2019 - 2020 SCARP planning student association’s Student Handbook!
Welcome SCARPie!

We would like to acknowledge that SCARP and UBC are situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam People.

As you begin your journey at UBC SCARP, we would also like to invite you to take some time and learn about the history of this land. The land acknowledgment should not be seen as a formality, but as an opportunity to honour the original inhabitants and reflect upon our own identities and experiences as planning students studying on this traditional, ancestral and unceded land. If you would like to learn a little more about the Musqueam history, culture and people, check out their website: www.musqueam.bc.ca

Disclaimer: This handbook is based on our own opinions

Welcome to the 4th edition of the PSA SCARP Student Handbook! 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 handbook is compiled of students’ input and is not 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! (make this a tradition :D ) If you can’t find an answer to your questions, don’t be afraid to ask and reach out. SCARP really is a large community and we want you to feel a part of it.

See you in September!
From the 2018 SCARP Cohort
Welcome message from Planning Students Association (PSA)

Welcome to SCARP! You may be wondering “What is the PSA anyways, and why am I giving them money?” If so, read on!

The PSA is your elected student council – we are elected by our peers to serve for a one-year term (January to December). We have a mandate to promote the well-being of students, assist in the development of professional and personal skills, and act on behalf of the student body when issues arise.

In support of our mandate we put on social events, bring guest speakers to SCARP, and try to encourage the physical, mental, and emotional wellness of SCARPies. This is where your PSA fees go! Having BBQs, hosting Lunchtime Dialogues, Cheers with Peers, Equity Workshops, SCARP Symposium support, and whatever else you think would be of benefit to your fellow students. We also play a large role in organizing Orientation Week, and the Whistler Trip is entirely planned and run by PSA members.

The Whistler Trip is a yearly tradition during orientation week in which we (the second years) plan a community building trip with you (the first years). It is a great opportunity to meet and get to know the other people in your cohort outside of school, and to connect with some of the second years. If you are up for coming – great! We look forward to seeing you there! And if not – no worries! We would love to get to know in a more laid back setting like having tea in the student lounge, going for a walk to Wreck Beach, or just stopping us in the hall for a chat.

The PSA is for you — so tell us your ideas, ask questions, and get involved! Who knows? It could be you writing this welcome message next year.

Ruby Carrico
PSA President – On Behalf of the 2019 PSA
Message for MCRP Students

Five years ago, during the 2015/2016 academic year, SCARP decided to transition 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 had specific streams and students were required to do a large project or thesis to complete their degree. The new MCRP program is much more flexible and skills-based. You can tailor your concentration based on your own planning interests and work on a capstone and studio project in your second year. SCARP also brought back the research-based masters last year, so there’ll be a few incoming students working on their MA and MSc. Although their program structure is quite different from yours, 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.

Despite all the changes with the fairly new program, the essence and core values of SCARP remains. So, although we second-years think we know what’s happening when it comes to the MCRP, keep in mind that what we say below might change. Keep in mind that you can also be the one initiating some valuable changes! Since there are “core” courses 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). 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. Often times it can be difficult to choose what to take because they all sound so interesting. This is a good problem to have and a 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, but it’s going to be AWESOME!
Message to MAP/MScP Students

Welcome SCARP MAP/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 and relatively new (but fun!) program, and as such, the curriculum does change. Therefore, it is important to develop strong communication with your supervisor and instructors; and 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 masters programs. It is also advised that you tailor your courses to your intended research, so you can meet course requirements (34 credits) and move your thesis along simultaneously. This includes your 10 core credits, 12 concentration credits, and your 12 thesis credits. Of course, you may take additional courses in and out of SCARP if they are related to your research, just talk it over with your supervisor. One of the great, 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!

Capstone + Studios

Students in MCRP (excluding 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 research project (which can be an independent research, or an extension of your summer internship, or your studio project). 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 further information. 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, First Nation Bands, 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.

Faculty Advisor Roles

At this point you probably know who is your faculty advisor, and some may have reached out to you. 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. Previous SCARPies 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 what your faculty advisor can assist you throughout your time at SCARP. They may be busy but they are always willing to help, sometimes it just takes a few extra emails. Remember, it is your faculty advisor’s job and responsibility to be there for you, so don’t be hesitant to communicate with them! You’ll get a chance to chat at orientation, but we also recommend planning a longer one-on-one with your advisor.
Urban Design Tips

Urban Design is one of the concentrations at SCARP with its own set of required courses. That said, if you decide to concentrate in Urban Design, you can still combine it with your other planning interests. 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.

The urban design concentration seeks to develop these skills and provide a solid foundation for understanding and participating in the field. Expect that it will be an intense and rewarding experience!

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) as soon as possible. So go get some pencils and a sketch book and start playing around on your laptops!

• 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 mindset and skills.

• 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.

• Lastly, even if you don’t plan to concentrate in Urban Design, you should still take the first urban design course (if possible) to get a good sense of graphic representation, urban design theory, learn site analysis techniques, and get to know your fellow SCARPies better! Have fun with it!
Hello Indigenous Community Planning students welcome to SCARP! During your orientation week, Leonie Sandercock 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 cross-year get-together within the first few weeks of September (so stay tuned). 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 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 specialization.

The Indigenous Community Planning (ICP) specialization is within the MCRP program that has been running for eight 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. All students within the ICP specialization know that your time at SCARP will involve a lot of self-reflection to help students and their purpose in the context of Indigenous community planning. Logistically, the ICP specialization involves a lot of evening and weekend classes.

In year one, 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-to-Nation relationships and understanding of Indigenous rights in Canada, and the implications of these factors for planning today.

In year two, ICP students are paired into teams to 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.

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 Leonie Sandercock first. She acts as the liaison between SCARP, ICP, and Indigenous 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 and Vancouver! It is not a big city, but sometimes it can feel lonely. Just don’t forget that we 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 to talk to an International Student Advisor at isa@students.ubc.ca located at International House on campus. The administrators 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 in also provided there. You’ll find information on campus housing, getting a UBC card, health insurance, and even finding child care services for your family.

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. In addition, we strongly suggest that you learn a little about the history of colonialism, indigenous displacement, and forced assimilation in Canada. Most of us are uninvited guests and settlers on the traditional, ancestral and unceded land of the Indigenous people, so please respect and honour their culture and history. Familiarizing yourself with current treaties and relations between Canadian government and First Nations would be a good start.

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!

Getting a cell phone & 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 on 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. In BC you need 2 piece 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. Lastly, if you have any other questions before you arrive, feel free to contact one of our SCARP International Student reps:

Mark Poskitt: markrussellposkitt@gmail.com
Sydney Rankmore: sydney.rankmore@gmail.com
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! Since we are part of the Faculty of Applied Science, many of our professional development program is designed and delivered by them too. Simon Erlich is our Student Development Coordinator, remember to say hi to him at the office! He helps us coordinate many of these events with SCARP admin and the Faculty of Applied Science.

ORIENTATION

You’ll start your time at SCARP with a two-day on campus orientation program, beginning September 3rd and finishing with a trip to Whistler. You will get the chance to learn about SCARP, the Faculty of Applied Science and UBC. More importantly, you will meet the SCARP faculty members, and get to know your fellow classmates in both first and second year.

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 by the student development coordinator, Simon.

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, allowing you to gain valuable hands-on experience while earning academic credit. Most students complete their internship between first and second year, but it is not mandatory to do it then. For more information on internships, consult the internship handbook located on the SCARP website.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development at SCARP provides various workshops, programming, and initiatives to enhance your learning experience and career development at UBC, offering you many opportunities to build your professional skills.
More from the PSA

SYMPOSIUM
Every year first-year SCARP 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 annual event and it is not possible without all hands on deck, so start thinking about how you would like to help. Consider organizing a panel, finding sponsors or just taking on the whole thing! Last year’s Co-Director of Content (Andrea Oakunsheyld) and Co-Director of Logistics (Jenna Hildebrand) will organize a meeting in September with the first years to explain the Symposium in more detail.

SOCIALS
There are tons of SCARP social events from chill BBQ hangouts on the beach to party nights in the city: many of them regular weekly occurrences. Support your social committee and these events! Sometimes, you just gotta take a break.

FACEBOOK GROUPS
SCARP has a general Facebook group, which is where we share information about classes, jobs, questions and conversations. The group 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!!! We also have another group for ALL current students called the WMAX crew. This group includes all 1st & 2nd years, PhD candidates and any students that is currently attending SCARP. 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 special to your year (don’t worry, 2nd years in the group will leave it once you’re all set). Request to join now!

Campus life

SCARP, THE GSS & AMS
As members of the Graduate Student Society (GSS), 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 Alma Mater Society (AMS). The Koerner House is the Graduate Students Centre where Koerner’s Pub & Seedlings are located. Whereas AMS NEST is the student is a hub for all students on campus.

PRINTING
UBC Libraries - you need to create an online account in order to print or copy at UBC libraries. Copies Mart at the University Village is also a good and cheap option for all things printing. Ask us if you’re confused!

BUSES, TRANSIT, COMPASS CARD
You need to have a Compass card in order to use the public transportation system. As UBC student, you should be able to get a compass from the UBC bookstore. Or you can get grab one at a Skytrain station, London Drugs, or other locations. A monthly student bus pass “U-Pass” (activated online through Compass card website) is included in your student fees already for the school term.
Key campus spots

WMAX:
WMAX (West Mall Annex) will become your home away from home! The first floor is a mixture of quiet space, informal, meeting and classroom spaces, as well as PhD student spaces. Pay attention to the signage for room guidelines. SCARP administration also have access and work part-time from here. Say hello! The second floor is only used for quiet study due to faculty offices and classes in room 240. No group meetings are allowed upstairs. Please respect faculty space and keep the volume down. Extra washrooms are upstairs if needed.

LASSERRE:
Some faculty offices and the main SCARP administration office. Also houses the UBC School of Architecture, our non-SCARP friends.

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.

INFORMAL LEARNING SPACE:
A small computer lab in WMAX with Adobe Design Software. Email Shirley from admin or ask us second years to get the door code.

KOERNER LIBRARY:
The main library close to SCARP that has 2 labs. The GIS librarians can help you with any GIS questions.

Grab a bite on campus

SEEDLINGS ($)
Cheap and SO good. Located very close to WMAX at The Koerner House (home to GSS). Usually vegan and often raw. They also have the cheapest coffee and great space to work!

TIM HORTONS ($)
Canadian Staple. Cheap coffee & doughnuts with 2 locations on campus!

INTERNATIONAL FOOD COURT ($)
A food court in the basement at the UBC village place. Little far from WMAX, but a has lots of international selections at a cheap price. Lunch time is always busy and crowded.

KOERNER'S PUB ($$)
Close to WMAX

THE AMS NEST ($$)
The food court at the student's centre has sushi, pizza (PieR2!), all kinds of deli such as wraps, soups, cheap sandwiches, a small grocery store, etc. Pit Pub is also there on the basement floor!

MERCANTE ($$)
Pizza!

THE LOOP CAFE AT CIRS ($$$)
Super sustainable. They always have one hot vegetarian and one meat entree with rice, plus a salad bar, sandwiches, pastries, organic fair-trade coffee, etc

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.

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 could get busy since it's close to UBC's law school.

JAM-JAR ($$$)
Lebanese Canteen. Pretty good value for the amount of food you get.

LOAFE ($$$)$
In the Alumni Centre and very expensive. Little bougie but rumour has it the food is very good. They also serve Cartems donuts, a must eat in Vancouver. Good place for professional meetings/networking.
Where to live in Vancouver

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

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. All the neighbourhoods listed in the map on the next page are within the City of Vancouver boundary (approx. 15~45min commute). There are nice places to live in other nearby municipalities such as Burnaby, Richmond, North Vancouver...but they take a longer time to commute to campus.

The most direct transit route to UBC is the 99 B-line, but beware — it’s crowded. UBC 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. Getting a bike may be useful, but be prepared to bike in the rain (and up hills)!

UBC - UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS

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. 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 - if you don’t mind the rain.

WEST POINT GREY

The closest you can get to campus without living on campus. You’re about a 10 minute bus ride to campus, totaling 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 (30 min) or walk to your neighbour Kitsilano to find some fun. 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 Spanish and Jericho beach!

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 with an active and vocal neighbourhood association. Dunbar village is along Dunbar street and you can find some nice little restaurants and shops here for daily needs. 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 neighbourhood itself is a bit sleepy and you’re a little far from other lively neighbourhoods in Vancouver.

AR Butus - Ridge & Shaughnessy

Welcome to one of the oldest yet most expensive neighbourhood in Vancouver! Some of the best 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 suite (or mansion) at a reasonable price, so don’t let the neighbourhood names scare you away. If you love hiking and jogging, this could be one of the best neighbourhoods because they are adjacent to the Arbutus Greenway Corridor.

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 Broadway including some of UBC students’ favourite restaurants and bars. Basically it’s close to campus with lots of grocery and dining options.

Kitsilano (4th Ave and North Edition)

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), so you’ll see lots of yoga pants. Range of pricing from expensive nice places, to cheap basement suites. Some apartments are fairly old, but the beach is only a few steps away so who could complain!
South Cambie
A lot of variation depending on where along Cambie you live. Cambie village is undergoing major development so the streetscape is constantly changing (but a lot more food options now!). 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, so maybe you’ll spot planners walking around your neighbourhood.

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. You can get really cheap groceries from Chinatown but don’t expect supermarket chains (support the locals!). Rent on par with Commercial & Mount Pleasant.

Mount Pleasant
Close to a 99 stop. Easy to get around and located near 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.

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 like coffee? Tere’s lots of that. Antique stores clinging for dear life against ever-increasing rent pressures? Yup. Poodle on a Pole? You bet! Moderately priced, relatively, but is increasing due its popularity.

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.

Fairview
Kitsilano’s cheaper, less-yuppie-ish cousin, 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. A happy middle. 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. Probably a half hour transit ride to campus unless rush hour is especially bad.

South Van
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.

Commercial Drive
One of the last remaining eclectic areas in the city, but sadly going through some severe gentrification. 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 coffee shops, and rents in apartments and shared houses are reasonable. However, expect a 40-60 minute commute to SCARP, by bike or express bus. Commercial-Broadway Station is great to be near if you’re traveling anywhere east of Vancouver to other municipalities.

Kitsilano
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”. Davie Village is also home to many of our local LGBTQ2SI+ communities.

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.

Wests End
Kitsilano’s cheaper, less-yuppie-ish cousin, 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. A happy middle. 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. Probably a half hour transit ride to campus unless rush hour is especially bad.

South Cambie
A lot of variation depending on where along Cambie you live. Cambie village is undergoing major development so the streetscape is constantly changing (but a lot more food options now!). 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, so maybe you’ll spot planners walking around your neighbourhood.

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. You can get really cheap groceries from Chinatown but don’t expect supermarket chains (support the locals!). Rent on par with Commercial & Mount Pleasant.

Mount Pleasant
Close to a 99 stop. Easy to get around and located near 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.

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 like coffee? Tere’s lots of that. Antique stores clinging for dear life against ever-increasing rent pressures? Yup. Poodle on a Pole? You bet! Moderately priced, relatively, but is increasing due its popularity.

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.

Fairview
Kitsilano’s cheaper, less-yuppie-ish cousin, 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. A happy middle. 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. Probably a half hour transit ride to campus unless rush hour is especially bad.

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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 MarketPlace, and Kijiji are popular websites where you can find accommodations, used/new furniture and even second hand textbooks. You could also consider looking for places in Metro-Vancouver (including Burnaby, Surrey, Richmond, North Van, West Van and New West). That said, these areas are all 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...it's still quite a journey if you forget something on campus.
Where to play

Some of our favourite social activities from this past year include:

• Annual Portland spring break trip! (ask us for more details!)
• Post-class beers at Koerner's!!
• Study breaks at Wreck Beach (especially during sunset!)
• The Fringe Cafe in Kitsilano (cheap beer!)
• Funky Winkerbeans (frequent karaoke!!)
• Hikes accessible by transit (Deep Cove, Lynn Canyon)!
• Friday ski trips to Whistler!
• Cheers with Peers!
• Potluck dinners!
• Metro Vancouver Brewery Tours (especially Yellow Dog in Port Moody!)
• Whitecaps and Canadians games!
• Making memes!
• Heading to the Fox Cabaret for live music!
• Attending Urbanarium talks!
That’s a wrap. We can’t wait to meet you all!

Love,
The 2018 SCARP Cohort.