

Simon Fraser University Exchange / Study Abroad Fact Sheet: 2020/21

GENERAL INFORMATION

About SFU

In the place where innovative education, cutting-edge research and community outreach intersect, you'll find Simon Fraser University. Our vision? To be Canada's leading engaged university.

Born in 1965, SFU has become Canada's leading comprehensive university with vibrant campuses in British Columbia's largest municipalities — Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey — and deep roots in partner communities throughout the province and around the world.

SFU is currently ranked as Canada's #1 comprehensive university – a position we have held for 11 out of the past 12 years ([Macleans 2020 University Rankings](#)).

Campus Locations

Simon Fraser University's three unique campuses are all within an hour of one another by public transit.

Burnaby (main campus): Perched atop Burnaby Mountain, Simon Fraser University's original Arthur Erickson-designed campus now includes more than three dozen academic buildings and is flanked by UniverCity, a flourishing sustainable residential community.

Surrey: A vibrant community hub located in the heart of one of Canada's fastest-growing cities.

Vancouver: Described by local media as the "intellectual heart of the city", SFU's Vancouver Campus transformed the landscape of urban education in downtown Vancouver. The campus is comprised of multiple facilities clustered in the core of Vancouver.

Metropolitan Vancouver

Frequently ranked as one of the world's most livable cities, Vancouver sits on the west coast of Canada.

Spectacular and Safe Setting – Majestic mountains, sparkling ocean, rainforests and beautiful foliage throughout all four seasons make Vancouver one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Canadians are known for our friendly nature, and Vancouver's citizens take great pride in our welcoming, clean, safe streets.

Welcoming & Accessible – With a vast, multicultural population and excellent infrastructure, Vancouver is welcoming to all.

Activities – Catering to any interest throughout the year, you can enjoy world class shopping, gourmet meals, outstanding live entertainment, sporting events, theatre, outdoor adventure, spectacular sights and attractions.

Gateway to Adventure – Quick and easy access to Whistler, the Canadian Rockies, Victoria, Vancouver Island.

Excerpts from [Tourism Vancouver](#)

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Faculties, Departments and Schools at SFU

Please note that some subjects and courses have **restrictions** for inbound exchange/study abroad students. Please see these restrictions here; they are updated each Summer: www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/academic-information.html

Faculty of Applied Sciences	Computing Science Engineering Science	Mechatronic Systems Engineering Sustainable Energy Engineering	
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	Anthropology Cognitive Science Criminology Economics English First Nations Studies French Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies	Gerontology Global Asia Hellenic Studies History Humanities International Studies Labour Studies Languages Latin American Studies	Linguistics Philosophy Political Science Psychology Sociology Urban Studies World Literature
Beedie School of Business* (most courses only open to students from Business Exchange Partners) < beedie.sfu.ca/exchange/destinations/ >	Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management Information Systems Human Resource Management Operations Management	Marketing Finance International Business Strategic Analysis	
Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology	Communication Contemporary Arts	Interactive Arts and Technology Publishing	
Faculty of Education	Education		
Faculty of Environment	Archaeology Environmental Science	Geography Resource and Environmental Management	
Faculty of Health Sciences	Health Sciences		
Faculty of Science	Actuarial Science and Statistics Biological Sciences	Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology Chemistry Earth Sciences	Mathematics Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Physics

Course Load, Selection and Enrollment

Course Load for Undergraduate Study (most courses are 3-4 units each)	Minimum enrollment for full-time status: 9 units (normally 3 courses) "Full course load": 15 units (normally 4 or 5 courses) Maximum enrollment possible: 18 units (normally 5 or 6 courses) – NOT RECOMMENDED Recommended enrollment for exchange and study abroad students: 9 – 12 units (normally 3 or 4 courses)
Course Load for Graduate Study (most graduate courses are 3 units each)	Minimum enrollment for full-time status: 6 units (normally 2 courses) or full-time research Recommended enrollment for exchange and study abroad students: 6 units (normally 2 courses) or full-time research
Course Selection	At the time of application, students will list their preferred courses or research proposal (for graduate students planning to pursue research at SFU) on their online application. Undergraduate students must submit a minimum of 8 courses that will be offered in their first term (they will take 3-5 courses). Undergraduate courses are numbered 100-400. (Students

Course Selection (continued)	<p>coming to SFU from a Business partner are required to take a minimum of 3 courses from within the Beedie School of Business.)</p> <p>Graduate students must submit a minimum of 3 courses from within the same department (unless they will be doing full-time research). Graduate courses are numbered 500-900.</p> <p>SFU does its best to accommodate course requests, but cannot guarantee access to specific courses. For more information on course selection please see: www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/academic-information.html</p>
Course Enrollment	<p>ISS (or the Beedie School of Business for students from Business partners) will manually enroll students in courses for their first term at SFU approximately 2 months in advance of the term. Students will receive more information about this over email.</p> <p>If students stay for subsequent terms, they will be responsible for enrolling themselves (ISS will provide instructions after their arrival).</p>
English Language Resources	<p>SFU's "Student Learning Commons" operates a variety of programs and resources for students who speak English as an additional language: www.lib.sfu.ca/about/branches-depts/slc/eal</p> <p>Full information on English language resources can be found through SFU's Centre for English Language Learning, Teaching and Research: www.sfu.ca/celltr/about.html</p>
SFU Grading System	<p>www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/fees-and-regulations/grading-policy/grading-systems-and-policies.html</p>

Term Dates

SFU operates on a unique trimester system, comprised of 3 equal full-time terms per year. Exchange and study abroad students are welcome in any of the three terms (normally for either 1 or 2 terms). The Fall and Spring terms are the busiest on campus, and Summer term has approximately 80% of regular courses offerings.

For actual term dates visit: www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/

Fall Term:	<p>Orientation: Late August</p> <p>Classes: Early September – Early December (13 weeks)</p> <p>Exams: Early December – Mid December (2 weeks)</p>
Spring Term:	<p>Orientation: Early January</p> <p>Classes: Early January – Early April (13 weeks)</p> <p>Exams: Early April – Mid April (2 weeks)</p>
Summer Term:	<p>Orientation: Early May</p> <p>Classes: Early May – Early August (13 weeks)</p> <p>Exams: Early August – Mid August (2 weeks)</p>

Transcripts

At the end of each student's exchange period, ISS will mail one copy of each student's official transcript directly to the partner institution's international office. ISS will provide students with instructions on how to order additional transcripts for personal use (students will need to pay a fee for ordering additional transcripts). ISS is unable to order/send students' transcripts until they have paid all outstanding fees to SFU.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Eligibility Requirements

GPA	SFU does not have a minimum GPA requirement for inbound exchange/study abroad students. We trust that our partners perform a rigorous internal selection process and honour nominations accordingly.
English Language Requirement	<p>Students must meet one of the following criteria. “Undergraduate” and “Graduate” refer to students’ desired level of study at SFU, not their level study of study at their home institution.</p> <p>a) Currently studying at an institution where the principal language of instruction is English. <i>No documentation required.</i></p> <p>b) Currently studying in a degree program in which the principal language of instruction is English (in an institution where the principal language of instruction is <i>not</i> English). <i>Documents accepted: Official Transcript which states the language of instruction is English, or a letter from Exchange Coordinator stating that degree is English-taught.</i></p> <p>c) Completion of the IELTS - Academic with the minimum following scores: <u>Undergraduates</u>: overall band score of 6.5 with no part less than 6.0. <u>Graduates</u>: overall band score of 7.0 with no part less than 6.5. <i>Document accepted: Official IELTS - Academic test score</i></p> <p>d) Completion of TOEFL iBT with the minimum following scores (we can accept TOEFL PBT as well; please contact us for minimum scores): <u>Undergraduates</u>: overall score of 88 or better with a minimum score of 20 in each of the four components. <u>Graduates</u>: overall score of 93 or better with a minimum score of 20 in each of the four components. <i>Document accepted: Official TOEFL iBT test score (NEW: MyBest Scores are accepted)</i></p> <p>e) <u>Undergraduates only</u>: Completion of the Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) with an overall minimum score of 70, with no part less than 60. <i>Document accepted: Official CAEL test score</i></p> <p>f) <u>Undergraduates only</u>: Completion of the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) with an overall minimum score of 65, with no part less than 60. <i>Document accepted: Official PTE Academic test score</i></p> <p>g) <u>Undergraduates only</u>: Completion of a three unit* post-secondary level academic English course with a minimum grade of C-. (Course must be determined to be equivalent or sufficiently similar to the academic English courses offered at SFU. See list of SFU's English courses for examples.) *3 SFU units are equivalent to 6 ECTS credit points. <i>Document accepted: Official Transcript (course outline may also be needed)</i></p> <p>h) <u>Graduates only</u>: Have completed a degree at an institution where the principal language of instruction was English, or a degree program in which the principal language of instruction was English (in an institution where the principal language of instruction was <i>not</i> English). <i>Documents accepted: Previous degree official transcript stating the language of instruction was English, or letter from institution stating that degree was English-taught.</i></p>

Degree Level	SFU welcomes both undergraduate and graduate (Masters or PhD) exchange students, though graduate options may not be possible in all academic areas in all terms. Please reference our exchange agreement to determine which levels are open for your students. Most exchange/study abroad students are registered as undergraduate students, even when they are graduate students at their home institution. See the additional note about graduate acceptance in the “Acceptance” section below.
Degree Progress	SFU does not have a minimum number of credits, courses or years of study required of inbound exchange and study abroad students.

Application Process and Deadlines

Nomination and Application Deadlines	<p>Fall term admission (Call for Nominations issued in late January): Nomination deadline: March 15 Application deadline: March 31</p> <p>Spring term admission (Call for Nominations issued in late July): Nomination deadline: September 15 Application deadline: September 30</p> <p>Summer term admission: Nomination deadline: January 15 Application deadline: January 30</p>
Nomination and Application Process	<p>In advance of each intake you will receive a “Nomination form” from SFU by email.</p> <p>Add your students’ details to this form and return to exchange@sfu.ca. Please note that some fields will require you to select an option from a list.</p> <p><u>For institutions that are both "university-wide" and "Business" partners with SFU:</u> Please ensure to select the "Business" option for any students that you want to nominate for a Business space (please note that they must be Business majors at your institution).</p>
Required Supporting Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most recent official transcript (in English). Include any other higher education transcripts (in English), if applicable (e.g. Bachelor’s, transfer institutions). These transcripts should be merged into one file with your current official transcript. - One photo (head shot, white or light coloured background with full-face view, no hats or sunglasses) - Statement of interest (250-500 word statement about your interest in SFU, your study plan, and any relevant academic and international experience) - Proof of English language, if required (various documents accepted; see requirements on previous page) <p>Students who wish to be registered as graduate students must also submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two academic references (a letter of support from your program supervisor is preferred, and one letter of support from a recent instructor) - Curriculum vitae - Research proposal (only required if students wish to pursue research while at SFU) <p>NOTE: If any students wish to access “writing-intensive” (courses with “W” after the course</p>

	<p>number, eg CMNS 323W) or “quantitative courses” (courses listed as “Q”), they must submit proof of English literacy (including native English speakers) or quantitative background, respectively. For more information please see: <www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/academic-information/restricted-subjects-and-courses.html></p>
<p>Acceptance</p>	<p>When students submit a complete application by the stated deadline, they will receive their SFU Admission Letter as follows:</p> <p>Fall Admission: by end of May Spring Admission: by end of October Summer Admission: by end of February</p> <p>Students will receive a pdf copy of their admission letter from ISS which can be printed. Partners will be copied on this email. We no longer issue hard copy acceptance letters except in unique circumstances.</p> <p>Graduate applications may take additional time to process. Graduate admission for exchange students is based on student eligibility and also on departmental/faculty capacity. Applicants will be reviewed on an individual basis by their prospective host department/faculty. Graduate admission cannot be guaranteed. A student who cannot be offered graduate admission may be admitted as undergraduate if desired, provided they meet the admission requirements.</p>

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

On-Campus

SFU’s on-campus residence is located at the Burnaby Campus. It is 5-15 minutes walking distance to most buildings on the Burnaby Campus and approximately 45-60 minutes by public transportation to the Surrey and Vancouver campuses.

Places in residence are offered on a first-come-first-serve basis, so students are encouraged to apply early as outlined below.
We are not able to guarantee on-campus housing for exchange students.

Students should apply for housing **at the same time** they apply to SFU for their exchange/study abroad term. Students must pay a mandatory application fee in order to apply for on-campus housing. When asked for their SFU student number on the housing application, students should write “EXCHANGE” (unless they already have an SFU student number, which most will not).

Students must submit BOTH their “Exchange and Study Abroad” application (to ISS) and their “On-Campus Housing” application (to Housing office) by the Exchange application deadline (March 31 or September 30) in order to be placed on a priority housing list.

If they are offered a space in residence, students will need to pay a deposit to hold their place. This deposit may be due prior to course enrollment having taken place. Students pay their residence fees for the upcoming semester *before* the start of term. Full details and deadlines are communicated to students directly from SFU Residence.

For information on SFU’s on-campus housing please see: <students.sfu.ca/residences.html>

Off-Campus

Students who wish to live off-campus or are not offered a place in on-campus residence, should see the following website for information on off-campus housing: <www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/housing/off-campus.html>

<www.sfu.ca/students/exchange>

PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Medical Insurance	<p>SFU has a mandatory primary medical insurance plan for inbound international exchange/study abroad students, called guard.me@SFU. CHANGE: Starting Summer 2020, students will no longer be given the opportunity to opt-out from the plan for their first term. Past exchange students may have been granted opt-outs if their existing coverage was determined to be equivalent or greater coverage than guard.me@SFU – this will no longer be possible. Only students whose home institutions are within Canada will be exempted from the guard.me@SFU coverage.</p> <p>“Study abroad” students (who pay tuition and fees to SFU) will also be automatically enrolled into a mandatory secondary insurance plan.</p> <p><www.sfu.ca/medical-insurance.html></p>
Immigration	<p>Students should read the “Immigration documents” webpage for the most current information on immigration for their exchange/study abroad term.</p> <p><www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/new/immigration-documents.html></p> <p>If students have questions about Canadian immigration requirements they are welcome to contact SFU’s International Student Advisors: intl_advising@sfu.ca</p>
Academic Accommodation	<p>Students seeking academic accommodations should contact SFU’s Centre for Accessible Learning (previously named Centre for Students with Disabilities) well in advance of their exchange term.</p> <p><www.sfu.ca/students/disabilityaccess.html></p>
Exchange Buddy Program	<p>ISS operates a buddy program to support new inbound exchange/study abroad students. Students who wish to join this program will be matched with an SFU buddy at least one month prior to their arrival so that they can correspond over email and get practical advice from a local student. Several social events are organized for the students’ first month at SFU. <www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/buddy.html></p>
Orientation	<p>NEW: All exchange / study abroad students are enrolled in a mandatory online pre-arrival program, SFU 101: Exchange to SFU. An additional in-person orientation session is held at the start of each term.</p> <p><www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/new/orientation.html></p>
Transportation Pass (U-Pass BC)	<p>All exchange / study abroad students must purchase a U-Pass, which provides students in Metro Vancouver with universal and affordable access to public transit. For more information see: <www.sfu.ca/students/upass.html></p>
Other Information	<p>For all other pre-arrival information, please see the following:</p> <p>Exchanges to SFU: <www.sfu.ca/students/exchange.html></p> <p>Pre-Arrival Information: <www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/new.html></p>