

U-Pass BC Spring Semester Clarification

Following a motion passed in the December meeting of the GSS Council, the agreement between GSS and Translink regarding the U-Pass BC program has been amended for the Spring term. Any graduate student enrolled *only* in courses labeled as remote education will **not** be eligible for a U-Pass.

Since many students in research-based programs need access to transportation for academic purposes, a solution has been devised. This has been very complicated and required some time to develop in partnership with SFU, and we sincerely apologize for the confusion that has resulted over the past weeks.

Students who are enrolled in courses labeled as in-person ([the list can be found on SFU's website](#)) will be assessed the U-Pass fee, subject to the long-standing exemption rules, e.g. medical reasons, as explained at the end of this message. However, if you have in-person academic duties and are not enrolled in a course labeled as in-person, you must be enrolled in the G100 section of your capstone/thesis course to get a pass. Different departments have different capstone course regulations, and if you do not normally enroll in the course it is best to contact your Graduate Program Assistant. The G200 sections of the capstone courses are considered remote for these purposes and will not provide access to the U-Pass BC program, and are appropriate for those students who do not have in-person academic duties this semester. TransLink will audit the program, so it is important that students select the relevant section for their personal academic circumstances.

To sum up, either enrolling in one of the in-person courses listed on SFU's website **OR** enrolling in the G100 section of a capstone course will make you eligible for a U-Pass. If you are not enrolled in an in-person course **AND** you are either not enrolled in a capstone course at all or enrolled in the G200 section of a capstone course, you will not be assessed the U-Pass fee. While we admit this is certainly not the most straightforward policy, in the view of the GSS and Council it was the best compromise between having the U-Pass BC program cancelled for all students and having U-Pass fees assessed to all Metro Vancouver students, which were the alternative options. We appreciate the patience of our members in this matter.

If you need further assistance, please contact your Graduate Program Assistant.

ACTION ITEM: Log into goSFU [↗](#) to review your enrollment and swap between G100 and G200 capstone course sections if necessary, by using the swap function under the Enroll in Classes menu option (blue tab under your name). If you are becoming eligible for the U-Pass BC program by doing so, make sure to pay the fee that will later show up in your account (as well as your tuition if you haven't already) by the SFU deadline!

Exemption information: If you are enrolled in an in-person course and are eligible for the U-Pass BC program, exemption requests are still available for eligible students provided they fall within one of the existing exemption categories (<https://www.sfu.ca/students/upass/exemption.html>). If you are seeking an exemption for your U-Pass, you must apply by **January 21, 2021 at 4:30pm**. If you have any questions specifically about **exemptions**, send your inquiries to upass@sfu.ca or call 778-782-6930.