

## Simon Fraser University Fact Sheet: 2013/14

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### About SFU

Simon Fraser University's vision is to be Canada's most community-engaged research university. Founded in 1965, SFU has always been a distinctive institution, characterized by a commitment to academic freedom, interdisciplinary research, community engagement, and innovative programming and pedagogy.

With three campuses, 30,000 students, 6500 faculty and staff, and 120,000 alumni, SFU has matured into one of the world's leading teaching and research universities. SFU is consistently ranked among Canada's top comprehensive universities in Macleans magazine's annual student survey, and in 2012 appeared in Times Higher Education world rankings of 100 universities under 50 years old.

#### Campus Locations

Simon Fraser University's three unique campuses, spread throughout Metropolitan Vancouver, 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, bordered by both ocean and mountains. Here is what others have to say about the city:

*"Vancouver is Manhattan with mountains. It's a liquid city, a tomorrow city, equal parts India, China, England, France and the Pacific Northwest. It's the cool North American sibling."* – The New York Times

*"Vancouver is a city unlike any other. Wherever I look, I see water or mountains -- or both."* – The Daily Telegraph (UK)

*"In winter, the heart of downtown [Vancouver] is 30 minutes from the ski slopes. In summer, sun seekers crowd its beaches and seaside promenades. And despite a rain-prone climate, it displays a perpetually sunny disposition. Consider it the supermodel of North American cities."* – USA Today

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### Faculties and Departments at SFU

Please note that some subjects and courses have **restrictions** for inbound exchange/study abroad students. Please see these restrictions here: [<students.sfu.ca/exchange/prospective/courses.html>](http://students.sfu.ca/exchange/prospective/courses.html)

Faculty of Applied Sciences	Computing Science Engineering Science	Mechatronic Systems Engineering
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	Anthropology Asia-Canada Studies Cognitive Science Criminology Economics English First Nations Studies French Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies	Gerontology Hellenic Studies History Humanities International Studies Labour Studies Languages Latin American Studies
Beedie School of Business* (courses only open to students from Business Preferred Exchange programs) < <a href="http://beedie.sfu.ca/exchange/destinations/">beedie.sfu.ca/exchange/destinations/</a> >	Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management Information Systems Human Resource Management Operations Management	Linguistics Philosophy Political Science Psychology Sociology Urban Studies World Literature
Faculty of Communication, Arts, and Technology	Communication Contemporary Arts	Marketing Finance International Business
Faculty of Education	Education	Interactive Arts and Technology
Faculty of Environment	Archaeology Sustainable Community Development 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 classes are 3-4 units each)	Minimum enrollment for full-time status: 9 units (normally 3 classes) Maximum enrollment, or "full course load": 15 units (normally 4 or 5 classes) <b>Recommended enrollment for exchange and study abroad students: 9 – 12 units (normally 3 or 4 classes)</b>
Course Load for Graduate Study (most graduate courses are worth 3 units each)	Minimum enrollment for full-time status: 6 units (normally 2 classes) or full-time research <b>Recommended enrollment for exchange and study abroad students: 6 units (normally 2 classes) or full-time research</b>

Course Selection	<p>At the time of application, or shortly thereafter, students should submit their “preferred courses” or research proposal (for grad students planning to pursue research at SFU) through their online application. Undergraduate students must submit a minimum of 8 courses that will be offered in their first term, in their order of preference, to account for timetable conflicts, etc. ISS will be in touch with students if more course options are needed.</p> <p>SFU does its best to accommodate course selection requests, but cannot guarantee access to specific courses.</p> <p>For more information on course selection please see the following website:  <a href="http://students.sfu.ca/exchange/prospective/courses.html">&lt;students.sfu.ca/exchange/prospective/courses.html&gt;</a> </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. Students will be provided more information about this over email.</p> <p>If students stay for subsequent terms, they will be responsible for enrolling themselves (ISS will provide information on this to students as applicable.)</p>
English Language Resources	<p>SFU’s “Learning Commons” operates a variety of programs and resources for students who speak English as an additional language: <a href="http://learningcommons.sfu.ca/services/eal/">&lt;learningcommons.sfu.ca/services/eal/&gt;</a></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: [<students.sfu.ca/calendar/academic-dates.html>](http://students.sfu.ca/calendar/academic-dates.html)

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

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).

NOTE: 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>IELTS: minimum overall band score of 6.5 with no part less than 6.0, or</p> <p>TOEFL iBT: minimum overall score of 88 or better with a minimum score of 20 in each of the four components, or</p> <p>TOEFL pBT: minimum overall of 570 and TWE of at least 4.5, OR minimum of 600 (without essay), or</p> <p>(For bilateral exchange partners only) Letter from home institution coordinator (signed, on official letterhead), stating that the student "meets the English language requirements to study on exchange at SFU"</p>
Degree Level	<p>SFU welcomes both undergraduate and graduate exchange students. Please reference our exchange agreement to determine which levels are open for your students.</p> <p>Most exchange/study abroad students at SFU are registered as "undergraduate" students for their time at SFU.</p>
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><b>Fall term admission:</b>  <b>Nomination deadline (NEW!): March 15</b>          Application deadline (with priority housing): March 31          Application deadline (without priority housing): <b>April 30</b> (changed from May 1)</p> <p><b>Spring term admission:</b>  <b>Nomination deadline (NEW!): September 15</b>          Application deadline: September 30</p> <p><b>Summer term admission:</b>  <b>Nomination deadline (NEW!): January 15</b>          Application deadline: January 30</p>
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Nomination and Application Process	<p>1. <b>Partners will receive an email from SFU</b> with their login for the online system. On the system they will enter the names, email addresses and other relevant information and documents for each student they wish to nominate.</p> <p>2. <b>Students will then receive an email from the system</b> with a web link to access the online system and complete their application, which will include uploading the required supporting documents.</p> <p>3. <b>Once the student completes their application online it will be sent back to the home institution for final review prior to submission to SFU.</b> The home institution coordinator will confirm the accuracy and completion of the student application and electronically submit the application to SFU for review. The system will inform SFU that the application is ready for review.</p>
Required Supporting Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Most recent official transcript (in English)</li> <li>-One photo (head shot, passport photo size)</li> <li>-Statement of interest (study plan, interest in SFU, any relevant academic and international experience)</li> <li>-Proof of English language (see requirements above)</li> </ul> <p>Students who wish to be registered as Graduate students must also submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Two academic references (a letter of support from your program supervisor is preferred, and one letter of support from a recent instructor)</li> <li>-Curriculum vitae</li> <li>-Research proposal (only required if students wish to pursue research while at SFU and would like assistance finding a supervisor)</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: All applications for graduate exchange students are forwarded to the appropriate academic department for approval. <b>Graduate applications may take additional time to process.</b></p> <p>NOTE: If any students wish to access "writing-intensive" (courses with "W" after the course number, eg CMNS 323W), they must submit proof of English literacy (including native English speakers). For more information please see:  <a href="http://www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/prospective/courses.html">www.sfu.ca/students/exchange/prospective/courses.html</a></p>
Acceptance	<p>ISS reviews exchange/study abroad applications on an ongoing basis. Once a complete application is submitted, students are normally admitted to SFU within 6 weeks. Students will receive a digital copy of their admission letter from ISS directly that can be printed.</p> <p><b>CHANGE:</b> As of the Spring 2014 term, ISS will no longer issue or courier hard copy acceptance letters. If you have particular concerns about this, please let us know.</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 minutes by public transit 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 below. *We are not able to guarantee on-campus housing for exchange students.*

Fall Term Admission	<p>Students should apply for housing <b>at the same time</b> that they apply to SFU for their exchange/study abroad term.</p> <p>Students must submit BOTH their "Exchange and Study Abroad" application (to International Services for Students) and their "On-Campus Housing" application (to the Housing office) by March 31 in order to be placed on a "priority housing list".</p> <p>Students who miss the March 31 application deadline can still apply for on-campus housing, but will not be placed on a priority list.</p> <p>Students must pay a mandatory application fee in order to apply for on-campus housing.</p> <p>NOTE: 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).</p>
Spring Term Admission	<p>Students will apply for housing <b>after</b> applying to SFU for their exchange/study abroad term.</p> <p>There is no "priority housing list" for Spring term admission, but students who apply early are normally able to secure on-campus housing.</p> <p>Students must pay a mandatory application fee in order to apply for on-campus housing.</p> <p>NOTE: 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).</p>

For information on SFU's on-campus housing please see: <[students.sfu.ca/residences.html](http://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: <[students.sfu.ca/residences/offcampus.html](http://students.sfu.ca/residences/offcampus.html)>

## PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Medical Insurance	<p>SFU has a <b>mandatory</b> primary medical insurance plan for inbound international exchange/study abroad students. Students who can provide proof of acceptable equivalent coverage are able to opt out.</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>For more information on medical insurance please see the following website: &lt;<a href="http://www.sfu.ca/medical-insurance/exchange-studyabroad.html">http://www.sfu.ca/medical-insurance/exchange-studyabroad.html</a>&gt;</p>
Immigration	<p>Students should read the "Immigration" section of our Pre-Arrival Guide for the most current information on immigration for their exchange/study abroad term.</p> <p>&lt;<a href="https://blogs.sfu.ca/departments/pre-arrival/?page_id=242">blogs.sfu.ca/departments/pre-arrival/?page_id=242</a>&gt;</p> <p>If students have questions about Canadian immigration requirements they are welcome to contact SFU's International Student Advisors: <a href="mailto:intl_advising@sfu.ca">intl_advising@sfu.ca</a></p>
Global Partnering System	<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 partner 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.</p> <p>&lt;<a href="https://students.sfu.ca/exchange/gps.html">students.sfu.ca/exchange/gps.html</a>&gt;</p>
Orientation	<p>SFU operates an orientation program every term, comprised of several different sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Exchange and Study Abroad Orientation (free; all students should attend)</li> <li>-Campus Orientation (\$; optional but highly recommended)</li> <li>-Residence Orientation (\$; optional but highly recommended; only open to students living in on-campus housing)</li> <li>-Graduate Orientation (only open to students registered at SFU as graduate students)</li> </ul> <p>For more information on SFU's Orientation programming please see the following website: &lt;<a href="https://students.sfu.ca/isap/new/orientation.html">students.sfu.ca/isap/new/orientation.html</a>&gt;</p>
Other Information	<p>For all other pre-arrival information, please see the following:</p> <p>Exchanges to SFU: &lt;<a href="https://students.sfu.ca/exchange.html">students.sfu.ca/exchange.html</a>&gt;</p> <p>Pre-Arrival Guide: &lt;<a href="https://blogs.sfu.ca/departments/pre-arrival/">blogs.sfu.ca/departments/pre-arrival/</a>&gt;</p>