School of Community and Regional Planning
Planning Student Association’s

STUDENT HANDBOOK
COVID - 19 PANDEMIC DISCLAIMER

This handbook was created to share with incoming students what they may expect during their 2 years at SCARP. We realize due to the global pandemic that the 2020 year may look very different than normal. With that said, the information in the handbook may therefore not apply to the ongoing changing circumstances we are in, but we hope you all have the opportunity to experience all that the SCARP community has to offer once it is safe to do so. In addition to the SCARP Faculty and Administration, the PSA is always here to answer your questions as you make the transition to start your new graduate program, especially during this strange time.
WELCOME/LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

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. Most of us are uninvited guests and settlers on the traditional, ancestral and unceded land of Indigenous people, so please respect and honour their culture and history. Familiarizing yourself with current treaties and relations between Canadian government and First Nations is an important starting place for us all.
Hello from your Planning Students Association (PSA)

Welcome to SCARP! This may not be the way to envisioned your first year in grad school to look like, but we at the PSA are committed to ensuring your time at SCARP continues to be filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and build connections that will extend far beyond your two years here.

Now you may be wondering, what is the PSA, and why am I giving them money? If so, continue reading!

The PSA is your elected student council - we are elected by our fellow students 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 students when issues arise.

In support of our mandate we put on a variety of social events, bring guest speakers to SCARP, and try to encourage the physical, mental, and emotional wellness of SCARPies. This year, due to COVID-19, our events may look a bit different than usual, but we are still committed to the wellbeing of all SCARPies during this unprecedented time. Events we usually host (and hope to continue!) include having BBQ’s, hosting Lunchtime Dialogues, Cheers with Peers, Equity Workshops, SCARP Symposium and whatever else you think would be of benefit to your fellow students. This is where your PSA fees go!

Orientation week and the annual Whistler trip is also usually entirely planned and run by PSA members. This year, your orientation will look a little different and we are all disappointed that we will not be able to meet you all in September. However, SCARP and the PSA are working incredibly hard to ensure you are able to confidently begin your studies here and have access to the support you need.

While your beginning at SCARP may look quite a bit different this year, we at the PSA are nonetheless committed to finding ways to build and create community. One way we will be doing this in the upcoming year is by creating a mentorship program between first and second year SCARPies to give you a chance to get to know us and ask any questions you may have about life at SCARP.

Now more than ever before, we look forward to hearing your input and collaborating with you to ensure you get the support you need both academically and individually to be successful during your time here at SCARP. The PSA is for you, so tell us your ideas, ask questions, and get involved! We can’t wait to welcome you into our community.

Yasaman Mohaddes Khorassani
PSA President- On Behalf of the 2020 PSA
Six 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. The renewed MCRP program represents a significant change in the organization and content of the degree.

The MCRP is a flexible program that undergoes iterations to respond to the rapidly changing urban, regional, and global environments. Currently, a comprehensive curriculum review is underway by faculty and students to rework and rethink the way the MCRP program is delivered in an effort to better maximize learning outcomes for students. Aspects of the program that are under review include changes to the content of the core classes, course scheduling, and sequencing of courses.

In your time at SCARP, you may experience the output of some of this hard work, and may have the opportunity to voice your opinions and help continue to shape the program for the future.

SCARP also just hired three new faculty members, who you will have the opportunity to meet and learn from over the course of your time in the MCRP program.

Despite the ongoing changes to this fairly new program, the essence and core values of SCARP remain: generating and transforming knowledge into action by planning in partnership to improve lives and communities and the quality of built and natural environments. 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. Also remember that you can be the ones initiating some valuable changes!

While core courses may take up a large proportion of your course work in the first two semesters (especially if you are in ICP), you will have the opportunity to take elective courses which allow you to dive deeper into your concentration. Although SCARP has tons of great classes to offer, many students often look outside of SCARP for these elective courses in faculties such as Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES), Global Public Policy (GPP), School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA) and Geography, among many others! 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.

In any semester, you might do slightly more or fewer credits but on average students take between 12-15 credits per semester. You will review your course selection and course-load with your faculty advisor at the beginning of each semester to make sure it’s the right call for you and will support your overall planning concentration. Oftentimes it can be difficult to choose what to take because there are so many interesting electives to choose from. This is a good problem to have and a reassurance that you’ve come to the right place. While you may be drawn towards finding courses in your concentration, don’t be afraid to broaden your planning knowledge by taking courses that may seem out of your comfort zone. You may be surprised with what other interests you have. 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!

CAPSTONES & 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 (although it’s never a bad idea to start thinking about your capstone early on!). 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.

FOR ALL STUDENTS: FACULTY ADVISOR ROLES

At this point you probably know who your faculty advisor is, and some may have already 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 concentration and be there for professional and academic (and perhaps moral) support. Although they may be busy, 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.
SOME TIPS FOR URBAN DESIGN

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 SCARPiners better! Have fun with it!

SOME TIPS FOR CREATING YOUR “CUSTOMIZED CONCENTRATION”

The great thing about SCARP is that it brings together students with a wide-range of planning interests. Through the MCRP program, you have the opportunity to shape your course schedule to align with your planning interests. This is known as your customized ‘concentration’. While the SCARP website has a list of suggested concentrations, it is totally up to you to decide what your concentration “concoction” will be! You will work with your faculty advisor to establish what your concentration will be, and review your selected courses to ensure they will support you and your area of interest.

• Don’t be afraid to look outside of SCARP for courses aligned with your area of interest. Many students have taken courses in Geography, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability.
• 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’s important to take a variety of types of courses; including at least one or two broad knowledge courses, at least one skills course, and at least one in-depth knowledge course, and may include a field experience course.
Hello Indigenous Community Planning students welcome to SCARP! During your orientation week, Maggie Low 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...

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.

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 (MOBILE 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 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:

Andrea Barriga: abarriga02@gmail.com
Valentina Farias: adrianavfariasd@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 opportunities are designed and delivered by them too. The Student Development Coordinator role currently remains vacant but in the meantime, your faculty advisor and the SCARP admin team will be helpful resources!

ORIENTATION
Traditionally, first year SCARPiies begin kick-off their new program with a two-day on campus orientation program and finishing with a students-only trip to Whistler. While these in-person traditions are not possible in 2020 due to COVID-19, we hope you keep this fantastic tradition alive when you are welcoming the 2021 cohort into the SCARP community.

Despite the current limitations, we are committed to creating an orientation experience that helps you get familiarized with SCARP, 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.

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 also earning academic credit. Most students complete their internship between their first and second year, but it is not mandatory to do it during that time period. 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.

SYMPOSIUM
Another important SCARP tradition that rests with the incoming cohort is the planning of the SCARP Student Symposium. The SCARP Student Symposium is an annual event that brings planning students and practitioners to UBC campus for a day of panel discussions and keynote addresses. The event is organized by the first year MCRP students and allows you to engage with the most pressing planning issues our communities face, typically around a particular theme that reflects your cohorts values as planners. Unfortunately, the 2020 conference was cancelled due to COVID-19, and while in-person gatherings like conferences may still not be possible for you, this is a great opportunity for you to think about innovative ways to deliver an exciting conference virtually.

Last year’s Co-Directors of Content (Jenny Koss and Valentina Farias) and Co-Directors of Logistics (Sarah Glazier and Andrea Barriga) will organize a meeting to provide more detail about the Symposium during your orientation, and it will be up to your cohort to decide how (and IF) you want to carry forward the planning of this event.
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 are currently attending SCARP. Important textbook information and updates will appear here. We’ve gone ahead and created a Facebook group (SCARP 2020 Cohort) 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!

KEY CAMPUS SPOTS

West Mall Annex: WMAX- your home away from home

FIRST FLOOR WMAX: it’s a mixture of quiet space, informal, meeting and classroom spaces, as well as PhD student spaces. Pay attention to the signage for room guidelines. SCARP administration also has access and work part-time from here. They are located here so they’re more accessible to students, so make sure to say hello!

SECOND FLOOR WMAX: It’s only used for quiet study due to faculty offices and some classes in the 240 classroom. No group meetings are allowed upstairs. Please respect faculty space and keep the volume down. Extra washrooms are also upstairs if those downstairs are busy.

LASERRE: Some faculty offices and the main SCARP administration office. Also houses the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape 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.
Libraries and Study Spaces:

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 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.

PETER ALLARD LAW LIBRARY: (shhh...don’t tell the law students but this is great, QUIET, place to study)

IRVING K BARBER LIBRARY (OR IKB): One of the oldest buildings on campus across from the Residential School History and Dialogue Center. Lots of neat study spaces, including the infamous "Harry Potter Library"!!

OTHER GREAT PLACES TO EXPLORE ON CAMPUS:
Wreck Beach
MOA
Nitobe Gardens
UBC Farm
UBC Botanical Garden

WHERE TO GRAB A BITE ON CAMPUS
(Especially when you’re having a long day at WMAX)

KOERNER’S PUB ($$) – Close to WMAX and the 2nd years favourite place to grab beers after class!
BLUE CHIP COOKIE ($) - Located in the AMS Nest. The BEST cookies on campus (maybe even in Vancouver), for when you just need a sweet treat.
TIMMIES (TIM HORTONS) ($) - Canadian Staple. Cheap coffee & doughnuts with 2 locations on campus.
INTERNATIONAL FOOD COURT ($) - A food court in the basement at the UBC village place. Little far from WMAX, but has lots of international selections at a cheap price. Lunch time is always busy and crowded.
THE AMS NEST ($$) - 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.
TRIPLE OS ($$) - Opens late. Hamburgers, etc.
MERCANTE ($$$) – 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 ($$$) - Behind the Walter Gage Towers. Said to be the best coffee on campus. Serves really good sandwiches and soups. Great study space but can get busy since it’s close to UBC’s law school.
JAM-JAR ($$$) - Lebanese Canteen. Pretty good value for the amount of food you get.
LOAFE ($$$) - In the Alumni Centre and a little more on the expensive side. Little bougie but rumor has it the food is very good. They also serve Cartems donuts, a must eat in Vancouver. Good place for professional meetings/networking.

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’s 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 a UBC student, you can get a Compass Card from the UBC bookstore. Or you can grab one at YVR Airport if you arrive in Vancouver by plane, at some SkyTrain stations, London Drugs, Shoppers Drug Mart or other locations around Vancouver (check TransLink's website for 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. You’ll need to tap your card each time you ride the bus, and when you enter and exit the skytrain and seabus station.

KEY BUS ROUTES:

99 B-LINE - Travels along Broadway, from Commercial skytrain station to UBC Campus. This is an extremely popular route (the busiest bus in North America) for students, which means buses tend to fill up quickly. Many UBC students do try to live within walking distance to this route.

ROUTES 33, 68, 480, 49, 25, R-4, 84, 44 - all arrive at the UBC Exchange (Next to the aquatic center)

ROUTES 9, 14, 4, N17, 258 - all arrive at the UBC Exchange (On University Boulevard)

CYCLING TO CAMPUS

A bike is great to have in Vancouver, and there is an amazing network of cycling infrastructure and dedicated bike streets across the city! Many students cycle-commute to campus, but be prepared to bike in the rain (and up lots of hills)! Cyclists may take their bikes on buses, SkyTrain, Canada Line, Seabus and the West Coast Express.

UBC has lots of great resources for cyclists, including trip planners and safety tips. Visit their website.

Check out the City of Vancouver’s Cycling Map here to plan your trip around the city.
WHERE TO LIVE IN VANCOUVER

Some of you might have applied for campus housing already and got an offer. If so, that's great! Living on campus is definitely 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 and pricey. There's lots of fun neighborhoods 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. Sometimes 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

If it's your first time looking for an apartment, be aware of scammers and NEVER give a deposit without reading the tenancy agreement.

Basiclly, 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 this map below 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 just take longer time to commute to campus.

While you are searching for accommodation, don't forget to consider how you will commute to campus and what your closest bus route will be. Also consider how you will get around the city (proximity to night busses, sky train stations) and to/from the airport (Canada Line).

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. so you'll never need to leave campus. But, try to leave anyway to explore the rest of the city because the action is definitely off campus. If you want to travel back to campus after the buses stop running, you're in for an expensive cab ride. Bike back instead - 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 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, so you 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, 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 (you will likely require 2 bus connections to get anywhere downtown/east vancouver).

ARBUTUS - 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 at a reasonable price, so don't let the neighbourhood names scare you away. If you love biking 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. 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.

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: its home to the original Lululemon (and their current global headquarters), hence you'll see lots of yoga pants around. 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!

FAIRVIEW 
Kitsilano's cheaper, less-y uppie- 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. Also a short walk to False Creek and the Broadway-Cambie SkyTrain Station (Canada Line). A happy balance. Bars are a little scarce but it's easy to hop on over to our ironically moustached 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? There'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-CEYAL 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.

WEST END 
Aka Best End. If you want small community living in the big city, the West End is the place for you. Perfect for foodies and anyone who wants the beach steps from their door. You can also get an express (the 44) bus to UBC, but it only runs weekdays with no late night service or weekends. Rents are pretty affordable *for a downtown location*. Davie Village is also home to many of our local LGBTQ2SI+ communities.

FASTERHOOD (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. 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 socioeconomic 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.

SOUTH VAN 
SCARPies don't believe it exists, but it does! Covering most of Oakridge, Marpole and Sunset neighbourhood, 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. Marine Drive gateway is also developing with new cinemas and stores right beside the Canada Line skytrain station. Commuting to campus would range from 40 ~ 60 min depending on buses.
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.

Most SCARP students tend to live in East Van (Commercial Dr. Area), Mt. Pleasant, Fairview or Kitsilano. Average studio price is $1500, average 1BD price is $1700 and average 2BD is $2200 - but many students find prices below these.

WHERE TO PLAY

Traditionally, SCARP students head to Portland during the February “spring” break for 3 or 4 days. This trip is usually planned by two (or more) people in the year one for the year one cohort. A group of planning students from Portland will also help you with your planning and local itinerary. An excel document with details can be shared with anyone interested in organizing.

SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FROM THIS PAST YEAR INCLUDE:

- Post-class beers at Koerner's!!
- “Just for fun” UBC volleyball!!
- Going to see live music + shows (Vancouver has a great music scene)
- Study breaks at Wreck Beach (especially during sunset!)
- Funky Winkerbeans (frequent karaoke!!)
- Hikes accessible by transit (Deep Cove, Lynn Canyon)!
- Friday ski trips to Whistler (the student pass rates are pretty great!)
- Cheers with Peers!
- Metro Vancouver Brewery Tours (especially Yellow Dog in Port Moody!)
- Whitecaps and Canadians games!
- Making memes!

We’re so excited to meet you all!

- 2020 SCARP PSA