



August 21, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to support travel to Canada for an essential and non-discretionary purpose.

In response to travel restrictions for international students seeking to travel to Canada at this time, for some students, pursuing studies online is neither practical nor desirable from outside Canada (due to internet restrictions or bandwidth limitation). UBC cannot document the specific internet restrictions or bandwidth limitations individual students face, but this letter explains the minimum standard students should have in order to fully participate in academic activities during their online studies in Winter Term 1.

Wired or Wireless connectivity: We expect students to use a wired or wireless Internet connection. Many courses deliver content in a variety of multimedia formats, including video streaming for lectures, so the higher the speed, the better. Generally, a minimum 5.0 Mbps download and 1.0 Mbps upload speed will support effective connections to most UBC learning technologies.

Mobile Hotspots: If students are in cellular range and have a data plan for their phones, they may be able to use their phones to provide Internet access to their computers.

Time Zones: We recognize the critical impact of health and wellbeing on effective learning and understand that some students may experience significant barriers to learning as a result of living outside of Canada in time zones that necessitate high-pressure academic performance in the middle of the night. While every effort will be made to provide access for all, synchronous academic components may be delivered at times that are not conducive to learning in the students' home time zone.

Many course instructors are designing their courses with a mix of synchronous (whole class meetings at the same time) and asynchronous (study in your own time) components, with the provision that synchronous classes can be recorded even if students cannot attend at the time they happen. The specific details of how an instructor is setting up a particular course will be contained within the syllabus document for that course.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ainsley Carry'.

Ainsley Carry, Ed.D., MBA, MS, MSL
Vice-President Students
University of British Columbia