BULLETIN - April 24, 2020

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Key updates

Changing your letter grade to a P (undergraduate students)

Student Services is working on a goSFU self-service solution to allow you to choose to change your grade to P for courses with a D grade or higher. Target date for availability is May 4. More detailed information about how to change your grade will be provided. You'll be notified of this information via email, and it will be posted on our support website. Before making a P decision, please seek advice from academic advising, Financial Assistance, and/or International Services for Students.

Emergency and government funding

Thursday April 30 is the application deadline for Spring 2020 general emergency funding. The emergency funding program assists students with immediate and unanticipated costs over the final weeks of Spring term. Students seeking funding for the Summer term cannot apply for this funding; instead, please explore other funding options. Financial Aid and Awards supports full-time students with scholarships, awards, and bursaries. Domestic students may be eligible for government student loans; and grants for both full-time or part-time students. American students can access U.S. Direct Loan programs.
Looking for funding to assist with **technology costs** associated with the transition to remote learning for the Summer term? Please reach out by **May 8** to [fiassist@sfu.ca](mailto:fiassist@sfu.ca) for further information.

The [Government of Canada](https://www.canada.ca) recently announced further COVID-19 funding for post-secondary students. More details to come, so keep an eye on their website for updates on the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

**Zoom for students**

You're now welcome to sign up for a [Zoom account](https://zoom.us)! This videoconferencing platform is now an official service at SFU as part of our COVID-19 response to supporting remote work, teaching, learning, and research.

**Employment and career support**

Who is hiring now? Good question. And, good news. Employers are still hiring, and with federal funding to help create jobs, we hope to see an increase in postings and options. To get you started on summer work or volunteer search, we've created a page: [www.sfu.ca/students/career/career-2020](https://www.sfu.ca/students/career/career-2020) with resources to help you start applying. We also have some fresh blogs up on the [OLC](https://www.sfu.ca/olc) about work and volunteering. Career Educators are available by phone or online M-F for conversations about work search, future plans, or career uncertainty.

**Important reminders**

**Canvas outage**

On **Tuesday April 28**, from 9:00am to 11:59pm, SFU Canvas will migrate to new infrastructure in SFU's secure, on-premise datacentre. Accordingly, Canvas be taken offline for the duration of the migration. Notices will be posted on [SFU IT Services' Twitter account](https://twitter.com/sfuits), as needed. If you have any questions or experience any issues after the scheduled outage window, please email [its-help@sfu.ca](mailto:its-help@sfu.ca).

**Internet banking**

In preparation for the Summer 2020 term, we recommend setting up internet banking to pay tuition fees. Detailed instructions can be found on our [Fees and Tuition website](https://www.sfu.ca/fees-and-tuition); tuition deadline is **May 25** (see [www.sfu.ca/students/deadlines](https://www.sfu.ca/students/deadlines)).

**U-Pass-BC update**

Post-secondary institutions and student associations have worked with TransLink to temporarily suspend the U-Pass BC program as of **May 1**. All students who were eligible to apply for the 2020 Summer period will receive a full refund.
previously eligible for the 2020 Summer term U-Pass will now see a full refund posted to their student account. TransLink is continuing discussions with schools and student association representatives about potential refunds for students not using their April passes. Students not needing their April U-Pass are encouraged not to use it. SFU will continue to provide further updates as decisions are made.

Residence and Housing

Students with a confirmed residence offer for the 2020 Summer term are able to live in SFU residence (i.e., you’ve paid the $700 confirmation deposit; you can check the status of your application on your housing portal MyPlace@SFU). Applications for the Summer are closed, although new applications will be considered for students with an urgent housing need. Questions about your Summer residence application? Please email us at housing@sfu.ca.

What’s new this week and upcoming activities

SFU Virtual Movie Party

Connect with friends and the SFU community by watching a movie together! With Virtual Movie Party, you can view a movie in your own home, and be part of a live text chat with SFU community members who are watching the same movie at the same time. The next movies are April 27 at 12:00 noon and April 30 at 3:00 pm. Visit the Facebook page for the full schedule, and to vote on upcoming movies!

EMBARK is hiring!

We’re looking for our next Programs Manager. In this full-time paid position, you’ll be an integral part of leading EMBARK’s programming including Food Rescue, Community Kitchen, Community Cohorts, and more! Application deadline: April 26.

Social Data Analytics minor

In this program, you’ll learn to collect, analyze, and critically evaluate the large volume of digitized, real-world data derived from, and related to, human behavior. Only 30 students will be admitted in the first intake. Get more information here or contact Student Advisor Courtney Apps at crd4@sfu.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

Modality, Laws and Causation

This online Philosophy workshop will be held Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28. Full details and free registration, visit this page.

Video Series: SFU Changemakers
SFU Changemakers, a new video series launching this week, explores how our research community is engaging and innovating to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. Hosted by Joy Johnson, VP research and international, the series features virtual interviews with SFU researchers on how their research can make a difference. Watch the trailer here.

**Fall Welcome Leader application**

We’re seeking reliable, positive, and diverse student volunteers to help us welcome new students at Fall Welcome Day on September 8. For more information and to apply, click click here. Apply by May 31.

**Ongoing resources and support**

**Building Resilience & Supporting Your Well-Being**

Connect with peers virtually while learning strategies, tools, and resources to support your well-being and resilience. Visit the event webpage for more details and to sign up.

**Virtual Mindfulness Meditation**

Join us at virtual Mindfulness Meditation sessions on Wednesday and Fridays! For more details and to join, see our Mindfulness Meditation webpage.

**COVID-19 Emotional Support Group**

Has your mental health been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic? Join our COVID-19 Emotional Support Group. Multiple dates available. See details and to register.

**Sexual Violence Support & Prevention Office**

The Sexual Violence Support & Prevention Office is working remotely until further notice, but continues to provide supports and services to the SFU and FIC communities. Call 778-782-7233 or email: sv-support@sfu.ca to connect with staff, or visit the SVSPO website to learn more.

**Office of the Ombudsperson**

If you’re concerned that you’re not being treated fairly, the Ombudsperson at SFU is an independent, impartial, and confidential resource for students. We provide information and assistance on university-related issues including students’ rights
and responsibilities, University policies, and appeal processes. Please call 778-782-4563 or email ombuds@sfu.ca to connect with the Ombudsperson or visit the Ombudsperson website for more information.

**Centre for Accessible Learning**

We continue to support CAL registrants and the SFU community at large. Staff remain available remotely to address the needs of students registered with CAL. If you’re seeking to register with us, or need to renew your accommodations for the summer term, please contact us to schedule an appointment. Our hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Email at caladmin@sfu.ca or call 778-782-3112. As changes and decisions continue to evolve during this health crisis, we will communicate via email and will place updates on our CAL updates website.

**Information related to COVID-19**

**Statistics Canada survey**

You will be asked about concerns regarding your academic future, and the financial strain of paying for tuition, rent, and other expenses as a result of the pandemic. The purpose is to provide early insight into the educational, employment, and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on postsecondary students. This information will be used by governments and other organizations to evaluate the need for services and assistance programs to support students during and after the pandemic. [www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/survey/household/5320](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/survey/household/5320).

**Medical misinformation during COVID-19**

Learn what to look for and how to talk to people who trust the wrong sources. Check out this SFU News story.

**COVID-19 FAQ for International Students**

Visit the international student faqs for updates and information regarding immigration (eg, study/work permits, visas, travel insurance) and medical insurance.

**International students**

Read more on topics such as Co-op and Post-Graduation Work Permit application.
Do you have questions about Co-op and Post-Graduation Work Permit application? Join our online session facilitated by an International Student Advisor on Tuesday April 28, 1:00 – 2:30pm.

International Student Advisors are working remotely and can answer questions related to immigration (study/work permits, visa, travel restrictions, etc.) or medical insurance. Connect with us via LiveChat.

Become a Community Leader for SFU Global Connections Program in Fall 2020! Build inclusive global community at SFU by supporting other students, meet like-minded people, and cultivate diverse friendships. Visit for more info and submit your application by May 1.

For graduate students

COVID-19 FAQs for graduate students is continually updated as new information becomes available. Please check the website regularly.

Your mental health and well-being is important to us. In addition to the services offered through SFU’s Health & Counselling Services and MySSP, our office has collected and collated some resources to remind you to take the time and space you need for self-care.

You can continue to contact Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies through our ticketing system or email to gradstdy@sfu.ca.

Connecting with Student Services

Registrar & Information Services

Our offices have temporarily discontinued in-person services on all three campuses until further notice. However, our staff are still available to support you via Live Help, phone and email during office hours.
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