

UBC Visiting International Research Student (VIRS) – Approval Form

Established and approved by the UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan Senates in 2014, the Visiting International Research Students (VIRS) program is the admissions pathway to bring international students to UBC for short-term research visits supervised by UBC faculty. Since 2014 UBC has welcomed over 2000 VIRS students from over 650 universities and 78 different countries. The VIRS program is managed by Go Global under the Office of the Vice Provost, International.

A VIRS student must meet all of the following **eligibly criteria**:

- Not have Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status.
- Intend to come to UBC solely for the purpose of research that aligns with their academic program at their home university.
- Plan to engage in research education and conduct research for one month or longer (maximum 12 months) under the supervision of a UBC faculty member.
- Have no intention to enter into an employment relationship with the university related to the research.
- Obtain the approval for research activities at UBC from their home university.
- Have a UBC faculty member who has agreed to act as research supervisor during the visit.

Note that there is no specific English-language proficiency requirement, or an academic grade point average requirement, for admission through VIRS. It is at the discretion of the host professor and department to determine VIRS applicants' qualifications to undertake the research. Go Global will review students' applications for basic eligibility, and admit eligible students to the university.

VIRS program fee: The fee is \$415 for any period from one month up to one year. The fee must be renewed after one year, should the VIRS student wish to extend their research period. **Host professors or departments may choose to pay this fee; if this is the case, please contact Go Global.**

Medical Insurance (iMED and BC MSP): A VIRS student will be automatically enrolled in the iMED insurance program at the time of registration. iMED is a temporary basic health insurance plan required for new international students, and will provide you with health insurance coverage during the three month waiting period for BC's Medical Services Plan (MSP) or the duration of your study period if you are not eligible for MSP

Application Process: To allow for processing of the VIRS application as well as any applicable immigration documents, it's recommended to begin the VIRS application process **at least 3 months** before the intended arrival date. Create an account through the [VIRS Student Application Portal](#). After you create an account, check your email for instructions on how to begin the application. Begin the application and upload your signed VIRS Approval Form where indicated. Submit your application. Then, follow the steps to obtain your UBC Student ID Number and Campus-Wide Login ID (CWL). Within 7 business days, the VIRS Program Fee will be charged to your online account to be paid. Within 10 business days after the fee is paid, eligible students will receive an official UBC Letter of Acceptance from Go Global.

Admitted VIRS Students have full-time student status while at UBC and are expected to undertake research full-time. They are not permitted to register in or formally audit courses at UBC.

Go Global: International Learning Programs

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<https://global.ubc.ca/go-global/coming-ubc-study-abroad/visiting-international-research-students-virs>

