

# Incoming Exchange Frequently Asked Questions

## Courses

- ***Can I register for a course that is full, restricted, or blocked?***

If a course you hope to take is in the Arts or Science Faculty (excluding MATH and ECON courses) and is full or restricted, you may monitor the course to see if space opens up. If space does not open up, you may seek permission from the instructor of the course, AFTER you arrive on campus. You will need to use the [Registration Form](#), have it signed by the instructor, and return it to [Go Global](#).

- ***How many courses am I required to take? Is there a minimum or a maximum?***

Undergraduate exchange students typically take between 9 and 15 credits per semester at UBC, depending on degree requirements at your home university. Go Global is not able to advise you on the minimum course load required by your home university. Students must maintain registration of minimum of 9 credits per term to be considered as a full-time student at UBC. If you are living on campus or considering work with a valid study permit, you must maintain your full-time student status.

There is a credit limit for both full year (30 credits/year) and single-term students (18 credits/term).

- ***What does being on a course waitlist mean (am I in the course or not)? What is the likelihood of getting in?***

Waitlists are not available for all courses. Students on a waitlist should check their registration under [Student Service Centre](#) to see if they have been registered into the official course or not.

1. If there is a waitlist for the course, register for the waitlist
2. Check the departmental website to review their waitlist procedures
3. Monitor the course via the SSC
4. Check the course on your SSC after the first class

- ***Can I take Distance Education courses?***

Exchange students are usually restricted from registering Distance Education courses.

If you need to take a Distance Education course, please contact [Go Global](#) for permission after arrival.

- ***When would I be registering for courses?***

Mid-June to August for students admitted in May to July. November to December for students admitted in fall.

## Housing

- ***When will I know if I have received university housing?***

UBC Housing usually contacts students in June/July via email with information about their residence placements for September. If you are joining us in January, you should expect to hear during November/December.

If you have further questions please contact UBC Housing at [information@housing.ubc.ca](mailto:information@housing.ubc.ca)

- ***Can I move in before the move-in date?***

Not usually, but please contact the UBC Housing ([information@housing.ubc.ca](mailto:information@housing.ubc.ca)) directly to see if you can make an arrangement as Go Global does not manage housing.

Please read more [here](#)

## Arriving in Vancouver

- ***Is there airport pick up?***

No, but there are multiple ways to get to campus from the airport.

### **Getting to UBC from the airport**

It is a good idea to plan to arrive at UBC on a weekday, between 9 am and 3 pm, as many university offices are closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and public/university holidays. If you are arriving in December, you should be aware that most offices and services on campus are closed between Christmas (December 25) and New Year's Day (January 1).

It will cost approximately \$40 to take taxi from the airport to UBC, and \$10 if you take the public transit. For more information about the public transit system please visit [Translink](#),

- ***Can I get help with my luggage?***

When taking a taxi and a limo, you can ask the driver to help you with the luggage. It is customary to pay gratuity fees. Some drivers may expect additional tips if they help you with your luggage.

## Fees/Financial

- ***What are these fees I see on SSC? Am I paying tuition? Do I have to pay them?***  
Exchange students will not be charged any tuition fees. They will have mandatory International Health Insurance (IMED) and public bus pass (UPASS) fees assessed and charged to their student account.

You may view and pay these fees on UBC's [Student Service Centre](#) (SSC) by logging in with your [Campus Wide Login](#) (CWL) Information.

## Health Insurance

- ***What is iMED and why do I need it?***

iMED is a temporary health insurance that is automatically triggered by your course registration.

Your iMED card will be emailed to you from David Cummings Insurance Services (DCIS), to the email address you provided UBC when registering for your first class. DCIS starts to email iMED cards approximately one month prior to the start of each academic term. Check your inbox and junk-mail folders. Print your iMED card and keep it with you at all times.

iMED costs \$252 (Canadian dollars) for one-term exchange students at UBC (4 months of coverage), plus a \$9 direct billing fee. Full Year students are charged \$180 for 3 months of iMED coverage during the waiting period for MSP (British Columbia's health insurance, mandatory for all students residing in B.C. for more than 6 months).

With your iMED card, you don't have to pay for your visit if you see a doctor at the Student Health Service at UBC or the University Village Medical and Dental Clinic in the Village on campus. Also, iMED covers emergency hospitalization and medical services (including outpatient treatment at a doctor's clinic) for an unexpected sickness or injury. The full policy is available on the iMED website. Read more [here](#)

Additional information:

[Cost of coming to UBC on exchange  
Health insurance - imed](#)

- ***What is BC MSP and why do I need it?***

Medical Services Plan (MSP) is a mandatory health insurance plan, for everyone who lives in British Columbia (BC) for six months or longer. Medical fees in BC are very high, so to protect yourself against surprisingly big bills that can go up to \$150 just to see a doctor. With MSP, you do not pay when you seek basic medical care, and the fees for emergency care are reduced to much less.

Please read more [here](#)

## Logistics/Admin/Transcripts

- ***How to order more transcripts?***  
One copy of your transcript will be email or mailed to your home university approximately six weeks after the end of term. If you need to order an additional transcript, please go [here](#)
- ***When can I book my flight?***  
You should wait until you receive official acceptance “Letter of Acceptance” from UBC before purchasing a ticket. However, if you chose to purchase your ticket before you receive your acceptance, make sure you buy cancellation insurance.
- ***When are the final exams?***  
Final exam dates are posted on your [Student Service Centre](#) usually after the mid-terms. Please check the [exam schedule](#) before booking your return flight.
- ***Can I stay in Canada to travel after my exchange?***  
Please review the information contained [here](#)
- ***Can I arrive late?***  
Please notify [Go Global](#) at your earliest convenience if you think you will arrive late. You will also need to contact each of your UBC professors to inform them that you will be late and to request permission.