. Canadian Provinces such as BC and Ontario offer student loan plans to fund studies at UBC, and for American students, UBC offers ways to use US student loans to pay for your studies. If you are receiving Canadian student loans, make sure to apply for a **UBC Bursary** for any unmet financial needs.

You can also apply for scholarships to help fund your degree. There are UBC and SCARP specific scholarships (see Awards and Funding Section), but there are also external scholarships that students can apply to from the following organisations:

- **Canada Graduate Scholarships** (SSHRC) - Due December 1 (talk to advisor about)
- **Local Government Management Association** (LGMA) - Due October
- **Canadian Institute of Planners** (CIP) Scholarships and Bursaries - Due January
- **American Planning Association** - Due June 1

UBC has resources and support for financial planning and budgeting (including draft budget excel sheets) - check them out at this website: **<https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/funding-studies/financial-planning>**. While you're there, you can also sign up for one of UBC's financial wellness workshops if you need more assistance. If you are not from Vancouver, use this **cost of living calculator** to get a better understanding of how the cost of living in Vancouver differs from where you live.



Source: University of British Columbia

FINANCES & BUDGETING



Additional Cost-saving Options: Cheap Food, Events, and Other Necessities

- Buy Nothing Groups (on Facebook) are local community groups that practise the gifting economy - you can ask the community for something and 90% of the time, someone in the community will give it to you for free! Items range from cosmetics to furniture, to clothing, and sometimes food and luxury items. The Buy Nothing Group layer on the **MCRP Community Map** shows all of the local groups and has links to their Facebook Groups, just scroll down and click on the layer to open it - you join the one for the area that you live in.
- As a graduate student, you have free access to the UBC Aquatic Centre Pool, and very cheap access to UBC gym memberships and classes
- Community centre facilities in many Metro Vancouver municipalities also have cheap or free facilities (some community centres and parks have free tennis courts and volleyball pits), and often host free or cheap community events
- You can find cheap-ish second hand items on Facebook Marketplace, any local Facebook buy and sell group (e.g. **UBC Buy and Sell Group**), the Karrot app, and the NextDoor app. Craigslist and Kijiji can be useful for second hand items (sometimes you get gems from older people), but are not as widely used in Vancouver any more.
- UBC has its own thrift store, **Get Thrifty**, that hosts periodic pop up shops around campus, and will soon be opening a permanent on campus location.
- There is some budget friendly food on campus listed here: **<https://food.ubc.ca/budget-friendly-food-on-campus/>**
- UBC has a farmers market where students get 10% off food: **<https://ubcfarm.ubc.ca/food/#markets-section>**. Vancouver has many **farmers markets**, however the food there is not super affordable - but you can go sample many tasty items!
- The UBC **Bike Kitchen** offers affordable bike maintenance services and tutelage
- The **Too Good To Go** app lists very cheap surprise bags/bundles of food from grocery stores, restaurants, and cafes, with the aim of reducing food waste from surplus items. Sometimes the fruit is *just* ripe to eat that day, but everything else is of good quality and much quantity - and you can get an XL pizza for as low as \$5.
- The **Flashfood app** is another app to reduce food waste from excess supply of food - but with this app you have a choice of exactly what discounted products you get from local grocery stores (rather than a surprise bag).

FINANCES & BUDGETING



- We will be hosting a once a semester clothing swap in WMAX - generally things are good quality and it's a great way to switch your closet up and not contribute to fast fashion waste! You can donate things, take things, or do both! The fall/winter version usually includes coats, scarves, and gloves. Things that are not taken are given to local shelters/social organizations. There is also a **Clothing Swap Facebook Group** that lists swaps happening in the region.
- Periodically, people will post free/cheap things on the SCARP and WMAX Facebook groups - keep your eyes peeled.
- The Graduate Student Society emails you get in your inbox tend to also have coupons for stores or discounted tickets to events, and the society also hosts their own free or discounted classes, games nights, and other events.
- Vancouver has many free or low cost events at all times of years.
- Places to find planning related events, seminars, and webinars (in person has food!):
 - Urbanarium: <https://urbanarium.org/index.php/events>
 - UBC Sustainability: <https://sustain.ubc.ca/events>
 - UBC Events: <https://events.ubc.ca/>
 - SFU Centre for Dialogue: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/sfu-morris-j-wosk-centre-for-dialogue-15788515348>, archived events (at bottom): <https://www.sfu.ca/dialogue/news/events.html>
 - PIBC webinars (free for students): <https://www.pibc.bc.ca/pibc-webinars>
 - SFU Community Economic Development Lectures: <https://www.sfu.ca/ced/publiclectures/lecture-archives.html>
 - Abundant Housing Vancouver (you should sign up for their newsletter/Twitter for latest events): <https://www.abundanthousingvancouver.com/>
 - SCARP and PSA newsletters

Places to find other free or cheap events:

- Daily Hive: <https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/category/events>
- 604Now: <https://604now.com/events/>
- Do 604: <https://do604.com/> (also has draws for tickets)



FINANCES & BUDGETING



If you want to go to an event but can't afford it, ask if they need volunteers. Festivals like the Vancouver Writers Festival, the Vancouver Fringe Festival, the Vancouver Folk Festival, the Vancouver Film Festival, Jazz Festival... really any festival (including music events) usually have volunteer positions where you earn free tickets by volunteering.

Most events at UBC include snacks or a catered meal. Also, you get a key to WMAX and access to the **Graduate Student Loft** in the Nest - feel free to organise movie nights, game nights, or other events with the spaces you pay tuition money to use!!

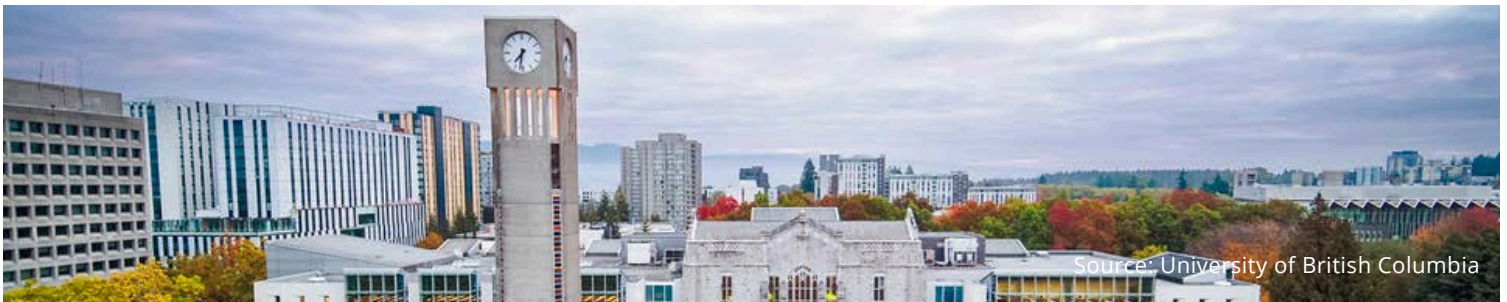
WORKING WHILE STUDYING



Many students work part-time during their studies to help with living and education costs. There are many on-campus jobs, such as **Work Learn** (application deadline August 14) or **Sustainability Scholar** (application deadline September 17) positions which pay students to work for the campus in different ways. There are also **Research Assistant (RA) and Teaching Assistant (TA)** positions - TA positions are posted in the summer on SCARP's website with a midsummer application deadline, while RA positions are posted on **CareersOnline** or are arranged between student and professor. Also look for **AMS Jobs**.

For off-campus jobs, the easiest and most reliable way is searching on LinkedIn, Indeed, WorkBC, Glassdoor and BCJobs, or going directly to retail stores and restaurants with your resume. Countless restaurants and retail stores hire students at the University and in Greater Vancouver, and many SCARP students find it manageable to balance school work and a part-time job.

Some students have worked full-time during the program, and this is doable but not recommended, as there will be very little free time to enjoy extra-curricular activities.

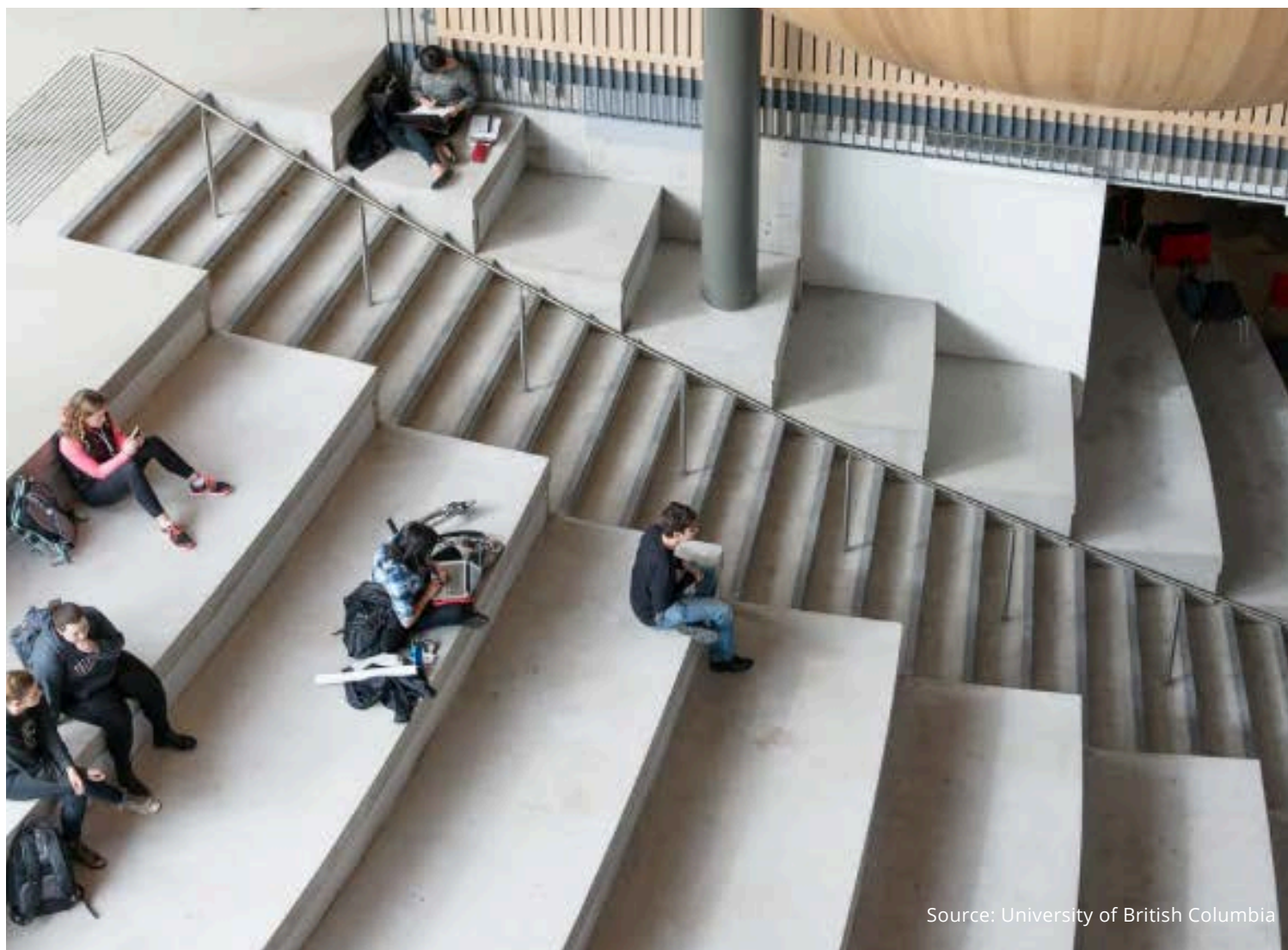


AWARDS & FUNDING

The SCARP website's "**Awards and Funding**" page outlines UBC-wide and SCARP specific scholarship opportunities for students. Below is a list of scholarships that you are eligible for in your first semester as a student:

- **Affiliated Fellowships - Master's Program** - master's students only
- **Affiliated Fellowships - Doctoral Program** - doctoral students only
- **Graduate Support Initiative (GSI) Awards** - no application required
- **Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship** - doctoral students only
- **Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship** - doctoral students only

More scholarships are available entering into your second year and upon graduation. There will be an email sent out in summer that will allow you to read through and nominate yourself for various awards. Please refer to the SCARP website for the most up to date information.



Source: University of British Columbia

GET INVOLVED AND CONNECT WITH OUR PSA!

As your PSA, we always have something going on, from hosting fun socials and planning professional events, to advocating for students and working with SCARP to bring the best student experience to SCARPIes!

That being said, we're always looking for helping hands; if you're interested in helping out with an event or becoming more involved in the PSA, please do reach out!

All are welcome!

PSA Contact Information:

General PSA – instagram: @scarp.psa | Email: ubcpsa.info@gmail.com



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SEE YOU IN
SEPTEMBER!

WE CAN'T WAIT
TO MEET YOU.

Source: University of British Columbia

