

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

EXCHANGE & STUDY ABROAD FACT SHEET: 2027/28

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address (for transcripts, promo materials, etc.)	International Services for Students (ISS) Maggie Benston Centre (MBC) 1200 Simon Fraser University 8888 University Drive Burnaby, BC, V5A 1S6 CANADA Phone: +1 778-782-4232 Exchange Website: www.sfu.ca/students/exchange
Annual Balance and Spaces Contact	Ms Meagan Kube (<i>On leave, returning October 2026</i>) Associate Director, International Mobility Programs Nina Inaoka Lee (<i>July 21, 2025 through September 2026</i>) Associate Director, International Mobility Programs (Acting) international_exchange@sfu.ca
Inbound Contact (from you to SFU)	Ms Cm Muego Program Assistant, Inbound Exchange exchange@sfu.ca Ms Sua Park Study Abroad Officer (All regions) saofficer@sfu.ca
Outbound Contact (from SFU to you)	Ms. Christine Cai Program Assistant, Outgoing Exchange goexchange@sfu.ca Ms Christina Wong , Senior Program Assistant – On leave Ms Sua Park Study Abroad Officer (Americas, Asia, South Pacific) saofficer@sfu.ca Ms Dominika Hrabalova Study Abroad Officer (Africa, Europe, Middle East) studyabroad@sfu.ca
Agreements	Ms Jonna Vesuna (University-wide agreements) Global Engagement Officer exchange_partnerships@sfu.ca Ms Rebecca Rytir (Business agreements only) Director, International Programs and Partnerships Office of International Programs, SFU Beedie School of Business rebecca_rytir@sfu.ca
Beedie School of Business - Additional Contacts (For institutions with Business Agreements with SFU)	Ms Claire Christie Study Abroad Advisor studyabroad_bsb@sfu.ca Ms Alana McGillivray Associate Director, International Programs and Partnerships alana_mcgillivray@sfu.ca
Emergency Contact for emergencies at SFU	911 (from within Canada) or for urgent assistance, SFU Campus Security (24/7): +1 778-782-4500
Emergency Contact for emergencies abroad	International SOS: +1 215-942-8478

GENERAL INFORMATION

About SFU

Simon Fraser University (SFU) is a globally engaged institution known for excellence in research, innovation, and sustainability. Ranked among Canada's top comprehensive universities SFU is a leader in interdisciplinary education, offering programs that integrate diverse fields of study to foster innovation, critical thinking, and global collaboration.

Born in 1965, SFU has grown into a leading institution 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.

We respectfully acknowledge the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), qíćəy̓ (Katzie), kʷikwə́ləm (Kwikwetlem), Qayqayt, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo and Tsawwassen peoples on whose unceded traditional territories our three campuses reside.

CAMPUS LOCATIONS

Simon Fraser University's three unique campuses in Burnaby (main campus), Surrey, and Vancouver are all within an hour of one another by public transit. Explore our vibrant campuses with our [virtual campus tours](#).

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Faculties, Departments and Schools at SFU

Please note that some subjects and courses have restrictions for inbound exchange/study abroad students. Please note that the Stephens Family School of Medicine and Faculty of Graduate Studies are not open to exchange or study abroad students, and not listed below. *Graduate Students are admitted to individual academic departments directly.*

Please see these restrictions ([Restrictions and Considerations](#)); they are updated each Summer.

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 French Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies	Gerontology Global Asia Hellenic Studies History Humanities Indigenous Studies International Studies Linguistics		Philosophy Political Science Psychology Sociology Urban Studies World Languages and Literature
Beedie School of Business* (most courses only open to students from Business Exchange Partners)	Innovation and Entrepreneurship 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	

		Sustainable Community Development	
Faculty of Health Sciences	Health Sciences		
Faculty of Science	Biological Sciences	Earth Sciences	Physics
	Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology Chemistry	Mathematics Molecular Biology and Biochemistry	Statistics and Actuarial Science

A commitment to academic integrity is a fundamental responsibility for all students who are part of the SFU community. Please see [Academic Integrity Expectations at SFU](#).

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) – <u>NOT Recommended</u> 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 <u>Recommended</u> 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 (they will take 3-5 courses). Undergraduate courses are numbered 100-400. Undergraduate students may take courses from multiple subject areas (<u>Students coming to SFU from a Business partner are required to take a minimum of 3 courses from within the Beedie School of Business.</u>). 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. Graduate students are admitted through a single department and may apply for courses within that department. While requests for courses in other departments may be considered, access cannot be guaranteed. SFU does its best to accommodate course requests, but cannot guarantee access to specific courses. Students must consider each course' SFU restrictions and prerequisites at time of application to determine if a course is suitable for them to take. For more information on course selection, to see courses lists and course outlines please see: • Academic Information • Restrictions and Considerations
Course Enrollment	ISS (or the Beedie School of Business for students from Business partners) manually enrolls students in courses for their first term at SFU about 2 months before the term begins. Students receive information about this over email. If students stay for a second term or longer, they will need to enroll themselves in courses. ISS provides step-by-step instructions after arrival.

English Language Resources	SFU's "Student Learning Commons" operates a variety of programs and resources for students who speak English as an additional language through English as an Additional Language (EAL) Services .
SFU Grading System	Grading Systems and Policies
SFU Terminology	• Terminology at SFU • Terminology for codes

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 to start their exchange in the Fall or Spring term (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 [Academic Calendar](#).

Fall Term	Orientation: Early September Classes: Early September – Early December (13 weeks) Exams: Early December – Mid December (2 weeks)
Spring Term	Orientation: Early January Classes: Early January – Early April (13 weeks) Exams: Early April – Mid April (2 weeks)
Summer Term	Students cannot start their exchange in the Summer term, but may have their subsequent term in the Summer. Classes: Early May – Early August (13 weeks) Exams: Early August – Mid August (2 weeks)

Transcripts

At the end of each student's exchange period, and once any outstanding fees to SFU have been paid, ISS will send one pdf copy of their official transcript directly to the partner's international office electronically.

ISS will instruct students on how to order additional hard copy transcripts for personal use (students will need to pay a fee for ordering additional transcripts). For more information, visit [Official Transcripts](#).

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.
English Language Requirement	Language Proficiency Exams taken more than two years (24 months) prior to application will not be considered. In order to satisfy the requirements below, scores must be achieved in a single test. 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.

Education in English

- a) Currently studying at an institution where the principal language of instruction is English.
No documentation required.
- b) Currently studying in a degree program in which the principal language of instruction is English at an institution where the principal language of instruction is not English.
Documents accepted: Official Transcript which states the language of instruction is English, or a letter from Exchange Coordinator stating that degree is English-taught.
- c) Undergraduates only: Completion of a three-unit* post-secondary level course taught in English with a passing grade.
*Documents accepted: Official Transcript which states the language of instruction for the course is English, or a statement from the Exchange Coordinator stating that they have successfully completed at least one English-taught course. *3 SFU units are equivalent to 6 ECTS credit points.*
- d) Graduates only: 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 *not* English).
Documents accepted: Previous degree official transcript stating the language of instruction was English, or letter from institution stating that degree was English-taught.

Standardized English Tests

- e) Completion of the **IELTS - (Academic)** - Graduate and Undergraduate
Overall band score of 6.5 with no part less than 6.0.
Document accepted: Official IELTS - Academic or IELTS Online (for Undergraduates only) test score.
*IELTS One Skill Retake results are **not** accepted.*
- f) Completion of **TOEFL iBT** – Graduate and Undergraduate
Overall score of 4.5 or better, with no part lower than 4.0
For tests taken prior to January 21, 2026:
Undergraduates: Overall score 88 with no part less than 20
Graduates: Overall score of 90 with no part less than 20
Document accepted: Official TOEFL iBT or TOEFLiBT Home test score.
*TOEFL MyBest (super-scored) or TOEFL Essentials results are **not** accepted.*
- g) Completion of **Cambridge English Qualifications**
Undergraduates: B2 First, C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency - minimum overall score of 176, with no part less than 169. Minimum score to be met for each respective level.
Graduates: C1 Advanced, or C2 Proficiency - minimum score of 180. Minimum score to be met for each respective level.
Document accepted: Official Cambridge English Qualifications test score.
- h) Completion of the **Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL)** with an overall minimum score of 70, with no part less than 60.
Document accepted: Official CAEL test score
- i) Completion of the **Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)** with an overall minimum score of 65, with no part less than 60.
Document accepted: Official PTE Academic test score
- j) **Completion of Duolingo English Test (DET)**
Undergraduates only: Overall minimum score of 125
Graduates only: Overall minimum score of 125, with a minimum of 105 in each section.

	Document accepted (from all countries): Official Duolingo test score. Applicants must send the test result to “Simon Fraser University”, and upload a PDF result certificate in the application to be verified by SFU. k) Completion of LanguageCert Academic Undergraduates only: Overall minimum score of 70, with no part less than 65 Document accepted: Submit test results to through Official LanguageCert account to “Simon Fraser University”, and upload a PDF Test Report/ Certificate in the application to be verified by SFU.
Degree Level	SFU accepts undergraduate and graduate (Master’s/PhD) exchange students; graduate study may be limited, varies by discipline/term, and is assessed case-by-case by the academic unit (see “Acceptance” below for details). Most exchange students are registered at the undergraduate level—refer to your exchange agreement to confirm eligible study levels for your students. Students seeking graduate-level study should review SFU’s host program/department/faculty course offerings per term for academic alignment and contact exchange@sfu.ca before nomination to discuss feasibility of study. Admission may be declined by the department, if requirements are not met. See the list of Graduate Studies Programs and their academic levels offered at SFU. Psychology does not currently accept graduate-level exchange students (subject to change).
Degree Progress	SFU does not require exchange and study abroad students to have completed a minimum number of credits, courses or years prior to their exchange.

Application Process and Deadlines

Nomination and Application Deadlines	Fall term admission (Call for Nominations issued in January): Nomination deadline: March 15 Application deadline: March 31 Spring term admission (Call for Nominations issued in mid-July): Nomination deadline: September 1 Application deadline: September 15 Summer term: Full year students may stay for SFU’s Summer term (e.g. Spring 2028 and Summer 2028 for one full year space), however exchange students cannot start their exchange in the Summer term.
Nomination and Application Process	In advance of each intake, you will receive a “Nomination form” from SFU by email. Add your students’ details to this form and return to exchange@sfu.ca. Application: https://www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/prospective/application.html
Required Supporting Documents	• Most recent official transcript (in English). ○ Official transcript issued by your home institution on the institution’s letterhead and stamp (if applicable). ○ Must be written in English. You may need to request an English translation from your home institution. ○ Must include transcript grading key / legend. ○ Must scan and upload all sides, including transcript grading key / legend, and merged into 1 file. ○ Recommended: include any other higher education transcripts, if applicable (e.g., Bachelor’s, transfer institutions). • Colour Passport-style photo (head shot, white- or light-colored background with full-face view, no hats or sunglasses) • Statement of interest (250-500 words statement about your interest in SFU, your study plan, and any relevant academic and international experience) • Proof of English Language Proficiency, if required (various documents accepted; see requirements on previous page)

	NOTE: Students wishing to access “writing-intensive” (courses with “W” after the course number, e.g., CMNS 323W) or “quantitative courses” (courses listed as “Q”), must submit proof of English literacy (including native English speakers) or quantitative background, respectively. For more information, please see Restrictions and Considerations. Students who wish to be registered as graduate students must also submit: • 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)
Acceptance	When students submit a complete application by the stated deadline, they will receive their SFU Admission Letter as follows: Fall Admission: by end of May Spring Admission: by end of October Students will receive a pdf copy of their admission letter from ISS which can be printed. Partners will be copied on this email. 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.

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 and are **not** guaranteed, so we encourage students to **apply as early as possible**.

For information on SFU's on-campus housing please visit [SFU Residence and Housing](#).

Off-Campus

Students who wish to live off-campus or are not offered a place in on-campus residence, should [Off-Campus webpage](#) for information on off-campus housing.

PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Medical Insurance	SFU has a mandatory primary medical insurance plan for inbound international exchange/study abroad students, called GuardMe@SFU. Only students whose home institutions are within Canada, or who are covered by specific plans can be exempted from GuardMe@SFU.
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	"Study abroad" students (who pay tuition and fees to SFU) will also be automatically enrolled into a mandatory secondary insurance plan. For more information, visit Medical Services and Insurance.
Immigration	Study permits Studies of 6 months or less Students coming to SFU for a one-term exchange may travel to Canada as a visitor and study at SFU without a study permit. Visit the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website for information about who is eligible to study without a study permit. Students should review the SFU website for more information and important considerations. Studies of more than 6 months Students coming to SFU for more than one term require a study permit unless they are eligible to study without a study permit. Students can review the SFU website and the IRCC website for more information about how to apply for a study permit. Students should review the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website and SFU's Immigration Documents webpage for the most up-to-date information on what documents are needed to study in Canada. For questions related to study permit and Canadian immigration requirements, students can seek advice from SFU's International Student Advisors: https://www.sfu.ca/students/isap/contact.html Provincial Attestation Letters (PAL) A provincial attestation letter (PAL) is required for most study permit applications. SFU exchange students who are studying under an exchange arrangement between their home institution and SFU, and who do not pay tuition fees to SFU, do not require a PAL to apply for a study permit. The PAL requirement still applies to study abroad students who are applying for a study permit and paying their tuition to SFU. We will be in touch with partners directly who this applies to. Questions? For questions related to study permit and Canadian immigration requirements, students can contact a SFU International Student Advisor, Immigration Specialist.
Student Support Services	Academic Accommodation: Students seeking academic accommodations should contact SFU's Centre for Accessible Learning well in advance of their exchange term. Health and Counselling Services: All incoming exchange / study abroad students have access to SFU's Health and Counselling Services should they require medical services, mental health support and resources. My Student Support Program (My SSP): My SSP is a resource designed to support the overall mental health and well-being of students by providing real-time 24/7 access to professional counsellors, with multiple language options. Student Learning Commons (SLC): SFU's Student Learning Commons provides expert and friendly help with academic writing, learning and study strategies in an environment of collaboration, discussion and peer learning, and various academic workshop at no cost.
	All exchange / study abroad students are enrolled in a mandatory online pre-arrival

Orientation	program, <i>SFU 101: Exchange to SFU</i> , followed by orientation activities at the start of each term. For more information, visit Orientation .
Transportation Pass (U-Pass BC)	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, visit U-Pass BC .
Other Information	For all other pre-arrival information, please see the following: • Exchange and Study Abroad to SFU • New Students