



April 16, 2024

UBC's Full-time Definitions for Immigration Purposes

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter sets out the definition used by the University of British Columbia (UBC) to determine whether an international student enrolled in a degree, diploma or certificate program at UBC's Vancouver or Okanagan campus is considered to be full time for immigration purposes. This information is accurate as of the date of this letter. If a discrepancy arises between the information in this letter and the information on the online UBC International Student Guide (<https://students.ubc.ca/international-student-guide/immigration/ubc-definitions-immigration-purposes>), the UBC International Student Guide will be understood to be correct.

Regular Academic Sessions

UBC has two academic sessions per year that are divided into two terms:

- Winter session: Term 1 (September – December) and Term 2 (January – April)
- Summer session: Term 1 (May – June) and Term 2 (July – August)

Dates may vary by program. For immigration purposes, a student's regular academic session at UBC is:

- Graduate students and students enrolled in the Diploma in Accounting program: Winter and Summer sessions (note: summer is not considered a scheduled break)
- All other enrolled students: Winter session (note: summer session is considered a scheduled break)

Terms impacted by COVID-19

The majority in-person courses were transitioned online effective Monday, March 16, 2020, which on the UBC Calendar falls within Winter Term 2 2019 (January to April, 2020). During the Summer Session 2020 (May to August, 2020), Winter Session 2020 (September 2020 to April 2021), and Summer Session 2021 (May to August, 2021), UBC primarily offered larger classes online with selected smaller classes conducted in-person.

Definition by Student Type

UBC students are considered to be “full time for immigration purposes¹” if meeting any one of the following definitions as per UBC's Student Information System Centre (SISC):

¹ For more information about UBC's Definition for Immigration Purposes visit: <https://students.ubc.ca/international-student-guide/immigration/ubc-definitions-immigration-purposes>



Graduate students (enrolled in a graduate program)

- **Registered** (“REGI”), or
- **Continuing** (“CONT”)

Undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students (including students enrolled in the Diploma in Accounting Program and students enrolled in graduate courses but not enrolled in a graduate program)

WINTER TERM 1 OR 2:

- **Registered** ("REGI") in 9 or more credits per winter term

SUMMER (MAY TO AUGUST):

- **Registered** ("REGI") for 9 or more credits, and
- Do not meet the definition of "scheduled break"

FINAL ACADEMIC TERM:

- **Registered** ("REGI") in any number of credits in the “final” term – “final” as determined by their academic advising office before program completion
- If a final course spans two terms (e.g. 6 credits), each term may be determined to be a final term.
- If final coursework is taken during the summer session (May to August), they can be registered for any number of credits during this period. Their full-time status continues until their letter of completion is available.

Students with academic accommodations

Students with academic accommodations are considered to be “full time for immigration purposes” if they are registered in the minimum number of credits for their reduced course load accommodation as determined by the Centre for Accessibility (Vancouver), or the Disability Resource Centre (Okanagan) in line with [Policy LR7](#), Disability Accommodation Policy.

Outbound exchange students

UBC students away on exchange term(s) abroad are considered "full-time for immigration purposes" if they are **registered** (“REGI” on the SISC).

Co-op students

UBC students on a co-op work term, internship, practicum or other program-required work are considered by UBC to be "full-time for immigration purposes" if they are **registered** (“REGI” on the SISC).

Graduating students

UBC students who completed program requirements and whose program completion letter is not yet available



are considered by UBC to be “full-time for immigration purposes”.

We trust that this information is helpful in understanding UBC’s full-time definitions for immigration purposes relevant to applications for the Post Graduation Work Permit. Our office welcomes inquiries regarding these definitions and their application to individual student cases.

Sincerely,

Dr. Philipp Reichert, RCIC
Director, International Student Development *pro tem* (Vancouver)
Director, Global Engagement (Okanagan)
UBC’s Designated Learning Institution number: **O19330231062**