Exchange Scheme with the University of British Columbia - Okanagan Campus

Where UBC Okanagan?
UBC Okanagan is located in Kelowna in the heart of British Columbia’s Okanagan Valley, regarded as one of the most scenic regions in Canada. It currently has over 9,000 students.

Who can go?
- Two places will be made available to York undergraduate students in 2019/20. Priority for one of these will be given to Politics 3+1 students.
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York (or the 2nd/3rd year of study if you’re on a 4 year programme) for credit-replacing exchanges. Please speak to your department about the availability of extended degrees that allow you to take an additional year to study abroad.
- Please consult the Opportunities by Subject webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.

Courses
- You can take up to a maximum of 30 credits per academic year or 15 per semester and a minimum of 24 (year) or 12 (semester) to ensure that you complete a full workload for 120 York credits. Most single-semester courses are a 3-credit course (equivalent to 3 hours of lectures per week for 13 weeks, with an additional 2-week examination period).
- All credits should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
- You will normally be taking second or third year courses at UBC.
- There are significant course restrictions for Management students. Okanagan do not accept Education or Nursing exchange students. For more details on course restrictions please see the following UBC web page: ubc.ca/global/incoming/academics/Program_restrictions.html

How will my marks be assessed/converted?
- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants.
- University of York staff can access Grade Conversion Tables here: york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/accepted/#tab-5
- Please ensure that you are fully aware of how your grades will be converted on your return to York. Students on additional years will have different arrangements to those on credit-replacing exchange.

Costs

Please note that the costs below are based on previous years and are provided for guidance only. Exact costs may vary due to exchange rates, inflation, personal circumstance and/or other reasons.

- Tuition Fees: Students will pay no tuition fees to UBC Okanagan and in 2017/18 the University of York fees for students on exchange were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.
- Visas: Study permits for Canada $150 (approx. £87)
Medical insurance:

- Full year students are automatically covered by iMED for the first three months before they can be enrolled in BC Medical Services Plan (MSP), which is the basic medical insurance provided by BC government for anyone who will reside in BC for more than six months.
- The cost of iMED for full year students is $180 CDN. The iMED plan will ensure that students have adequate medical coverage from the time they leave home (up to ten days prior to arrival if within the coverage dates) and while they are waiting for BC MSP to be effective.
- Full year and split-year students must apply for BC's provincial Medical Services Plan (MSP) as soon as they arrive in BC, Canada.
- There is a three-month waiting period before students can be enrolled in MSP, during which time the students are covered under iMED.
- The UBC website has more information on both iMED and BC MSP here.
- Additional costs to consider: flights, accommodation, travel insurance and visas (see below), living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities)

Financial Assistance

- There is funding available for some students on North America exchanges through the US Alumni Connection Award Bursary. More information on this and other funding can be found on our Exchange Finances and Funding webpage.

Visa

Please be aware that Centre for Global Programmes staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes. Therefore if you have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate Embassy directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.

- Students will need to apply for a Canadian Study Permit to allow them to study in Canada. The application consists mainly of providing documents; passport, two passport photos, letter of acceptance from UBC and proof of financial support (bank statement, student finance, and letter from parent/guardian). For more information and for where to apply visit the Canadian Government website here.
- When going through your application, make use of the instruction guidelines and in particular, the document checklist. These can be found here: gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5269ETOC.asp
- Once the application is approved, you will receive your Visa at immigration in the first Canadian airport you travel through. For example, there will not be a direct flight to Kelowna but will most likely stop over at Vancouver or Calgary, it is at these airports that you go through immigration and will receive an official Visa document and a stamp in your passport. To receive your visa, you will need all the documents you used to apply for the visa and the email confirming your application approval. They will most likely only ask for the acceptance letter from UBC, however carry everything with you just in case.
- A Temporary Resident Visa (TRV, “entry visa” or “visitor visa”) is required for students with certain citizenships to enter Canada. Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) is required for foreign nationals from some visa-exempt countries. To find out if an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) or an entry visa is required, please check gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp or contact the nearest Canadian visa office.
- From 31st July 2018, students applying for Canadian Visas will have to register for Biometric checks. More information can be found on the official Canadian government webpages here: https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/security-securite/biometrics-biometrique-eng.html.
- Additional information can be found on the UBC website here.

What's it like to study there?

“The final semester at UBCO was in many ways the most challenging and the most enjoyable part of my year abroad. By this point in the year, I felt really settled at the university and had made many close
friends, which definitely made the experience more fun. I began to get more involved in the campus community, for example through writing for The Phoenix newspaper and my involvement with Students in Support of Critical Animal Studies.”

“Looking back on the whole experience, I would say that I have been able to grow as a person, become more confident in myself and learnt what truly inspires me; both in my studies and in life. The experience taught me to be better organized and manage my finances when living in a new country, but also proved to me that it is never foolish to ask for help. I have benefitted hugely from the opportunities to travel and try new activities like skiing, rock climbing and surfing, but on a day-to-day level it has been wonderful to simply feel at home in a different country.”

Frances, English Literature, Year Abroad 2016/17

“I do feel like there is now a piece of the world which feels like home, and I feel less lost in the vastness of the globe. I have had to make many arrangements and take on responsibilities on my own, and now feel much more independent and able to organize bills, living needs and travel arrangements. I have taken part in lots of local events, from university meet-ups to outdoor winter-sports, farmer’s markets, hiking and sight-seeing. I have made lots of friends who have introduced me to Canadian culture, such as politics, environmental views and social values. These have given me a great new perspective on my home country, which has taught me how to bring new behaviors and views back to Britain.”

Bernardine, Environment, Year Abroad 2017/18

Where will I live?

- **On-Campus:** You will be guaranteed a room in selected on-campus residences provided that you complete the housing application and submit the $50 non-refundable application fee in Canadian funds by the exchange application deadline (Usually 1st May).
- General Information about international students housing can be found [here](#).
- For information on Fees and Payment: [ubc.ca/residence-fees-okan](#).
- For information about the different types of Accommodation: [ubc.ca/student-residences-okan](#).
- Accommodation cost from $6,000 to $8,500 for 2018/19 fees.
- **Off-Campus:** Other housing options for prospective students: [ubc.ca/other-housing-okan](#).

Is it the right choice for me?

- When thinking about choosing your destination for studying abroad please look through the Considerations Checklist on our web pages.
- This will help you find the best opportunity for your degree and personal circumstances.

Contact details at Okanagan

- Ms. Dana Lowton, Email: dana.lowton@ubc.ca
- Address: Go Global: International Learning Programs, The University of British Columbia, Okanagan, UNC 207-3722 University Way, (University Centre), Kelowna, BC, Canada, V1V 1V7
- Tel: 250-807-8098
- General Email: goglobal.okanagan@ubc.ca

Useful web links

- [Main UBC Okanagan Site](#)
- [Okanagan Incoming Exchange Students](#)
- [UBC Facts and Figures](#)
- [Okanagan Housing](#)
- [Global Graduates](#)
- [Study Permits and Visas for UBC](#)
- [Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice](#)
- Video of UBC Okanagan Campus
- Video Of UBC Okanagan International Student Experience

Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. The Centre for Global Programmes cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

All information included in these guidelines correct at time of printing, September 2018.

Students are responsible for researching their own exchanges and making sure that they have considered all costs and the compatibility of the overseas programme to their own degree, in discussion with their departments and supervisors. The Centre for Global Programmes are here to offer support.