



NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

University of British Columbia, Canada

Fast Facts:

Website:	UBC Vancouver website UBC Okanagan website Exchange webpage
Language of instruction:	English
Semester dates:	Semester 1 (Winter session term 1): September - December Semester 2 (Winter session term 2): January - April
Number of students currently enrolled	Vancouver campus: 59,000 Okanagan campus: 12,000
Campus choices	UBC has two campuses that students may be assigned to: Vancouver and Okanagan. The Vancouver campus is located on a wooded peninsula 12 km from downtown Vancouver. The Okanagan campus is located a 4 hour drive away in the smaller nature-immersed city of Kelowna (Pop: 150,000).
Academic restrictions at a glance <i>Please note: These are guidelines. It is your responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme.</i>	<p>The following are not open to exchange students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School of Audiology and Speech Sciences ▪ School of Journalism ▪ Faculty of Medicine ▪ School of Nursing ▪ Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences ▪ School of Rehabilitation Sciences ▪ UBC Vantage College <p>There are also restrictions on education and English, which may differ by campus. Computer science classes are extremely limited.</p>
General Costs	~\$16,500 CAD for the year, including mandatory insurance costs
About the University	UBC Vancouver's world-class learning opportunities and breathtaking natural setting combine to offer exchange students from around the world an unforgettable study-abroad experience. Active, yet chill. Diverse and global, yet friendly. UBC Okanagan is a tight-knit community. The kind of place where you walk 50 feet and say 'Hi' five times.

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What to expect

Application process

You apply for study exchanges through SWAY. You can find out more about our [study exchange routes here](#), and more about the [application process here](#).

After applying, if you are allocated an exchange place at the University of British Columbia, you will be officially nominated by the International Programmes Team. We will then provide you with your detailed application instructions. **You can ONLY apply to any exchange destination if you have been allocated a place there, and if you are officially nominated by us.**

Academics

For support with the academic side of your exchange, your best point of contact is your Exchange Coordinator, [found here](#). The Exchange Coordinator is a member of academic staff who will be a key contact throughout your exchange.

Academics	
Course Load and Credit Load	<p>You are normally required to take whatever constitutes a full academic credit or course load at your host university.</p> <p>The page linked below contains a copy of the International Exchange Credit Requirements. This outlines the number of credits you are required to take at your host institution. There are also more answers to frequently asked questions about the academic side of your exchange.</p> <p>Academic matters The University of Edinburgh</p>
Courses	<p>The Vancouver campus course schedule can be found here. The Okanagan campus course schedule can be found here. Level 300 courses are equivalent to 3rd year courses.</p> <p>Classes at the Okanagan campus are often less competitive to get into, making it easier to get the classes you want. It also typically offers smaller course sizes than Vancouver.</p> <p>There is more availability for computer science at Okanagan, although it is still competitive.</p> <p>**Please be aware, there may not be an up-to-date course catalogue available at this exchange destination. Please use the information available to get an idea about what you can study while on exchange**</p>

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Academic Restrictions	<p>Please see detailed information on this webpage for Vancouver and on this page for Okanagan.</p> <p><i>Computer Science is a popular subject area and it likely won't be possible for students to enrol in a full course load within the Computer Science area (courses with a CPSC course code). Check courses offered by other subject areas for equivalents.</i></p> <p>Please note: These are guidelines. It is your responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme. Even if there are not restrictions on your degree subject, it does not mean that there are appropriate courses for you. Please check.</p>
Orientation	<p>Students will receive orientation invitation (Pre-arrival Webinar and International Welcome) though email with detailed information and schedule for a September start.</p>

Accommodation

Finding accommodation that you are happy with on your year abroad is very important and there are often many aspects to consider when looking for somewhere to live.

Many host institutions do offer university accommodation but please do note, **this is not always guaranteed**. You may also need to pay for things like agent or administrative fees that is not always the case here in Edinburgh. It is a good idea to do your research so you do not have any surprises!

University Accommodation	<p>Vancouver: A limited number of rooms are reserved for exchange students.</p> <p>Okanagan: Currently, the housing office in the Okanagan will prioritize all exchange applicants if they apply by the deadline. The housing office aims to place exchange students in “quads” (four bedroom suites) with other students of a similar age. Each student has their own bedroom with a shared bathroom, living room, and kitchen/dining.</p>
Private Accommodation	<p>Private accommodation is generally competitive.</p> <p>Some advice for Vancouver can be found here.</p> <p>Some advice for Okanagan can be found here.</p>

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Costs

It is important to budget for different expenses while on exchange. Your exchange destination may be more expensive than Edinburgh, and different expenses may be required. For example, rent may be higher; you might need to take public transport more; essentials may be more expensive or different, like sun cream in warmer climates or woolly socks in colder climates! These costs will add up so it is good to have an estimate of how much money you might need.

Tuition Fees	<p>While on exchange, you will continue to pay fees to the University of Edinburgh, as appropriate, and your fee status will determine how much you pay.</p> <p>Consult our webpage here and follow the link to consult the university's information on tuition fees for students studying abroad.</p>
Estimated Cost of Living	<p>Housing: \$5,600 – \$8,000 CAD Food: \$4,000 CAD Public transport pass: \$347 CAD Insurance: \$609.94 CAD Books and supplies: ~\$1200 CAD Personal expenses: \$1000 CAD Flights: \$1500 CAD Phone plan: \$35-50 a month (this is often an unexpectedly high cost for UK students) Study permit: \$150 CAD + possible biometrics Total: ~\$16,500 CAD</p> <p>See the budgeting webpage from UBC for more information.</p> <p>You may also be required to pay for administrative fees at your host institution. This can include paying for your transcript to be sent to us at the end of your exchange.</p>
Insurance	<p>Mandatory iMED insurance for international students</p> <p>iMED is the basic health insurance required for all new international exchange students. Enrolment is automatic upon</p>

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	<p>registration in your courses. Find more information on iMED, including coverage dates.</p> <p>Full-year exchange: The cost is \$225 CAD plus a \$10.14 direct billing fee for iMED. The cost covers the three-month waiting period for the British Columbia Medical Services Plan (MSP). Students on exchange for six months or longer are required to apply for MSP. The MSP plan costs about \$75 CAD per month.</p>
Student Loans and Grants	<p>Consult our funding webpages for more information about the Funding available to you through SWAY while on your year abroad.</p> <p>If you receive a student loan or grant, you may still be eligible to receive them during your exchange. Contact your funding providers for more information on the availability and eligibility of funding during your exchange, as well as any additional support they may offer. For example: some loan providers offer travel grants to students.</p>

Other

Passports	<p>Make sure that your passport will be in date for the entirety of your stay, and for any additional required time after the end of your exchange for entry requirements and visa purposes.</p> <p>If you need to apply for a new passport during the application process to your host institution, this may delay the application and visa processes.</p>
Visas	<p>The visa process will vary from country to country, and your own citizenship will influence the visa process you need to undertake. You must make sure to enter your host country on the appropriate visa.</p> <p>A study permit is required for international students who will study at UBC for more than 6 months. Single-term students need to obtain a study permit if they intend to work on campus, want to extend their study to full-year or plan to enter Canada early (more than one month before school starts). If students arrive too early without study permit, their extension request for the period of authorized stay in Canada may not be approved by immigration officers.</p> <p>If you apply for a study permit, you do not need to apply for a TRV or eTA because it will be issued to you when your study permit application is approved.</p>

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	<p>International Student Guide—How to apply for initial Study Permit.</p> <p>Here in SWAY we cannot give specific visa advice. Please research using the relevant embassy and government websites for more information. There is more information on our webpage about things to consider regarding visas here.</p> <p>Once you have received an offer from a host institution, you will be given more advice from them about the visa processes.</p>
<p>Disability Statement and Accessibility</p>	<p>Some destinations may be more accessible than others for disabled students. If you require any adjustments due to disability or specific learning difficulties or disabilities and you wish to study abroad please contact The International Programmes Team via email: international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk.</p> <p>We will work together with you to explore the help available at your host institution. It may also be helpful if you discuss this with your Personal Tutor and the Disability and Learning Support Service as well.</p>

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