

# Parent Guide

A guide to preparing your child for university life overseas.

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**WE ACKNOWLEDGE** that the territories on which UCW and its campuses are situated are the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓ wú7mesh (Squamish) and Seł'íl witulh/səl'ílwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We thank them for having cared for this land since time immemorial, honour their graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here and iterate our dedication to valuing the ongoing contributions of Indigenous peoples and communities.



# Welcome to University Canada West



**Congratulations, your child is on their way to a new, exciting phase in their life – completing their undergraduate or graduate education.**

As a parent, we understand that you have many questions and concerns because you want what's best for your child – and we do, too.

This Parent Guide will go over everything you need to know about UCW and the services and support available for your child, life in Canada and Vancouver, finances and more.

# A Message from the President

Your child is getting ready to embark on the next chapter in their education and their life journey. As parents, I know you have lots of questions about what to expect at our university. This Parent Guide has answers for you.

Dear Esteemed Parents and Guardians,

I am honoured to extend a warm welcome to you as the President & Vice-Chancellor of University Canada West (UCW).

As we embark on a new academic year, and navigate through these dynamic times, your role is pivotal in supporting and guiding your child through their educational journey.

We understand that sending a child to university is a significant transition for both parents and students alike. We are dedicated to fostering an inclusive community that promotes high academic standards with a focus on personal development. At UCW we treat every student as an individual, overseeing their development and ensuring they receive the best education available. As your child explores various academic disciplines, engages in extracurricular activities and forges lasting friendships, we are dedicated to providing an enriching experience that prepares them for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. This includes the necessary support structures to help them transition to life after graduation including academic resources, counselling services, learning strategists and career development specialists. Each student's time at UCW will be among the most formative and memorable of their lives, helping them transform from learners into professionals.



We encourage you to stay engaged and informed about UCW events, academic programs and your child's academic progress. Your involvement contributes significantly to your child's development and success—and to developing a strong partnership with UCW. Communication is key to a successful partnership.

Together, as a united community, we can inspire and empower the next generation of leaders, thinkers and changemakers.

Thank you for entrusting UCW with your child's education. Our doors are always open to you.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "B. Makhoul".

Dr. Bashir Makhoul  
President & Vice-Chancellor

**Your child's success is our priority and this is what makes us different. We genuinely care.**

# About University Canada West



UCW is an innovative business and technology-oriented, teaching-focused institution in Canada, offering undergraduate and graduate degrees for domestic and international students.

Established in 2004, UCW is a student-focused contemporary university defined by its close connections to the business community and a commitment to outstanding student services. With two easily accessible campuses in downtown Vancouver, the convenient campus locations allow students to explore the vibrant city.

**Educating leaders since 2004**



## 5 Star Rating from QS Stars

University Canada West is honoured to have received a 5 Star rating from the QS Stars higher education rating system, the world's most popular source of comparative data on university performance, in Fall 2021.

**3<sup>RD</sup>**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**IN CANADA**

**1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**IN BRITISH**  
**COLUMBIA**

**TO RECEIVE A 5 STAR RATING FROM QS STARS**

**7** There are only a **total of seven institutions in the United States and Canada** that have received a 5 Star rating.



The QS Stars rating system provides an in-depth evaluation that assesses a university on a broad range of key performance indicators. Institutions receive an overall rating between zero and 5+ stars, as well as a rating in at least eight of 13 key areas. UCW's scores included:

**Teaching:** ★★★★★  
UCW received full marks for faculty-student ratio, overall student satisfaction and satisfaction with teaching.

**Employability:** ★★★★★  
UCW received full marks for employer reputation and career service support and high marks in graduate employment rate.

**Academic Development:** ★★★★★  
UCW received full marks in all categories – teaching and research assistantships, learning development centres, faculty office hours, faculty development programs and university networks.

**Online Learning:** ★★★★★  
UCW received full marks for student-faculty engagement, student services and technology, application per enrolment, track record, commitment to online learning and student interaction and high marks for online outsourcing.

**Social Responsibility:** ★★★★★  
UCW received full marks for environmental impact, funds for community investment and charity work and regional human capital development.

**Inclusiveness:** ★★★★★  
UCW received full marks for disabled access, scholarships and bursaries and low-income outreach.

**Internationalization:** ★★★★★  
UCW received full marks for international diversity, international support centre, international students and international faculty.

**Specialist Criteria – MBA program:** ★★★★★  
UCW received full marks for accreditations, applications per place and international students, and high marks for student satisfaction, graduate employment rate and faculty-student ratio.

# UCW AT-A-GLANCE

UCW students come from more than 110 countries around the world and include Canadian citizens, permanent residents and visiting students who contribute to the diversity and richness of the University.

**14,000+** STUDENTS      **110+** COUNTRIES STUDENTS ARE FROM

**17-62** STUDENTS' AGES      **2** DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER CAMPUSES

**349** STUDENT-SUPPORT STAFF      **412** FULL-TIME AND SESSIONAL FACULTY



## Public vs. Private Institutions

University Canada West was established in 2004 as an independent institution providing quality education to undergraduate and graduate students. While UCW is a private institution, the University is held to the same standards as public universities in British Columbia.

In order to operate, both public and private institutions must abide by the rules and regulations set out by British Columbia's Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, which provides leadership and direction for post-secondary education and skills training systems in BC.

The government of British Columbia, through the Degree Quality Assessment Board, has approved UCW to offer the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts in Business Communication
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Master of Business Administration
- Associate of Arts

The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills has provided unconditional reaffirmation of UCW's status as a university based on their regular quality review of our programming.

# Accreditations & Designations

Accreditations, memberships and designations are important to a university because they externally validate the quality of the education provided. UCW is recognized by the following organizations for its high-quality education:



**The Education Quality Assurance (EQA)** designation identifies BC public and private post-secondary institutions that have met or exceeded provincial government-recognized standards for quality assurance and consumer protection. UCW has received permission from EQA to use its seal on its materials.



University Canada West has earned **ACBSP Global Business Accreditation** for its MBA and BCom degree programs. The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs accredits business, accounting and business-related programs at the associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degree levels worldwide.



University Canada West is a member of the **BC Transfer System (BCCAT)** with hundreds of credit transfer arrangements to other post-secondary institutions.



**EduCanada** is a brand that supports international education in Canada. EduCanada and the leaf design is a trademark of the Government of Canada and is subject to a Master Licence Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC) and Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development (DFATD).



**Languages Canada** is Canada's national language education association representing more than 225 private and public language education members that offer accredited English and French programs. UCW's University Access Program is accredited by Languages Canada, another mark of distinction.



The **Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)** connects educators, students and businesses to achieve a common goal: to create the next generation of great leaders. UCW is a member of AACSB and their mission is to foster engagement, accelerate innovation and amplify impact in business education.



As a **BGA** member institution, students of UCW are able to access BGA's individual membership, which offers a range of tools and resources designed to support the professional and personal development of business students and graduates, free of charge.



University Canada West has earned **NCMA National Accreditation** for its MBA and BCom degree programs from CIM | Chartered Managers Canada. CIM | Chartered Managers Canada offers a comprehensive National Accreditation process that reviews college and university programs and grants equivalency to the association's Chartered Management Program.



**Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE)** is an association of educational institutions that are engaged in internationalizing education programs, student services, campuses and communities. They seek to enhance their members' knowledge and skills in cross-cultural communications, managing services for inbound and outbound students and developing capacity-building projects abroad.



University Canada West is proud to be officially recognized as an affiliate collegiate chapter of the **American Marketing Association**. The University launched the UCW Marketing Association Collegiate Chapter in January 2020 to bring together students and marketing professionals to connect, learn and find inspiration.



University Canada West is pleased to be a member of the **Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)**, furthering campus efforts to build a thriving, equitable and ecologically just world. Through membership in AASHE, UCW receives support in advancing its sustainability initiatives throughout its campuses and in the community.



University Canada West is pleased to be a member of the **BC Tech Association**. BC Tech is a non-profit dedicated to making BC the best place to grow and scale a tech company. The Association is a trusted and respected voice for the tech sector in British Columbia.



UCW is now a member of **EFMD Global**, a renowned organization dedicated to management development worldwide. This membership places UCW within an exclusive global network of leading business schools, offering unparalleled opportunities for collaboration, benchmarking, and professional growth.



# Vancouver House Campus

## AWARDS & ACCOLADES

- In November 2021, Vancouver House was honoured with two **AFBC Architecture Awards of Excellence**, the highest level of architecture awards in British Columbia – a Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture and a Design Excellence Award.
- Best Tall Building Worldwide at the **18th Annual Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) Awards**.
- Best Tall Building 100-199 Metres 2021 Award of Excellence at the **2021 CTBUH Annual Awards**.
- Best Tall Residential or Hotel Building 2021 Award of Excellence at the **2021 CTBUH Annual Awards**.
- In 2019, CNN named Vancouver House one of the “**most anticipated buildings set to shape the world in 2020.**”
- Awarded Future Project of the Year at the **2015 World Architecture Festival Awards** in Singapore.



1461 Granville St, Vancouver, BC V6Z 0E5

## University Canada West opened its Vancouver House Campus in October 2020.

The campus is part of the stunning Vancouver House development. In 2019, CNN named the globally recognized project designed by star Danish architect Bjarke Ingels of BIG, one of the “**most anticipated buildings set to shape the world.**”

Like nearly all excellent architecture, the design for Vancouver House arose directly out of its context. In looking for a solution to this complex site, Bjarke Ingels did not begrudgingly accommodate its restrictions; he used those limitations to inform a shape that is as beautiful as it is unique. Awarded Future Project of the Year at the 2015 World Architecture Awards in Singapore for its innovation and its beauty, Vancouver House has since captured the world’s imagination.

Applying the “Total Design” philosophy to an entire district and building on the success of Granville Island across False Creek, Vancouver House is the active core of a new waterfront neighbourhood called the Beach District.

The Beach District community is poised to become a year-round destination with a unique mix of restaurants and cafes, one-off concepts, shops and services, food carts and craft fairs, all animated by a range of street celebrations, block parties and pop up events.



UCW’s 90,000-square-foot Vancouver House Campus is located downtown between the West End and Yaletown, just steps from Sunset Beach, English Bay and Vancouver’s 28-kilometre seawall, the world’s longest uninterrupted waterfront path.

# West Pender Campus

Since moving into The London Building, UCW completed a major reconfiguration to the lobby, significant improvements to the first and second floors, and renovations to other floors to expand the number of classrooms and add additional amenities for students, faculty and staff.

The campus is steps away from public transit, including the Waterfront SkyTrain Station, bus routes and the SeaBus terminal.

The lively and diverse neighbourhood is full of restaurants, stores, entertainment options, shopping centres and gym facilities.

Many of the world's biggest companies have offices within walking distance of our West Pender Campus, providing students with unparalleled access to a network of prospective employers.



In 2014, UCW opened its West Pender Campus in The London Building, a historic office building in the heart of downtown Vancouver.

**A century old, heritage building, an inspiring environment for learning.**



 626 W Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1V9

# Student Services and Support

University Canada West offers a range of services for students. Our Student Affairs and Academic Affairs staff work to foster an environment that supports all students both academically and personally.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISING

UCW is committed to supporting students throughout their academic journey, and our International Student Advisors (ISAs), who are regulated Canadian immigration consultants (RCICs), are available to assist students before they arrive in Canada and throughout their time at UCW.

### ISAs can help in several areas, including:

- Canadian immigration documents and regulations (e.g., study permit, visa, work eligibility)
- Medical insurance and the Canadian health care system
- Intercultural transition support and referrals
- Travel restrictions and requirements to enter Canada

Students can attend drop-in sessions available during different time slots throughout the day. ISAs also host different information sessions on important subjects for students.

**ISAs offer services in various languages, including English, Farsi, Hindi, Punjabi, Portuguese, Mandarin and Cantonese.**

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

UCW Academic Advisors work to help students plan their academic development. They can assist with:

- Ensuring program and course selections are consistent with academic and career goals
- Understanding UCW rules, regulations and policies
- Course registration, changes, add/drop requests and withdrawals
- Resources to aid student learning and development within UCW
- Ensuring students graduate in a timely manner

## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

UCW's Student Affairs department organizes New Student Orientation (NSO) the week before each new term starts.

NSO is a mandatory orientation week that offers guidance to help new students transition as smoothly as possible to life in Canada and at UCW. It gives students the opportunity to meet professors, department chairs, the President and other current students. NSO is also an opportunity for students to meet staff from different departments that can help them with navigating through the MyUCW Student Portal (IT), course registration (Registrar's Office), course selection (Academic Advising) and more.

## GUARDME STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

All UCW students have access to the GuardMe Student Support Program (GMSSP).

GuardMe offers free support tailored to the unique needs of students. Students can access real-time and appointment-based support for any school, health or general life concern in multiple languages.

The GuardMe program is available 24/7, all year round and is available on multiple platforms.

Through the program, students can reach out to an advisor or counsellor through a range of platforms, including through the app, messenger, the webchat on their website, or via voice and video call.

Students also have access to different articles and videos on the GuardMe website, which covers a range of topics, including personal health, relationships, living abroad and student life.

## PEER2PEER PROGRAM

The Peer2Peer Program provides a welcoming experience for all new students by helping them build a sense of community, establishing a committed network, providing volunteer opportunities and offering support for a smooth transition into Vancouver and UCW.

Through the Peer2Peer Program, students receive support and guidance from peer leaders. Peer leaders are current students who share their own experiences and knowledge with new students. These peer leaders provide information and direct students to the correct resources.

## CENTRE FOR LEARNING SUCCESS

The Centre for Learning Success provides access to evidence-based integrated learning programs designed to support student achievement.

A major component of the Centre for Learning Success is the Learning4Success workshops. These mandatory weekly workshops start in the first week of each term. Every week for the first four weeks of their first term, students are required to complete a different Learning4Success workshop covering topics like academic integrity, improving academic writing, preparing to study for and take exams and key skills to collaborating successfully.

The centre also offers a series of ongoing workshops available to all UCW students covering key skills, including effective presentations, academic reading and time management.

Students can also book one-on-one appointments with a UCW Learning Strategist who can help them build their skills toolkits and work to overcome any academic challenges.



# Why Study in Canada?

Canada is one of the best countries to live, work and study in, so it's no surprise that Canada was ranked fourth best country for quality of life in a [2024 US News & World Report](#).



Research has shown that Canadian college and university students, both domestic and international, graduate with strong earning potential. Canadian post-secondary institutions position graduates for a successful future and rewarding careers. Between 2009 and 2019, Canada created 1.8 million new jobs for graduates.

Canada also ranked as one of the top 10 countries in the world on [CS Global Partner's World Citizenship Report](#) and ranked highly in Health and Security, Economic Opportunity, Financial Freedom, Quality of Life and Global Mobility.



Canada currently ranks 11<sup>th</sup> out of 163 countries on the 2024 Global Peace Index.

# Why Study in Vancouver?

Vancouver is consistently ranked one of the most livable cities in Canada and in the world.

In 2021, Vancouver was ranked one of the world's best cities in a report by [Resonance](#), which considered factors like place, product, programming, people, prosperity and promotion. Vancouver was also named one of the most liveable cities in the world in 2024 according to an annual report from international magazine [The Economist](#).

The job market in Vancouver is also booming and opening several doors of opportunity for students and graduates in the city. From 2021 to 2031, the BC Labour Market Outlook projects 1,004,000 new job openings in BC. Throughout the Vancouver region in particular, employment demand is anticipated to increase 1.4% on average every year over the next 10 years.

Vancouver's homegrown tech industry leaders, such as Avigilon, Ballard Power Systems, Global Relay, Hootsuite, Sierra Wireless, STEMCELL Technologies, TELUS, Westport Fuel Systems and Zymeworks, reside in BC alongside multinational tech giants Amazon, Electronic Arts, Microsoft, SAP and Sony. These companies anchor a tech community with world-class research facilities, top-ranked universities and over 9,500 tech companies employing thousands of workers. Moreover, in the last 15 years, [BC's tech sector](#) has outpaced the province's overall economy, growing by 91% to generate over \$15 billion in GDP.



# Things to Do in Vancouver

When you visit your child in Vancouver, there will be a plethora of fun, family-friendly activities to do together.

Vancouver is one of Canada's most stunning and ethnically diverse cities. Surrounded by scenic views, Vancouver has majestic mountains, sparkling oceans, rainforests and a mild climate.

In addition to a bounty of family-friendly activities and attractions and more than 230 parks and green spaces,

## 1. Whistler

Whistler is a two-hour drive from Vancouver, and a dream city for the adventurous, who love to explore the great outdoors. With stunning mountain terrains and trails, there is always something to do in Whistler year-round, whether it's hiking, skiing, snowboarding or even just exploring Whistler Village.

## 2. Victoria

Victoria is the capital of British Columbia and is only a 30-minute flight or one-and-a-half-hour scenic ferry ride away from Vancouver. The city of Victoria is known for its British colonial architecture, which includes the Parliament buildings, the Fairmont Empress, Craigdarroch and Hatley Castles and the Butchart Gardens.

## 3. Tofino

Tofino is a must-visit destination for many locals and tourists alike. Located on the west coast of Vancouver Island, Tofino is known for its endless beaches, surfing waves and rich arts and culture. Visit Tofino during the winter season to storm watch and see the waves roar and the wind howl.

Vancouver boasts 24 community centres, nine indoor and five outdoor swimming pools and eight indoor ice rinks.

The city also offers world-class shopping, gourmet restaurants, outstanding live entertainment, sporting events, theatre, outdoor adventure and amusing sights and attractions.

## 4. Kelowna

Kelowna is an hour's flight or a four-hour drive from Vancouver. The city of Kelowna is in the Okanagan Valley and is often called Canada's California. This destination is a lake community surrounded by award-winning wineries.

## 5. Seattle

Seattle is a city in the United States and is only a three-hour drive away from downtown Vancouver. The land border between Canada and the United States allows for an easy weekend getaway or even day trip. Seattle is home to the Space Needle, Museum of Pop Culture, Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum, Pike Place Market and Seattle Great Wheel.

**Surrounded by scenic views, Vancouver has majestic mountains, sparkling oceans, rainforests and a mild climate.**



1. Whistler



2. Victoria



3. Tofino



4. Kelowna



5. Seattle

## Vancouver's Green Spaces

**Vancouver is home to more than 230 parks and green spaces, including the world-famous Stanley Park.**

At 405 hectares, Stanley Park is one of the largest urban parks in North America and is larger than New York City's Central Park. It is home to approximately half a million trees, including many that are hundreds of years old. Stanley Park features kilometres of trails, beautiful beaches, local wildlife and natural historical landmarks.

For more attractions and things to do in British Columbia, visit [www.hellobc.com/travel-ideas](http://www.hellobc.com/travel-ideas).



Credit: Destination BC/Kindred & Scout



### The Vancouver Seawall

One of Vancouver's top attractions is a paved pathway that stretches 28 kilometres around the city's waterfront. Known locally as the Seawall, following this route is one of the best ways to discover Vancouver.

### Vancouver Attractions

Vancouver and the surrounding areas host a number of fun, interactive and stunning attractions, including the Vancouver Art Gallery, VanDusen Botanical Garden, Science World, Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver Aquarium, FlyOver Canada, Capilano Suspension Bridge and Grouse Mountain, just to name a few.

**UCW's Vancouver House Campus is located just steps away from the Seawall.**



# The Value of Studying Abroad

Having the opportunity to study abroad is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for your child.

**Studying abroad leads to a vast range of benefits, including new career pathways, connections and networks, personal and professional development, life experiences and more.**

By studying at UCW, your child will have the chance to immerse themselves in a multicultural Canadian culture, meet new lifelong friends, develop competitive skills and build a career.

Studying abroad in Vancouver will also lead to an array of career opportunities for your child. Vancouver is BC's major commercial and financial centre, with strong trading, transport and economic links to the rest of the world. As a city home to some of Canada's top companies, including Amazon, CIBC, SAP, Nike, PwC, GoldCorp, Salesforce and Samsung, your child, as a UCW student, will have unparalleled access to a network of prospective employers. Over the past few years, job growth has also been strong in British Columbia and unemployment has dropped. It is predicted that there will be 861,000 job openings in BC between now and 2029. This includes the creation of 263,000 new jobs due to economic growth and the need to replace 598,000 workers who will permanently leave the workforce, largely due to retirement.

With these new job openings, your child will have doors of opportunity open up for them in their career.



# Finances

## Tuition Fees

The decision to support your child's learning and education is one of the biggest and most rewarding investments you can make in your life. Tuition fees for each program offered at UCW can be found below.

### Associate of Arts



Scan or click on the QR code to see AA Tuition Fees

### Bachelor of Commerce



Scan or click on the QR code to see BCom Tuition Fees

### Bachelor of Arts in Business Communication



Scan or click on the QR code to see BABC Tuition Fees

### Master of Business Administration



Scan or click on the QR code to see MBA Tuition Fees

### MBA Foundation



Scan or click on the QR code to see MBA Foundation Tuition Fees

### University Access Program



Scan or click on the QR code to see UAP Tuition Fees

## Awards and Scholarships

University Canada West offers a number of entrance awards, scholarships and grants to new students applying to a UCW undergraduate or graduate program. Your child may qualify for one of the following scholarships:

### Special Targeted Regional Award Program

#### APPLICABLE PROGRAMS:

Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts in Business Communication, Associate of Arts

#### ELIGIBILITY

This grant is open to international students from: China / Mongolia / South Korea / Türkiye.

#### AWARD VALUE

AA, BCom or BABC: \$5,000. MBA: \$8,655

### Middle East Regional Grant

#### APPLICABLE PROGRAMS:

Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts in Business Communication, Associate of Arts

#### ELIGIBILITY

This grant is open to international students from Iran.

#### AWARD VALUE

AA: \$9,450. BCom or BABC: \$18,900. MBA: \$9,720

### Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Grant

#### APPLICABLE PROGRAMS:

Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts in Business Communication, Associate of Arts

#### ELIGIBILITY

This grant is open to international students from: Azerbaijan / Armenia / Belarus / Georgia / Kazakhstan / Kyrgyzstan / Moldova / Russia / Tajikistan / Turkmenistan / Uzbekistan.

#### AWARD VALUE

AA: \$9,450. BCom or BABC: \$18,900. MBA: \$9,720

**Scholarships, awards and grants do not apply to online programs.**

## Americas Grant

### APPLICABLE PROGRAMS

Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts in Business Communication, Associate of Arts, MBA Foundation

### ELIGIBILITY

This grant is open to international applicants who are citizens from one of the following countries: Anguilla / Antigua & Barbuda / Argentina / Aruba / Bahamas / Barbados / Belize / Bolivia / Brazil / British Virgin Islands / Caribbean Netherlands / Cayman Islands / Chile / Colombia / Costa Rica / Cuba / Curacao / Dominica / Dominican Republic / Ecuador / El Salvador / Falkland Islands / French Guiana / Grenada / Guadeloupe / Guatemala / Guyana / Haiti / Honduras / Jamaica / Martinique / Mexico / Montserrat / Nicaragua / Panama / Paraguay / Peru / Puerto Rico / Saint Barthelemy / Saint Kitts & Nevis / Saint Lucia / Saint Martin / Saint Vincent & Grenadines / Suriname / Trinidad & Tobago / United States of America / Uruguay / Venezuela

Program	2025 Amount
Associate of Arts	\$15,120
Bachelor of Arts in Business Communication	\$30,240
Bachelor of Commerce	\$30,240
Master of Business Administration	\$8,655
MBA Foundation*	\$4,985

\*The award amount for MBAF is issued as the student takes MBAF 501, MBAF 502 and MBAF 504.

## Scholarships for Academic Excellence

### APPLICABLE PROGRAMS

Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts in Business Communication, Associate of Arts

### ELIGIBILITY

These scholarships are for international students with a CGPA of 4 or higher.

Total scholarship for duration of AA		Total scholarship for duration of BCom or BABC		Total scholarship for duration of MBA	
Cumulative GPA	Amount	Cumulative GPA	Amount	Cumulative GPA	Amount
4.3	\$4,000	4.3	\$8,000	4.3	\$4,000
4	\$2,000	4	\$4,000	4	\$2,000



## Southeast Asia (SEA) Regional Grant

### APPLICABLE PROGRAMS

Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts in Business Communication, Associate of Arts

### ELIGIBILITY

This grant is open to international students from: Bhutan / Brunei / Cambodia / Indonesia / Laos / Malaysia / Myanmar / Philippines / Singapore / Thailand / Timor-Leste / Vietnam.

### AWARD VALUE

AA: \$6,804. BCom or BABC: \$13,608. MBA: \$8,655

## MBA Foundation Study Grant

### APPLICABLE PROGRAMS

MBA with MBA Foundation

### ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for the Award, you must meet the following requirements:

- Submit a completed scholarship application form when applying for admission to UCW;
- Submit a Personal Statement describing how undertaking the Master of Business Administration and MBA Foundation programs will impact your career and personal goals;
- Complete the MBA Foundation program and the MBA degree program within 36 months of starting your MBA Foundation courses; and
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.00 out of 4.33.

### AWARD VALUE

Domestic Students: \$3,500  
International Students: \$5,000

## MBA Excellence Scholarship for Continuing Students

### APPLICABLE PROGRAMS

Master of Business Administration

### ELIGIBILITY

This award is open to both domestic applicants and international applicants who have excellent academic achievement in their MBA qualification with UCW. Students must have completed 27 credits with a minimum 3.80 cumulative grade point average\*.

\*The CGPA achievement is calculated by only using the grade points of the first 27 credits completed for the MBA degree program (including transfer credits).

### AWARD VALUE

\$2,000

### CONTINUANCE

To remain eligible for the Scholarship and receive the tuition disbursement, students must maintain a 3.80 cumulative GPA in all MBA courses.



# Home Away From Home

UCW has partnered with 4stay and GEC to provide private or shared accommodation at exclusive rates. New students also have other housing options available to them from apartment rentals, homestays and more.

Learn more about accommodation options by visiting

[ucanwest.ca/housing](https://ucanwest.ca/housing)



University Canada West has partnered with **4stay** and **GEC** for off-campus housing for our students.



# Living Costs in Greater Vancouver

## GENERAL METRO VANCOUVER ONGOING LIVING EXPENSES

HOUSING	\$ PER MONTH	\$ PER YEAR
Rent*	\$1,500 to \$2,500	\$18,000 to \$30,000
Utilities (hydro, gas, electricity, etc.)	\$50 to \$150	\$600 to \$1,800
Tenant insurance	\$25 to \$35	\$300 to \$420
Total	\$1,575 to \$2,685	\$18,900 to \$32,220

## RICHMOND ONGOING LIVING EXPENSES

HOUSING	\$ PER MONTH	\$ PER YEAR
Rent*	\$1,500 to \$2,000	\$18,000 to \$24,000
Utilities (hydro, gas, electricity, etc.)	\$50 to \$150	\$600 to \$1,800
Tenant insurance	\$25 to \$35	\$300 to \$420
Total	\$1,575 to \$2,185	\$18,900 to \$26,220

## SURREY ONGOING LIVING EXPENSES

HOUSING	\$ PER MONTH	\$ PER YEAR
Rent*	\$1,400 to \$1,900	\$16,800 to \$22,800
Utilities (hydro, gas, electricity, etc.)	\$50 to \$150	\$600 to \$1,800
Tenant insurance	\$25 to \$35	\$300 to \$420
Total	\$1,475 to \$2,085	\$17,700 to \$25,020

## COQUITLAM ONGOING LIVING EXPENSES

HOUSING	\$ PER MONTH	\$ PER YEAR
Rent*	\$1,500 to \$2,000	\$18,000 to \$24,000
Utilities (hydro, gas, electricity, etc.)	\$50 to \$150	\$600 to \$1,800
Tenant insurance	\$25 to \$35	\$300 to \$420
Total	\$1,575 to \$2,185	\$18,900 to \$26,220

## NORTH VANCOUVER ONGOING LIVING EXPENSES

HOUSING	\$ PER MONTH	\$ PER YEAR
Rent*	\$1,900 to \$2,500	\$22,800 to \$30,000
Utilities (hydro, gas, electricity, etc.)	\$50 to \$150	\$600 to \$1,800
Tenant insurance	\$25 to \$35	\$300 to \$420
Total	\$1,975 to \$2,685	\$23,700 to \$32,220

## WEST VANCOUVER ONGOING LIVING EXPENSES

HOUSING	\$ PER MONTH	\$ PER YEAR
Rent*	\$1,900 to \$2,500	\$22,800 to \$30,000
Utilities (hydro, gas, electricity, etc.)	\$50 to \$150	\$600 to \$1,800
Tenant insurance	\$25 to \$35	\$300 to \$420
Total	\$1,975 to \$2,685	\$23,700 to \$32,220

\* Shared accommodations will cost less

# Currency

It's a good idea for your child to have some Canadian currency with them upon arrival in Vancouver, as there is a chance that their debit/credit cards may be incompatible with the local system. The abbreviation for the Canadian dollar is CAD.

See images of Canadian bills and coins for your reference below. Please note that Canada does not use pennies anymore.

## CANADIAN NOTES



## CANADIAN COINS

**5¢ (COMMONLY CALLED A NICKEL)**



**10¢ (COMMONLY CALLED A DIME)**



**25¢ (COMMONLY CALLED A QUARTER)**



**\$1 (COMMONLY CALLED A LOONIE)**



**\$2 (COMMONLY CALLED A TOONIE)**



# Taxes and Tipping

In British Columbia, tax is not included in the prices shown in stores and restaurants. Tax is added at the time of payment. Different tax percentages are applied to items according to each province.

In BC, we pay 7% for the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and 5% for the Goods & Services Tax (GST).

Gratuity (tipping) is essentially a gift of money, over and above payment due for a service. A "tip" is given to your server at a restaurant, a taxicab driver, a hairdresser, etc.

A gratuity is not included in your bill. It is customary to tip approximately 15-20% on the total bill before taxes, 5-10% for poor services and 25% for exceptional services. With groups of 10 or more in restaurants, tips are usually included in the bill.

Although tipping is not mandatory, it is a common courtesy in Canada and the USA.

# Banking and Credit Cards

There are several major banking institutions in the Vancouver area and in Canada that you can choose from to open an account depending on your needs. The three most common accounts are Chequing, Savings and US Dollar accounts.

CHEQUING ACCOUNT	SAVINGS ACCOUNT	US DOLLAR ACCOUNT
------------------	-----------------	-------------------

- Day-to-day banking
- Pay bills online
- Send money
- Debit transactions
- ATM withdrawals
- Low interest rate
- Debit card

- Different than a chequing account
- Generates interest
- May have limits on withdrawals and transactions allowed

- For people who perform a lot of transactions in US dollars, or who travel to other countries where US dollars are used

## MAJOR BANKS IN CANADA INCLUDE:

- Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
- Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD Bank)
- Bank of Nova Scotia
- Bank of Montreal (BMO)
- Tangerine Bank
- CIBC
- HSBC Bank

Each bank offers different types of services for students, so you and your child will need to compare which type of account will work best for them. Students can open a Student Account with most banks without paying a monthly fee. Some banks offer extra incentives for students, such as free movies and discounts at certain stores.

## CLOSEST BANKS TO THE VANCOUVER HOUSE CAMPUS:

- Scotiabank - 1408 Continental Street
- Bank of Montreal - 1004 Hamilton Street
- RBC Royal Bank - 1010 Hornby Street
- TD Canada Trust - 1200 Burrard Street
- HSBC - 1196 Pacific Boulevard

## CLOSEST BANKS TO THE WEST PENDER CAMPUS:

- HSBC - 885 West Georgia Street
- TD - 700 West Georgia Street
- RBC - 1025 West Georgia Street
- Bank of Montreal - 595 Burrard Street
- CIBC - 400 Burrard Street
- Scotiabank - 510 Burrard Street
- Coast Capital - 1075 West Georgia Street
- Vancity - 898 West Pender Street

# Phone and Internet

## Phone calls in Vancouver

**Country code: +1**

**Area codes in Vancouver:  
236, 604 or 778**

There are several phone and internet providers to choose from in Vancouver. If you plan to call your child frequently, purchase a phone card to use with their cell phone or call through a wifi-based service like WhatsApp.

The average range for a phone plan in Vancouver is around \$45 to \$80 per month, depending on your child's needs.

Phone cards can be purchased at many drug stores, supermarkets and convenience stores. They can be used for both local and long-distance calls.

Once your child finds a suitable phone and internet provider, they can use applications and programs to make free calls from their phone or computer. Please note that data charges may apply when using the following apps:

- Skype
- Viber
- FaceTime
- WhatsApp
- Facebook Messenger
- Google Hangouts/Meet/Duo
- Zoom
- Line
- WeChat
- Tango

If you would like your child to have internet, phone and/or TV, it's usually better to get a package deal for a better price.

Tip: If your child already has a phone plan they would like to use, but needs a number with a Vancouver area code, there are providers online that sell phone numbers for approximately \$5 per month and forward it to their existing phone number.

### CELL PHONE PROVIDERS CLOSE TO UCW'S VANCOUVER HOUSE & WEST PENDER CAMPUSES:

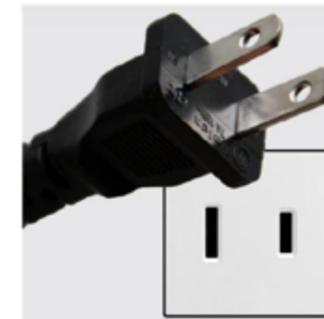
- Fido – 1191 Davie Street/700 West Georgia Street
- Koodo – 700 West Georgia Street
- Rogers – 601 Robson Street/700 West Georgia Street
- Bell – 700 West Georgia Street
- Telus – 2706 Granville Street/700 West Georgia Street
- Virgin – 1087 Robson Street/700 West Georgia Street
- Freedom – 116 Davie Street/555 West Hastings Street
- PhoneBox – 658 Seymour Street



# Power Plugs

Depending on your country's electrical appliances, your child may need a travel adaptor, which is a device that allows them to plug any electrical appliance into a foreign electrical socket.

It is important to note that a travel adaptor does not convert the voltage or frequency.



Type A plug



Type B plug

In Canada, there are two plug types, types A and B. Plug type A is a plug that has two flat parallel pins. Plug type B is a plug that has two flat parallel pins and a ground pin. Canada operates on a 120V supply voltage and 60HZ.



# Health Care

International students are required by the BC government to have medical insurance for the duration of their studies in Vancouver. Your child can choose either private or public medical insurance, depending on their needs. It is highly recommended that your child brings a copy of any medical prescriptions, notes or information to Canada.

During their time in Vancouver, your child can call:

- Non-emergency medical questions – 811
- Emergency calls – 911

It may cost a lot for your child to see a doctor or receive any health support services without medical insurance.

Here are some estimations:

- \$100 - \$150 to see a doctor
- \$350 - \$750 to ride in an ambulance
- \$620 - \$1,500 for an emergency visit, depending on the condition

## THE CLOSEST HOSPITALS TO UCW:

- St. Paul's Hospital – 1081 Burrard Street
- Vancouver General Hospital – 899 West 12th Avenue

## Walk-In Clinics

There are also several walk-in clinics that your child can go to for medical services. Make sure they have a Health Care Number or health insurance as it may be extremely expensive otherwise.

## CLOSEST WALK-IN CLINICS TO THE VANCOUVER HOUSE CAMPUS:

- Granville Medical Clinic - 2578 Granville Street
- Loyal Medical Clinic - 1055 West Georgia Street
- Care Point Medical Clinic - 1123 Davie Street

## CLOSEST WALK-IN CLINICS TO THE WEST PENDER CAMPUS:

- Ultima Medicentre - Plaza level, 1055 Dunsmuir Street
- Stein Medical Clinic - 777 Hornby Street, #800
- Sina Medical - 505 Smithe Street

## Guard.me

Guard.me is private student health insurance mandatory for all new international students that covers emergency health conditions for their first term with UCW, while they wait to receive the public Medical Services Plan – MSP.

To subscribe to Guard.me, students can visit [guard.me/ucw](http://guard.me/ucw) or contact the Student Affairs department for assistance.

## WALK-IN CLINICS ACCEPTING GUARD.ME:

- Main Care Medical Clinic - 7297 Main Street
- Dawson Medical Clinic - 4238 Dawson Street
- Pacific Medical Clinic - 6184 Fraser Street
- J-Von Medical Centre - 4468 Beresford Street
- Total Life Care Medical Inc. - 250-1755 Kingsway Street

There are other clinics accepting Guard.me. Please visit [guard.me](http://guard.me) for more information and locations of other clinics accepting Guard.me.

# Religion

Canada is a multicultural country with people from different backgrounds with different ethnicities, beliefs and religions.

Some of the most common religions practiced in Vancouver include Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Islam, Hindu and Judaism.

University Canada West's Vancouver House Campus has a multi-faith room where your child can pray or worship during their breaks or free time.

There are also places of worship in downtown Vancouver and throughout Metro Vancouver.

## PLACES OF WORSHIP NEAR THE VANCOUVER HOUSE CAMPUS

MUSLIM	HINDU	CHRISTIAN	JEWISH
Al Masjid Al Jamia, Vancouver 655 W 8th Avenue 604-655-5906	Sri Ganesh Temple 3525 Fraser Street 604-879-3505	St. Andrew's Wesley United Church 1022 Nelson Street 604-683-4574	Chabad of Downtown 1260 Howe Street 778-688-1273
Granville Musallah Masjid 695 Smithe Street	ISKCON Vancouver 5462 Marine Drive 604-433-9728	Westside Church 777 Homer Street 604-263-2314	

## PLACES OF WORSHIP NEAR THE WEST PENDER CAMPUS

MUSLIM	HINDU	CHRISTIAN	SIKHISM
Granville Musallah Masjid 695 Smithe Street <i>Musallah and Sunni</i>	Shree Mahalakshmi Temple 467 East 11th Avenue 604-874-0175	Westside Church 777 Homer Street 604-263-2314 <i>Protestant</i>	Akali Singh Sikh Society 1890 Skeena Steet 604-254-3572
Vancouver Public Library Alice McKay Room, 350 West Georgia Street 604-897-9349 <i>Juma</i>		Holy Rosary Cathedral 646 Richards Street 604-682-6774 <i>Catholic</i>	Sikh Temple 8000 Ross Street 604-322-5610

# Diversity in Vancouver

Vancouver is a vibrant and bustling city, so your child will have the chance to experience new cultures, meet new people and even connect with their own community.

As a city with many different cultural groups, religions and ethnicities, Vancouver is home to people of many different backgrounds, including Chinese, South Asian, Filipino, Korean, Southeast Asian, Latin American, Japanese, African and Arabian descent.

Aside from English, some of the popularly spoken languages in the city include Mandarin, Cantonese, Punjabi, Tagalog, Korean, Farsi, Spanish, Hindi, Russian, Portuguese, French and Vietnamese.

The city has a vibrant historic Chinatown. Established in the 1890's, Vancouver's Chinatown is the largest in Canada and the third-largest in North America.

Metro Vancouver is also home to several shops, restaurants and businesses featuring authentic Chinese food, delicacies and products.

The city's historic Punjabi Market area, also known as Little India, will celebrate its 55th anniversary in 2025. It is the epicentre for the city's Indo-Canadian community and its annual Vaisakhi Parade, which draws more than 100,000 people and has become the region's largest single-day festival.



Photo: Nemo Dudak | Flickr

# Sports

British Columbia is home to several professional and amateur sports teams. The most popular include:



## THE VANCOUVER CANUCKS

The city's professional ice hockey team since 1970, which competes in the National Hockey League (NHL) as a member of the Pacific Division of the Western Conference. The Canucks play their home games at Rogers Arena in downtown Vancouver. Tickets to watch games in-person are available for the public to purchase. Games are also televised on local and national TV channels.



## THE BC LIONS

British Columbia's professional football team since 1954, the BC Lions compete in the West Division in the Canadian Football League (CFL). The Lions play their home games at BC Place in downtown Vancouver. Tickets to watch games in-person are available for the public to purchase. Games are also televised on local and national TV channels.



## THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC

A Canadian professional soccer team based in Vancouver. The Whitecaps FC compete in Major League Soccer as a member club of the league's Western Conference. The Whitecaps play their home games at BC Place in downtown Vancouver. Tickets to watch games in-person are available for the public to purchase, and most games are also televised on local and national TV channels.



## THE VANCOUVER CANADIANS

A Minor League Baseball team located in Vancouver and are members of the High-A West. The Canadians play their home games at Nat Bailey Stadium in Vancouver and tickets are available for the public to purchase.



## THE VANCOUVER BANDITS

A Canadian professional basketball team based in Langley, British Columbia. The Bandits compete in the Canadian Elite Basketball League (CEBL) and play home games at Langley Events Centre. Tickets are available for the public to purchase.

# How to Visit Your Child

We understand that you, as a parent, may want to visit your child from time to time.

When your child is studying in Canada, you can apply for a visitor visa to enter Canada. There is no requirement about how long your child needs to stay in Canada before you can apply for a visitor visa.

Before visiting your child in Canada, there are a few steps you need to complete:

The first is to visit the **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)** website for information on how to apply for a visitor visa, the processing time for your application and the application requirements.

You will need to register for a **GCKey account on the IRCC website**. After registering online, you will need to fill out a questionnaire to receive a detailed document of what you need to do to visit your child in Canada.

To apply for a visitor visa, you will need to prove your relationship with your child, your child's current active student status, the purpose of your visa and proof of sufficient financial support.

Some things that may be required for application include:

- Your child's enrolment letter
- Your child's valid study permit
- Your child's transcript
- Your bank statement
- Your work certificate
- Proof of your relationship with your child
- Digital photos of you and anyone else planning to travel
- An invitation letter written by your child

Document requirements may change and vary as each situation is unique. Please refer to the **IRCC website** for up-to-date information on what you need to submit.

While University Canada West does not issue letters to international students, your child can request a Confirmation of Enrolment (COE) letter from UCW, write their own invitation letter and submit all other required documents for your visitor visa.

To better prepare for your trip to Canada, you can check and confirm the **processing time on the IRCC website** to see how long it will take to receive results from the IRCC\*. Make sure to plan enough time to apply, book your flight and complete any other testing requirements after your visitor visa is approved.

Unless written otherwise on a stamp in your passport by the border officer, you may stay as a visitor in Canada for up to six months.

To see if you are eligible to enter Canada, please refer to the **questionnaire on the IRCC website**.

If you are not certain of how to prepare your application, we encourage you to consider hiring an authorized representative to submit the application for you. Authorized representatives can be lawyers or immigration consultants licensed by CICC. To avoid fraud and scams, please check their licence at **college-ic.ca/protecting-the-public/find-an-immigration-consultant**.

Note that if you are applying to enter Canada to visit your child, you are the principal applicant. Every document and piece of evidence must be submitted by you under your name, not your child's name.

\*If the application is correct and complete, it may be approved by the IRCC. However, if the application is incomplete or missing documents, it may lead to a refusal. In this case, applicants are always welcome to apply again.

# Glossary

**4stay:** a student housing platform for finding off-campus housing and affordable rooms for rent around the UCW campuses and Greater Vancouver.

**Academic Advisors:** help students to plan their academic development.

**CAD:** abbreviation for the Canadian dollar.

**Degree Quality Assessment Board:** an independent advisory board that ensures legislated quality assurance requirements are met for post-secondary education in BC.

**GEC:** a student housing platform for finding accommodation exclusively for UCW international students in one of the largest off-campus student residences in Vancouver.

**Gratuity (tipping):** a gift of money, over and above payment due for a service. A "tip" is given to your server at a restaurant, taxicab driver, hairdresser, etc.

**Guard.me:** private student health insurance mandatory for international students during their first term.

**Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC):** department of the Government of Canada with responsibility for matters dealing with immigration to Canada, refugees and Canadian citizenship.

**International Student Advisors (ISA):** help students with their academic journey before they arrive in Canada and throughout their time at UCW. ISAs offer services in various languages, including English, Farsi, Hindi, Punjabi, Portuguese, Mandarin and Cantonese.

**GuardMe (GMSPP):** provides multilingual, culturally sensitive and gender-inclusive mental health support to UCW students. Support is confidential and available any time of the day or night from anywhere in the world.

**Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills:** a government sector that provides leadership and direction for post-secondary education and skills training systems in British Columbia as well as labour market information and programs.

**MyUCW Student Portal:** online information hub and primary means of communication for students at UCW. Through the portal, students can access course materials, communicate with other students and staff and stay up to date with UCW news and events.

**New Student Orientation (NSO):** a mandatory orientation week that offers guidance to help new students transition as smoothly as possible to life in Canada and at UCW.

**Peer2Peer Program:** a student program that provides a welcoming experience for all new students by helping them build a sense of community, establishing a committed network, providing volunteer opportunities and offering support for a smooth transition into Vancouver and UCW.

**Pennies:** one cent currency that Canada no longer uses.

**QS Stars:** the world's most popular source of comparative data on university performance. The QS Stars rating systems provides an in-depth evaluation that assesses a university based on performance indicators.

**SeaBus:** Vancouver's public transit ferry that goes from downtown Vancouver to North Vancouver.

**SkyTrain:** Vancouver's fully-automated rapid public transit train system. The SkyTrain has three lines, including the Expo Line, Millennium Line and Canada Line.

**The Centre for Learning Success:** provides access to evidence-based integrated learning programs designed to support student achievement.

**UCW:** abbreviation for University Canada West.



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### 2025 Parent Guide

Information in this brochure is correct at the  
time of publication and is subject to change.

## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At University Canada West (UCW), **we acknowledge** that the territories on which UCW and its campuses are situated are the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓ wú7mesh (Squamish) and Sel̓íl witulh/səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We thank them for having cared for this land since time immemorial, honour their graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here and iterate our dedication to valuing the ongoing contributions of Indigenous peoples and communities.