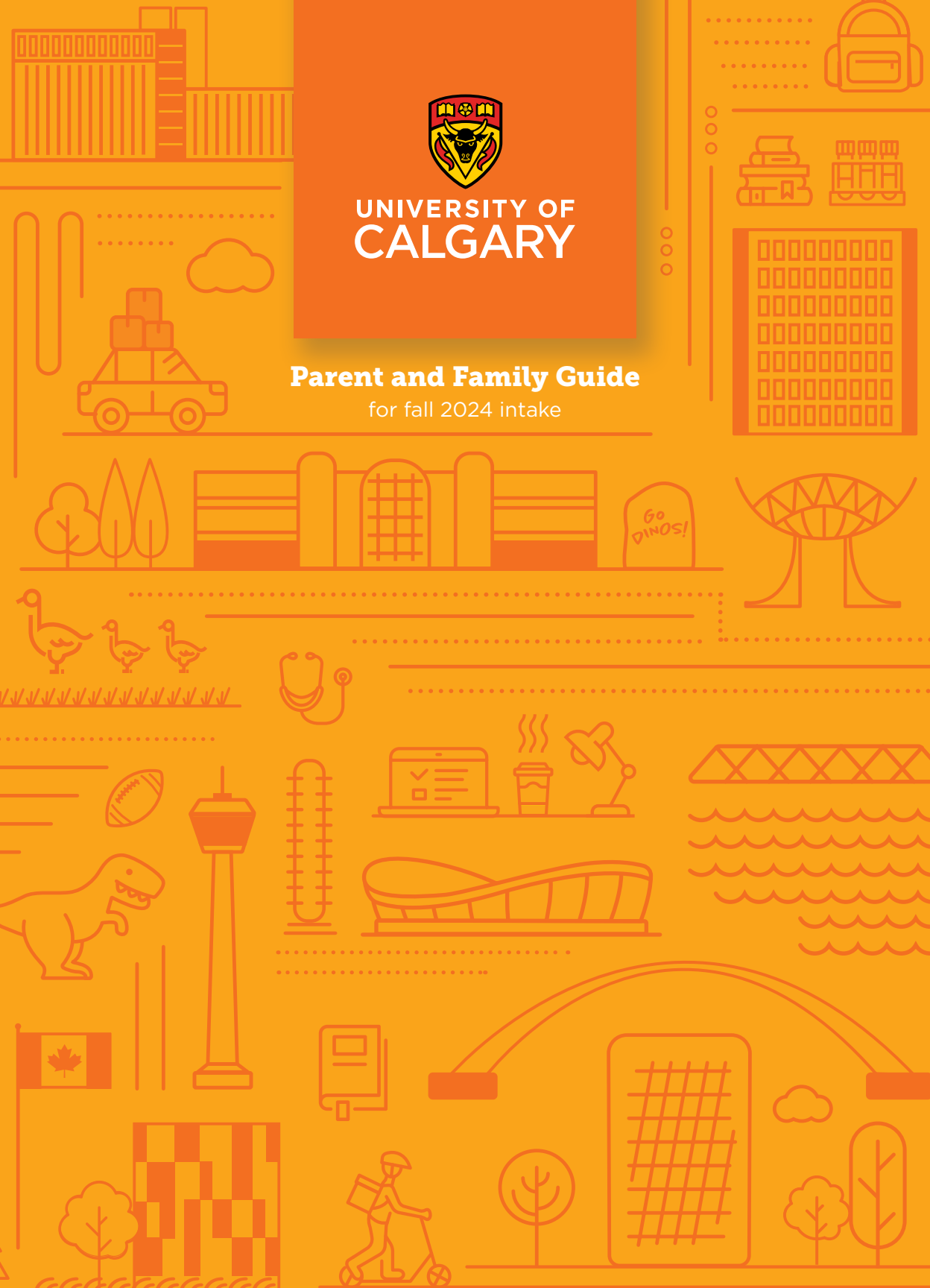




# UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

## Parent and Family Guide for fall 2024 intake





Convocation is an incredible experience for students and their loved ones. UCalgary holds convocation ceremonies in November and June each year to celebrate graduation and the completion of programs.

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

Learn about our Indigenous Strategy, ii' taa'poh'to'p, at [ucalgary.ca/indigenous](https://ucalgary.ca/indigenous)

#### Learn why we do territorial acknowledgements



Hear from Dr. Reg Crowshoe, UCalgary's Traditional Knowledge Keeper in Residence.



**We know you want your student to succeed in university.**

**We do, too!**

You've made a significant investment in your student's future, and we're here to ensure they have an extraordinary educational experience that sets them up for lifelong success. At UCalgary, our students go beyond traditional learning; they actively engage in cross-disciplinary collaboration, explore innovative approaches to problem-solving, and cultivate lasting experiences that shape their lives.

This comprehensive parent and family guide is designed to help you understand the breadth of opportunities at UCalgary and better support your student's transition to post-secondary.

# Start something.

## Embrace campus life to the fullest

Students can get the complete campus experience with endless ways to get involved and enhance their educational journey. With diverse clubs, events, and immersive learning, we foster collaboration and lasting relationships, empowering students to make a difference. No matter their interests, your student can find a community where they can thrive.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Your student can look forward to **many new experiences** and adventures. See for yourself!

[▶](#) Get Involved at the University of Calgary

Your student can start something extraordinary at UCalgary.

At UCalgary, students discover a high-quality education enriched by research and experiential learning, allowing them to explore, take risks, and make a difference in their communities and beyond.



## Engage in world-changing research

As one of Canada's top research universities, we provide extensive opportunities for students to engage in transformative research, from exploring the mysteries of the quantum world to addressing real-world challenges.

With over half a billion dollars invested in advancing knowledge and a thriving innovation ecosystem, students are empowered to partake in cutting-edge discoveries shaping our future.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Discover the many ways your student can **get involved in research**.

[▶](#) Undergraduate Research at the University of Calgary



## Unlock career opportunities

Empower your student to kickstart their career with co-op, practicum, and internship programs. These experiences provide invaluable hands-on work opportunities during their degree and help them make vital connections for their future.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Learn how **experiential learning** provides knowledge that sets UCalgary students apart.

[▶](#) Work-Integrated Learning at the University of Calgary



## A safe place to learn

We're proud to have a welcoming and safe campus. We take a proactive approach to safety, ensuring our campuses are patrolled 24 hours a day and monitored by over 2,000 CCTV cameras.

Our university offers help phones and intercoms in most buildings, parking lots, and elevators; a check-in system called SoloSafe; and a Safewalk program in which volunteers will walk anyone to their destination 24/7.



## Diverse perspectives, endless possibilities

UCalgary, a global intellectual hub, embraces diverse perspectives from 140+ countries. Our graduates gain strong cross-cultural competencies, empowering them in the global marketplace. Our vibrant community celebrates boundless opportunities, fostering innovation and inspiring positive change worldwide.

We are committed to inclusivity, actively removing barriers for equity deserving groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, visible/racialized minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ2S+ students.

Learn about equity, diversity and inclusion at UCalgary: [ucalgary.ca/equity-diversity-inclusion](https://ucalgary.ca/equity-diversity-inclusion)



## Embark on educational adventures

Your student doesn't have to wait until they graduate to see the world. With 200+ partners and programs across 45 countries, our Global Learning program enables students to explore new places, ideas, and cultures through study.

Learn more at [ucalgary.ca/international/study-abroad](https://ucalgary.ca/international/study-abroad)




**Calgary is a city of opportunity.  
There's no better place to pursue a  
post-secondary education.**

Downtown Calgary is easily reached from the university using public transit. Students get unlimited use of public transit with their UPass.




**Innovation, creativity and an  
unwavering entrepreneurial spirit  
strengthen our campus culture.**



-  **28,000+** undergraduate students
-  **140+** career workshops each year
-  **95%** undergraduate retention rate



-  Ranked in the **top 250** universities worldwide
-  **#1** startup creator amongst research institutions



-  **94%** graduate employment rate
-  **23:1** student to faculty ratio



Ranked the **7<sup>th</sup>** most livable city in the world



**3<sup>rd</sup>** most diverse major city in Canada



Highest concentration of high-tech workers



One of the safest cities in Canada



Canada's sunniest major city



Highest average personal income in Canada and no provincial sales tax



**Aspire**

The Aspire program connects students with a community of high-achieving peers across all disciplines. Participants can attend specialized workshops, get academic tips and support, and more. Students can join this program at any stage of their degree.

[ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/aspire](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/aspire)

**Ancillary Services**

The Ancillary Services team supports multiple areas on campus including parking and transportation, the Bookstore, the UPass and Residence Services. Explore options for semester or annual parking permits, e-scooter rentals, and much more.

[ucalgary.ca/ancillary](https://ucalgary.ca/ancillary)

**Centre for Career and Personal Development (CCPD)**

The CCPD empowers students to take initiative in their personal and professional growth. A fusion of the Career Services and Leadership and Student Engagement offices, the CCPD provides resources and opportunities for students to explore their career paths, develop leadership skills, and engage with the community in meaningful ways.

[ucalgary.ca/ccpd](https://ucalgary.ca/ccpd)

**Faith and Spirituality Centre (FSC)**

The FSC seeks to cultivate a pluralistic community by encouraging cultural and religious literacy, community building, and social change.

[ucalgary.ca/student-services/faith-spirituality](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/faith-spirituality)

**UCalgary Dinos**

Do you have a student interested in playing for the Dinos? Students should directly contact the head coach of the sport they're interested in playing.

[godinos.com](https://godinos.com)

**Life Design Hub**

The Life Design Hub was launched to meet student demand for personal growth and self-discovery. Programs and events hosted in the Hub address themes such as navigating failure, overcoming barriers and building confidence.

In the space, students are introduced to the concept of life design, a design thinking-based approach fostering a fulfilling life through problem-solving and implementation of promising solutions.

[ucalgary.ca/current-students/life-design-hub](https://ucalgary.ca/current-students/life-design-hub)

**International Student Services (ISS)**

ISS provides support and advising services for international students, including having regulated immigration advisors to support students with the study permit process. They also run many peer-driven programs to connect international students with their peers and the campus community.

[ucalgary.ca/iss](https://ucalgary.ca/iss)

**Student Accessibility Services (SAS)**

SAS works to create an inclusive and accessible learning environment at UCalgary. It offers comprehensive support for students with disabilities, providing accommodations, resources, and mentorship to foster their success and resilience throughout their academic journey.

[ucalgary.ca/access](https://ucalgary.ca/access)

**Student Success Centre (SSC)**

The SSC's team of advisors, academic development staff, and writing support staff strive to promote academic success. Students can access one-on-one advising services, as well as workshops, success seminars, academic support programs and more.

[ucalgary.ca/success](https://ucalgary.ca/success)

**Student Wellness Services (SWS)**

Students enjoy comprehensive on-campus health and wellness services, including medical, chiropractic, massage, counselling, and wellness programs with no extra fees or session limits. Support includes group or individual counselling, skill-building seminars, online resources and peer support.

[ucalgary.ca/wellness-services](https://ucalgary.ca/wellness-services)

**Women's Resource Centre (WRC)**

In addition to support, resources and advocacy for gender issues, the WRC enables students of all identities to connect and foster equality on campus.

[ucalgary.ca/women](https://ucalgary.ca/women)

**Writing Symbols Lodge (WSL)**

This welcoming space supports UCalgary's Indigenous community. Students can access a computer lab, study space, and a range of cultural programming, including monthly ceremonies, social activities and advising.

[ucalgary.ca/writing-symbols](https://ucalgary.ca/writing-symbols)

[CLICK HERE](#)

*Learn more about the many services and supports available for your student at UCalgary*

## Residence is where students can live, learn and grow alongside their peers, while creating strong and lasting friendships.

From shared dorm-style rooms in first year, to full apartments in upper years or grad school, to family housing, there are options available for all students.



- Residence events, activities and themed dinners
- Employment and leadership opportunities
- Fully-furnished units (including internet, utilities and more)
- Wellness and academic support
- Dedicated academic communities
- Short walk to classes, library, labs and activities
- Safewalk available 24/7

**A home away from home**

Living in residence provides an unmatched opportunity for your student to build a diverse and supportive friend network, creating connections that greatly enhance their university experience. Each building has a dedicated residence life coordinator to support student needs, from homesickness to health and academics. Everything they need is conveniently accessible on campus, from classes to academic and wellness services, with shopping and groceries nearby.

Learn more at: [ucalgary.ca/ancillary/residence/live-with-us](https://ucalgary.ca/ancillary/residence/live-with-us)

**Meal plans**

The University of Calgary has unlimited *All You Care to Eat* meal plans that ensure students have the best value, convenience, nutrition and flexibility.

The *All You Care to Eat* meal plans are also available for those not living in residence, along with swipe plans and door rates, which will vary based on the time of day.

Learn more at: [ucalgary.ca/ancillary/unicard/use-card/meal-plan](https://ucalgary.ca/ancillary/unicard/use-card/meal-plan)

## As your student prepares to apply for university, here are some common terms they may encounter:

### Credentials

**Bachelor's degree:** An undergraduate degree that typically takes four to five years to complete. Many bachelor's degrees are direct entry; however, some degrees require prior university study (e.g., Social Work, Law and Medicine). A student who is pursuing a bachelor's degree is called an undergraduate student.

**Honours bachelor's degree:** An honours degree is a further specialization of a bachelor's degree requiring high academic standing and, typically, a thesis project. A thesis project is an original research idea that is presented at the end of the undergraduate degree. Some programs at UCalgary, like the Bachelor of Health Sciences, are only offered as an honours degree.

**Combined degree:** A combined degree is when a student registers in two different bachelor's degrees (including honours degrees) at the same time and graduates from both degrees concurrently. It typically requires a minimum of five years of study. UCalgary has many combined degrees to choose from, including a combined degree in engineering and business.

**Professional undergraduate degree:** A professional undergraduate degree is one that leads to a professional Doctor degree (e.g., Doctor of Medicine, Juris Doctor and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine). These programs typically require students to present an initial bachelor's degree before they can apply.

CLICK HERE

*Learn more about how to select a program*

[ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/choosing-your-degree](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/choosing-your-degree)



### Other common terms

**Major:** A major is the main area of focus throughout a bachelor's degree. Students typically take one-third of their courses in this specialization.

**Double major:** When a student registers in an undergraduate degree with two different majors. This typically means an additional 14-16 courses in another major that is different than the first major but part of the same faculty. For example, a student may pursue a double degree in both Political Science and Spanish, which are both offered in the Faculty of Arts.

**Minor:** A minor is an optional secondary area of focus that can be added to a degree in an upper year. It requires fewer courses than a major.

**Embedded certificate:** Embedded certificates are completed as part of a bachelor's degree, at no extra cost, and are designed to focus on a thematic area and be available to students across faculties. Examples include embedded certificates in Sustainability Studies or Entrepreneurial Thinking.

CLICK HERE

*Learn more about customizing a degree*

[ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/choosing-your-degree/customizing-your-degree](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/choosing-your-degree/customizing-your-degree)

**Academic calendar:** The calendar contains information about our program and admission requirements, course descriptions and academic regulations.

View our academic calendar at: [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current](https://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current)

**Academic Communication Certificate (ACC):** The ACC is the UCalgary English pathway program. Students registered in the ACC may be eligible for conditional admission to a degree program. The ACC will take from 4 to 11 months to complete and is eligible for 6 units of transfer credit.

Learn more at: [esl.ucalgary.ca/programs/academic-communication-certificate](https://esl.ucalgary.ca/programs/academic-communication-certificate)

**Conditional offer:** These are requirements that need to be met by students who receive an admission decision while they have coursework in progress. Conditions of admission are outlined in the Student Centre ([my.ucalgary.ca](https://my.ucalgary.ca)), and students must complete them in order to have their admission finalized.

**First Year Degree Guide:** This online planning tool allows students to see the recommended course list that students would take in their first year of study.

Learn more at: [ucalgary.ca/student-services/degree-guide](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/degree-guide)



## Keeping your student on track

# A timeline to applying at UCalgary

1

### August–October

This is an important period to explore different programs and options with your student.

- Attend a campus tour, Open House, and a Faculty Information Night.

Learn more at: [ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/tours-and-events](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/tours-and-events)

2

### November

This is a critical time for your student to submit their online application for admission and apply for our student awards.

- Apply to UCalgary
- Apply for our high school entrance awards
- Apply for our prestige awards

The first round of admission offers will be issued mid-November.

3

### March–May

This period is important for your student to accept their offer of admission and explore course registration resources. This is also when UCalgary makes award decisions. We encourage students to apply for residence during these months.

- 95% of high school offers will be issued by May

4

### June–August

As the new school year approaches, your student can apply for loans and begin making a plan to fund their education.

## To assist your student with the application process, here are some helpful tips:

- Students should **apply as early as possible** to be considered for both admission and awards.
- **Students can apply to two programs with one application and a single fee** (\$125 for students with Canadian credentials and \$145 for students with international credentials) and change their program choices until March 1.
- Students should **select the program that they're most interested in as their first choice**. If they receive an offer to their first choice program, it's the only offer they'll receive.
- UCalgary programs are competitive. The competitive admission process is grade-based and does not take into account other factors (volunteering, extracurricular involvement, etc.). Each program will be reviewed **based on the grades presented when each transcript is received**. If a student is unable to be considered for early admission, their programs will be automatically reviewed again when new grades are received.
- There are two steps to accept an offer of admission. **Students must accept the offer** in their Student Centre ([my.ucalgary.ca](https://my.ucalgary.ca)) and pay the \$500 non-refundable admission deposit. This deposit will go towards your student's first-year tuition. The due date for this deposit is included with their offer of admission.
- To finalize admission, students must graduate from high school, complete the five required courses and maintain their admission average.


[CLICK HERE](#)

### Questions? We're here to help.

For more information about the application process, our team of Student Recruitment Advisors are available to support prospective undergraduate students, parents, and community members in navigating the admission process and pathway options. Our team is here to answer all the questions you have about becoming a UCalgary Dino!

Book a meeting with your recruiter today: [ucalgary.ca/recruiters](https://ucalgary.ca/recruiters)

## Choosing and customizing a degree

### An education tailored to their interests, skills and career goals

Some of the most commonly asked questions by students are **What major should I choose?** and **What can I do with my degree after university?**

Exploring various programs and majors can open up a plethora of career opportunities. But with so many options, decision-making can be both exciting and stressful. Here are two simple steps to help students find clarity and gain confidence in choosing their career path.

#### Step 1: Selecting a major

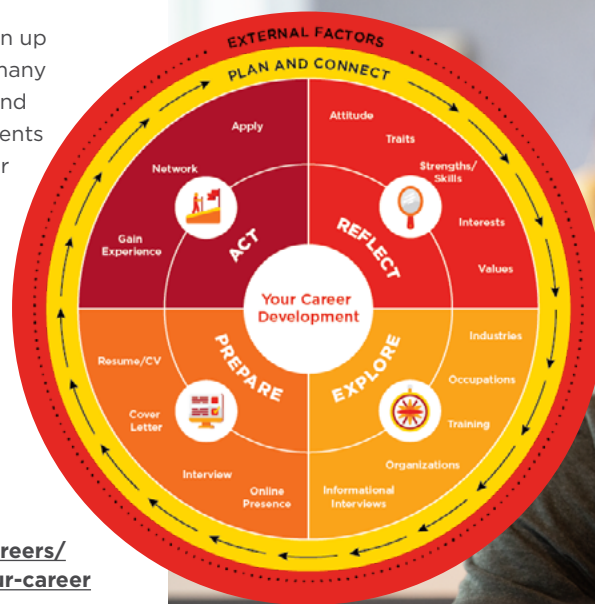
For students who are unsure about which major to pursue, here are some resources that can help them explore their possibilities for study:

- Review the First Year Degree Guide to see what courses are included in their first year of study: [ucalgary.ca/student-services/degree-guide](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/degree-guide)
- Use the career wheel to refine their career aspirations: [ucalgary.ca/student-services/careers/students/browse-online-resources/plan-your-career](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/careers/students/browse-online-resources/plan-your-career)

#### Step 2: Customizing their degree (optional)

Students have the added flexibility to customize their degrees according to their interests and aspirations. Here are some options:

- Choose a minor in an upper year
- Take a combined degree option
- Integrate an embedded certificate in an upper year



### The Choose UCalgary Podcast: Hear from students, faculty and staff

Students can get the inside scoop on programs, admissions and campus life. With every episode, we share real undergraduate student experiences. It's also a great way to learn about our faculties, clubs and more.

 Podcast: Choose UCalgary

[CLICK HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)

Explore these options in more detail

[ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/choosing-your-degree/customizing-your-degree](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/choosing-your-degree/customizing-your-degree)

[CLICK HERE](#)

#### Tours and events: Visit us on campus or online

UCalgary offers daily in-person campus tours. These tours are a chance for you and your student to ask questions about our programs and see our classrooms, facilities and more.

You can explore UCalgary and chat with our team from the comfort of home with our virtual tour, hosted bi-weekly, available on the Choose UCalgary Facebook page.

Learn about tours and events [ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/tours-and-events](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/tours-and-events)

 @UCalgaryFS



## Budgeting for their first year

### Estimated costs

An education from one of Canada's top research institutions is a valuable investment. UCalgary's tuition and fees compare favourably to other highly ranked universities.

	or		+		+	
<b>Domestic tuition</b> <i>Canadian citizen, permanent resident or refugee</i>		<b>International tuition</b>		<b>General fees, books and supplies</b>		<b>Residence and meal plan expenses</b>
\$6,961 - \$8,925		\$26,849 - \$35,136		\$1,900 - \$2,400		\$8,358 - \$14,973

Estimated costs are for an eight-month period (September to April) and are based on an expected first-year course load (10 courses) and a typical student's experience in residence. Fees are based on the 2023-24 academic year. Tuition fees are reviewed regularly by the Board of Governors, in consultation with students. You can find all the most up-to-date tuition and fee amounts at: [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/p-1-1](https://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/p-1-1)

### Student fees provide your student with great benefits.

- ▶ Athletic facilities
- ▶ Campus recreation
- ▶ Transit pass
- ▶ Health and dental
- ▶ Dinos game tickets



Does your student need help planning expenses? They can access our **cost estimator tool**.

[CLICK HERE](#)

[ucalgary.ca/cost-estimator](https://ucalgary.ca/cost-estimator)

### ★ Payment plans

We want to make it as easy as possible for students to pay their tuition and fees.

That's why UCalgary students have the option to self-enrol in a payment plan that allows them to pay in instalments over the term rather than all at once.

Learn more at [ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/tuition-fees/pay-your-fees](https://ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/tuition-fees/pay-your-fees)

## Awards and funding

### Examples of available awards

**Scholarship:** An award based primarily on academic merit, but also other selection factors.

**Bursary:** An award based on financial need. Financial need is calculated by looking at a student's costs and then subtracting their resources.

**Award:** An award is based on multiple requirements, such as extra-curricular success, volunteer work, or other achievements outside of the classroom.

**Prestige awards:** These awards are for high-achieving incoming students. A student's academic excellence and accomplishments outside the classroom are considered.

**Continuing Student Awards:** Awards for students who have completed 24 units at UCalgary in the previous fall and winter. There are both competitive awards based on academic merit and nominated awards based on nominations from a student's faculty.

Learn more about awards at: [ucalgary.ca/awards](https://ucalgary.ca/awards)

[CLICK HERE](#)

**Want tips for UCalgary award applications? Register for a webinar!**

[ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/events](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/events)

**\$20M+**

in scholarships, bursaries and awards available annually

**25%**

of entering students receive a scholarship, bursary or award

**\$39,400 to \$100,000**

available in prestige awards

### Other financial supports

#### Student loans

Government student loans and grants are available to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. Students can apply through their home province of residence or visit [ucalgary.ca/student-loans](https://ucalgary.ca/student-loans) for details.

#### Using RESPs

Students use an official confirmation of registration letter from their Student Centre ([my.ucalgary.ca](https://my.ucalgary.ca)) to submit as proof of enrolment for withdrawing RESP funds.

The official confirmation of registration letter is available once students are registered in courses and tuition fees have been posted to their account (July). Tuition fees are due in September after the start of classes.

#### Money Smart

Students can learn about budgeting, money saving strategies, financial planning and more by attending a Money Smart workshop, accessing a Financial Literacy session or making an appointment with a Money Smart peer helper.

Learn more at: [ucalgary.ca/moneysmart](https://ucalgary.ca/moneysmart)

## Preparing your student to excel

### Proven advice you can share with your student

1

#### Seek timely support

Encourage your student to seek help early and often. Our campus community provides comprehensive support to our students, ranging from academic and writing assistance to mental health and wellness support.

If your student is unsure about where to start in terms of accessing supports, Student Support Advisors at Student Wellness Services can help students navigate on- and off-campus resources.

Learn more: [ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services/student-support](https://ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services/student-support)

2

#### Embrace a well-rounded experience

Involvement beyond coursework fosters positive relationships, new skills, and valuable experiences.

Encourage your student to participate in extracurricular activities, and connect with their peers and professors. They can also join a volunteer, mentorship or leadership program for more personal development.

3

#### Find their community

Encourage your student to engage with peers through student clubs, intramural sports, and volunteer opportunities. They can connect with peers by taking advantage of our 300+ student clubs and 50+ intramural sports, or through many other peer programs.

Students can also access top-notch recreational facilities like the aquatic center, fitness center, gymnastics center, Racquet Center, and Olympic Oval.

### ★ Protection of privacy

#### Make a plan to communicate

Discuss with your student their plan for managing their education, as well as the type of information you'd like them to share with you, such as student account balances (fees owing), grade reports, course registration, or difficulties they may be having with school or other related activities. Keep in mind that it's ultimately the student's decision which personal information they choose to disclose.

#### Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

In accordance with Alberta's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP)*, UCalgary is unable to share information about a student or applicant to a third-party (including family members) without the explicit consent of the student or applicant, regardless of their age. This includes information about fees owing and their admission status.

Under FOIP, if a student or applicant would like to authorize a third party to have access to their confidential personal information, they may do so in writing using the Third Party Authorization form.

Find it at: [ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-centre/privacy-policy](https://ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-centre/privacy-policy)

### We would love to meet you!

The best way to get to know your student's future campus is by experiencing it on a tour. Guided by one of our current students, you can join us on campus (or virtually) to explore our classrooms, student services, athletic facilities and more. All campus tours end with the option to speak with an advisor to explore programs and admission requirements.

To book a tour, visit: [ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/tours](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/tours)

- You and your student can also attend prospective student events or information sessions: [ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/events](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/events)
- Students can also connect with their dedicated recruiter to arrange a one-on-one meeting online: [ucalgary.ca/recruiters](https://ucalgary.ca/recruiters)

### Join our family mailing list

To learn more about our campus community, join our mailing list. You'll be able to request more information, find out when we'll be visiting a town or city near you and get important details and reminders.

[CLICK HERE](#)

To sign up, visit: [ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/contacts-and-help/helpful-resources/future-students/undergraduate](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/contacts-and-help/helpful-resources/future-students/undergraduate)



[CLICK HERE](#)

*Find more information for parents and family*

[ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/contacts-and-help/parents-and-family](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/contacts-and-help/parents-and-family)

*The information in this publication is continually reviewed and is subject to change.*

