

International Exchange – Student Loan Information

AM I CONSIDERED A FULL-TIME STUDENT FOR LOAN PURPOSES?

- I am an undergraduate student registered in a minimum of **4.5 units** for credit per semester (60% course load). *Students with designated permanent disability status through their student loan provider are considered full-time at 3.0 units for credit per semester (40% course load).*
- Students must complete at least 12 consecutive weeks of study in a 15-week period. This allows for three one-week breaks or a combination of a one-week and a two-week break within the 15 weeks, and ensures students are full-time for Student Aid BC purposes.

WHAT ARE MY STUDY DATES?

- Check your **exact study start and end dates** and apply for your loan or interest-free status term(s) with your exact exchange study dates. Please note that most exchange study dates vary from the standard study dates at UVic. **(VERY IMPORTANT)**
- If you have a break between your study terms (as defined above) you should apply for two separate student loans to reflect the **exact dates of each study period** (e.g., August 22 - December 16 and January 17 - May 12).

WHAT IS MY INSTITUTION?

- UVic will remain your "host" institution because you are registered through UVic and paying tuition to UVic.

HOW DO I CONFIRM MY ENROLMENT TO RECEIVE MY LOAN FUNDING?

- If your loans are through **Student Aid BC** your full-time enrolment will be **confirmed electronically**. If you have negotiated a Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA) since August 2011 then you will not need to do this again. However, if this is your first time applying to Student Aid BC then you will need to take the MSFAA loan agreement to a designated postal outlet for negotiation. The MSFAA document will be mailed to you by your lender or you may be able to print it off online depending on which province your loan is through.
- **For full-time loans through most provinces other than BC** our office confirms your full-time enrolment online. For questions regarding a particular province's student loan procedures, please contact our office (finaid@uvic.ca).
- If you would like to authorize our office to release information to someone in your absence (while you are abroad), please submit a **Proxy Form** to our office, Student Awards and Financial Aid, available at: <https://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/proxy.pdf>
- You may wish to consider appointing a **Power of Attorney (POA)** so that a relative/friend can act on your behalf to sign any documents you may need signed.

HOW DO I MAINTAIN INTEREST - FREE STATUS WITH MY LENDERS?

If you have previous student loans but will not be taking out new loans while on your exchange term (or at any other time that you are a full-time student), it is your responsibility to submit the appropriate request for interest-free status. Please contact our office for up-to-date information on the interest-free status procedures for your particular loan provider(s). Please note that **you can only apply for interest-free status during your study period, and not after the study end date has passed**. For most provinces, students may apply for interest-free status online. Do remember to apply for interest-free status with the dates matching your **exact exchange study period dates**.

Student Awards & Financial Aid

Office: University Centre Room A202 Mail: PO Box 3025 STN CSC Victoria, BC V8W 3P2

E: finaid@uvic.ca (financial aid) OR awards1@uvic.ca (scholarships) T: (250) 721-8423 W: www.uvic.ca/safa

International Exchange – Scholarship Information

Although this handout provides basic answers to some of our most common exchange questions, it is only meant to be a general guideline. We encourage all students who are thinking of going on exchange to email or speak in-person to the In-Course Scholarship Officer in Student Awards & Financial Aid.

AM I CONSIDERED A FULL-TIME STUDENT FOR SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSES?

In order to be considered full-time for scholarships, students must normally be registered in a minimum of 12 academic units of study, of which 10.5 units are graded using the standard nine point scale, in two academic terms in the 12 month period (May to April) immediately preceding the adjudication of the scholarships and awards. Award winners must normally return to UVic in the next Winter Session (Sep – Apr) and register and maintain enrolment as a full-time student in a minimum of 12 academic units to receive the scholarship or award. For exchange students, we require that students take the equivalent of 12 units for the Winter Session, including any exchange credits. Students must continue to be full-time according to UVic regulations even if they plan to be on exchange. The equivalent credit hours will be calculated, and the total academic units must be at least 12 for the Winter Session to be eligible for In-Course scholarships.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY EXCHANGE IS ELIGIBLE?

In order for your exchange to be eligible for scholarship purposes, you must be registered in UVic's International Undergraduate Exchange Program as a full-time UVic student.

WHAT IF I HAVE A RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP?

If you hold a UVic renewable scholarship, please come and speak to the In-Course Scholarship Officer before you go on your exchange.

To have your renewable scholarship automatically renewed you must have completed a total of 12 or more academic units in two terms of study between May and April and maintained a grade point average of 7.50 or higher on the best 12 units. Even if you are on an exchange you must be enrolled in at least 12 academic units and maintain a grade point average of 7.5 in order to be eligible to keep your renewable scholarship.

We will calculate your GPA on your best 12 units in the Winter Session, even if you are on exchange for one of both of these terms. In order to calculate your GPA we will take the equivalent GPA from your exchange.

ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS TO THESE RULES?

There are always exceptions to these general rules. We encourage all students who are thinking of going on exchange to email or speak in person to the In-Course Scholarship Officer in Student Awards & Financial Aid.

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