EXPLORE UBC

GRADUATE STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
UBC is one of the world’s great public universities, encouraging bold thinking, curiosity and initiative, so our students can realize their greatest potential. We hold a reputation for excellence in advanced research and learning, supported by world-class faculty, postdoctoral fellows, students and research facilities across all major academic disciplines.

WHY CHOOSE UBC
› As one of the world’s leading universities, UBC creates an exceptional learning environment that fosters global citizenship, advances a civil and sustainable society, and supports outstanding research to serve the people of British Columbia, Canada and the world.
› Our graduate community is vibrant, innovative, and focused on exploring the world’s most fascinating questions and solving our most pressing problems across almost every imaginable field.
› UBC is recognized globally as one of the most sustainable campuses in the world and a model for sustainable cities.

LIFE IN VANCOUVER
› Vancouver is an energetic, safe and multicultural city, frequently rated as one of the most livable cities in the world.
› Our natural surroundings are spectacular. The West Coast lifestyle emphasizes healthy living and balances hard work with fantastic outdoor recreation. UBC itself is situated on a peninsula, surrounded by water and forest habitat.
› The Vancouver area has the most temperate climate in Canada—it snows in the mountains, but very rarely in the city.
› Vancouver’s arts and culture scene is booming—a gallery, performance space or café is around every corner.
› Metro Vancouver is home to a vibrant tech sector, and a highly educated, youthful, and ethnically diverse population.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
All incoming UBC Vancouver doctoral students will receive funding of at least $22k/year for four years. Outstanding applicants can expect more—the average PhD funding is approximately $30k/year. Many scholarships and teaching and research assistantships are available to master’s and doctoral students. More than $65 million in merit-based award funding is distributed to students each year through UBC Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

FINANCIAL PLANNING
Our cost of living estimator is a great place to learn about more typical costs for a student living in Vancouver. These include costs for tuition, accommodation, utilities, transport and food. Build your budget to assess your finances and make a plan to realize your educational endeavours.

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Doctrinal and Master’s (Thesis-based) Master’s (Course-based)
› In-depth research
› A thesis is required: dissertation (PhD) or Master’s thesis
› Coursework in master’s is required, and is common in doctoral programs (generally in the earlier years)
› Completion when coursework and individual research component completed. Some flexibility on program length.
› Coursework within set curricula (required and elective courses)
› Usually set program length
› Often a final project, capstone, or graduating paper
› Cohort-based
› Completion after all required coursework has been concluded

OTHER GRADUATE-LEVEL PROGRAMS

Graduate Diplomas
› Normally focused on professional practice skills
› Set curricula, requiring 16-28 course credits
› May have online or hybrid delivery
› Some are combined with master’s or doctoral degrees

Graduate Certificates
› Shorter program, often focused on career development
› Set curriculum, requiring 9-15 credits of required and elective courses
› Often online or hybrid delivery
› Some may “ladder” to Master’s programs with additional study

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
All students have access to Canada’s excellent health care system and support services at UBC. Government visa programs may allow students to work in Canada after graduation.

GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES
grad.ubc.ca

Discover more: grad.ubc.ca
Email: graduate.apply@ubc.ca
@UBCGradSchool

UBC offers more than 300 master’s and doctoral programs in nearly every academic field imaginable. Find your program options.

grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/graduate-degree-programs