



# PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

JD Admissions Guide 2020-2021

[allard.ubc.ca](http://allard.ubc.ca)



## PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people, you will have the opportunity to learn in one of the most beautiful campuses in the world at one of the top law schools in the country.

Our diverse and innovative curriculum offers a first rate legal education that balances traditional areas of practice with emerging fields of specialization. This, combined with a comprehensive experiential learning program and a supportive community of staff, faculty and students makes the Allard School of Law a place to be inspired, follow your passions and make a difference in the community and beyond.





## Contents

<b>3</b>	<b>WELCOME</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>LEARNING AT ALLARD</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>YOUR PROFESSORS</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>STUDENT SUPPORT</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>COMMUNITY</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>DISCOVER VANCOUVER</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>FINANCES</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>OUR ALUMNI</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>FAQS</b>



# Welcome to the Allard School of Law

Visit [allard.ubc.ca](https://allard.ubc.ca) to learn more about our comprehensive JD program.

Here are some useful links:

1

## Programs and Courses

Our first year curriculum provides you with a solid foundation and is offered in small class settings. In your upper years, you will have the opportunity to explore your area of interest and participate in experiential learning opportunities.

**LEARN MORE:**

[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses](https://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses)

2

## Concentrations and Specializations

We offer students the option to choose from four specializations or concentrations. This provides you with an opportunity to hone your skills and deepen your knowledge in a field that interests you the most.

**LEARN MORE:**

[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/concentrations-specializations](https://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/concentrations-specializations)

3

## Indigenous Legal Studies

We offer courses, experiential opportunities, speaker series and programming to support the learning of Indigenous legal issues and peoples and Aboriginal law.

**LEARN MORE:**

[allard.ubc.ca/about-us/indigenous-legal-studies](https://allard.ubc.ca/about-us/indigenous-legal-studies)

4

## Career Services Office

Our dedicated team of advisors are here to answer your career-related questions and guide you through the process of identifying, securing, and succeeding in your chosen career.

**LEARN MORE:**

[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/career-services-office](https://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/career-services-office)

# How to Apply

Complete the online application form at <https://apps.allard.ubc.ca> and submit the following materials:

- 1 PERSONAL STATEMENT
- 2 OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS
- 3 LSAT FILE NUMBER
- 4 + ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS that may apply to your specific situation

Deadline to apply for first-year students is **December 1**.

If you're applying to an upper year, the deadline to apply is **April 30**.

## Admission Requirements

### GENERAL APPLICANTS

General applicants must have the following to be eligible for selection:

- + undergraduate degree from a university, *or*
- + completed three years (minimum 90 credits) from a university, 30 credits of which must be at the upper level

### DISCRETIONARY APPLICANTS

Because of special factors in life, you may not satisfy one or more of the requirements for general applicants, but may have other relevant achievements and experience. The Admissions Committee has the discretion to respond to this type of situation by taking into account factors such as disability or special needs, financial disadvantage, membership in a historically disadvantaged group, and any other factors that the applicant wishes the Admissions Committee to consider.

### INDIGENOUS LEGAL STUDIES

If you are of First Nations, Inuit or Metis ancestry, you are invited to apply through the Indigenous category.

**TO LEARN MORE CONTACT THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF INDIGENOUS LEGAL STUDIES, LEE SCHMIDT.**

[lschmidt@allard.ubc.ca](mailto:lschmidt@allard.ubc.ca)

### JD/MBA PROGRAM

Applicants interested in this four-year joint program are required to apply to both the Allard School of Law and the Sauder School of Business. You may indicate your desire to be considered for this joint program on your application form. Scores from both the LSAT and GMAT are required.

#### LEARN MORE:

[sauder.ubc.ca/programs/dual-degrees/mba-and-law](https://sauder.ubc.ca/programs/dual-degrees/mba-and-law)

### TRANSFER

Applicants who have started their JD at another Canadian Law School may apply to transfer to the Allard School of Law after completing their first year. If the first year curriculum differs from that offered at UBC, an applicant may be required to complete one or more first year class(es) in conjunction with their upper level classes.

### VISITING (LETTER OF PERMISSION)

Students enrolled in a law program at an approved law school may request permission from their current school to attend one year or one term of either the second- or third-year program at the Allard School of Law on a letter of permission basis.



## Book a tour with a Student Ambassador

Student Ambassadors are current JD students who are here to let you know what life is like as a student at the Allard School of Law. Visit our website to learn how you can get in touch with one of our student ambassadors: [allard.ubc.ca/programs/book-tour](http://allard.ubc.ca/programs/book-tour).

# Learning at the Allard School of Law

YOUR FIRST YEAR WILL CONSIST OF A **COMMON CURRICULUM**, INCLUDING:

- + Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
- + Contracts
- + Criminal Law & Procedure
- + Indigenous Settler Legal Relations,
- + Introduction to Public Law and the Charter
- + Legal Research & Writing
- + Property Law
- + Torts
- + Transnational Law

**LEARN MORE:**

[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/your-first-year](http://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/your-first-year)

WHAT BETTER WAY TO LEARN, THAN BY DOING? ALL ENTERING STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AN **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY**. THESE OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- + Trial Advocacy
- + Negotiation and Dispute Resolution
- + Competitive Moot Court
- + Clinics and Externships

**LEARN MORE:**

[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/experiential-learning](http://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/experiential-learning)

MANY STUDENTS COMPLETE AN **ACADEMIC SPECIALIZATION OR CONCENTRATION**, SUCH AS:

- + Business Law Concentration
- + Specialization in Aboriginal Law
- + Specialization in Environmental and Natural Resource Law
- + Specialization in Law and Social Justice

**LEARN MORE:**

[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/concentrations-specializations](http://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/concentrations-specializations)

WE ALSO OFFER NUMEROUS **CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS** TO GIVE YOU REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE:

- + Business Law Clinic
- + Criminal Clinic
- + Indigenous Community Legal Clinic
- + UBC Innocence Project
- + International Justice and Human Rights Clinic
- + Judicial Externship
- + Law Students' Legal Advice Program
- + RISE Women's Legal Centre

**LEARN MORE:**

[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/experiential-learning#clinical](http://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/experiential-learning#clinical)

WE HAVE PARTNERSHIPS TO ALLOW FOR **INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES** WITH:

- + University of Hong Kong
- + Melbourne Law School
- + Tsinghua University

**LEARN MORE:**

[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/joint-legal-education-and-degree-partnerships](http://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/programs-and-courses/joint-legal-education-and-degree-partnerships)





**Jacqueline Yan**  
third year JD student

+ **ROLES:**  
Student Ambassador,  
Hoop-Law Coordinator

“Every student receives unparalleled support at the Allard School of Law – this is demonstrated through empowering professors, highly knowledgeable staff, and a strong collegial culture.”

# Your Professors

At the Allard School of Law, your professors are experts in a wide range of areas within the law and are dedicated to helping you explore what motivated you to come to Allard Hall.

One of those faculty members is Hoi Kong.



**Hoi Kong**  
The Rt. Hon. Beverley  
McLachlin, P.C.,  
UBC Professor  
in Constitutional Law

+ **JOINED ALLARD  
SCHOOL OF LAW IN:**  
2018

+ **AREA OF  
RESEARCH INTEREST:**  
Administrative Law,  
Comparative Law,  
Constitutional Law,  
Environmental Law,  
Legal Theory, Regulatory  
Design and Governance

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“It is an enormous privilege to research and teach in a leading law school, housed in one of the world’s great public universities. I am constantly inspired by this collegial community and beautiful learning environment, and by our diverse and exceptionally talented student body.”

# Student Support

We're here to support you throughout your studies at the Allard School of Law.

From feeling at home within the corridors of Allard Hall to finding a summer job, we're here to help.

## Academic Success & Peer Tutor Program

This program provides academic workshops and matches first-year students with upper-year student volunteers who provide guidance on study skills, learning strategies, and exam-writing tips.

## Career Services Office

With three dedicated staff to assist you, we offer one-on-one counselling, professional development workshops, recruitment and networking events, a resource library and online career portal. We also have a Public Interest Coordinator to specifically help students who are interested in a public interest law career, or work in a non-profit organization.

### LEARN MORE:

[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/career-services-office](http://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/career-services-office)

## Indigenous Legal Studies

The Associate Director, Indigenous Legal Studies, provides student advising to Indigenous students and those interested in participating in Indigenous legal studies offerings such as individual courses, the Specialization in Aboriginal Law, experiential opportunities such as the Kawaskimhon Moot, the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic, and in 2021, the Indigenous Laws Research Externship. Indigenous JD students may participate in the ILS Academic Leadership Certificate comprised of weekly small group academic and leadership sessions throughout the year. In addition, an ILS Coach provides Indigenous students with academic support. We also hold an annual ILS Networking Reception, co-host alumni and other events with the CBA Aboriginal Lawyers Forum, and offer cultural and well-being referrals to Indigenous JD students.

We aim to increase awareness and understanding of Indigenous peoples and laws at Allard Law. The Indigenous Cultural Competency Certificate, multiple workshop series such as ILS Fireside Chats, ILS Crafting and ILS Book Talks, co-hosted speaker series and Indigenous Awareness Week are all curated to meet this aim and are open to the entire Allard Law Community.

### LEARN MORE:

[allard.ubc.ca/about-us/indigenous-legal-studies](http://allard.ubc.ca/about-us/indigenous-legal-studies)

## Law Library at Allard Hall

The Law Library is located on three floors of Allard Hall. It houses a comprehensive research collection with legal materials acquired from the major common law jurisdiction of the world, as well as materials of other selected jurisdictions. As we are part of the UBC Library System, you can access materials across campus or through our connection with the Canadian academic law libraries.

### LEARN MORE:

[law.library.ubc.ca](http://law.library.ubc.ca)

## On-Campus Services

As a student at the Allard School of Law, you have access to the many support services at UBC. This includes, but is not limited to:

- + Counselling Services
- + Financial Advising through UBC's Enrolment Services Advisors (ESA)
- + Health Services
- + UBC First Nations House of Learning

## Orientation

Orientation prepares you for what to expect in your first year of law school. It's also a great way to meet other first years, staff who are here to support you and senior students.

# Community

At the Allard School of Law you're part of a vibrant community within Allard Hall and across the UBC campus.

There are numerous ways to get involved. Here are just a few:



## The Law Students' Legal Advice Program

This student-run organization provides free legal advice to those who would not otherwise be able to afford it. It is the largest provider of free legal services in BC and advises 5,000 clients each year at clinics located throughout the Lower Mainland.



## Academic Publications

The UBC Law Review and The Canadian Journal of Family Law are journals produced by the Allard School of Law to which students can contribute.





## Student Government

The UBC Law Students Society and the Indigenous Law Students Association are two forms of student governance you can be involved with.



## Student Clubs & Organizations

There are many opportunities to get involved in student clubs and organizations. Whether it is the Asia Pacific Law Club, Environmental Law Club, or Women's Caucus, you're sure to find something to match your interests.



# Discover Vancouver

Consistently rated one of the best places in the world to live, Vancouver offers wonderful balance between bustling city life and the great outdoors. Bordered by mountains and beaches, Vancouver is a city of energy and new ideas.

Our stunning Vancouver campus is situated in a park-like setting of over 1,000 hectares across a forested peninsula overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Coast Mountains. The University is easily accessible by public transit.

Vancouver has:

**230** PARKS

**10** OCEAN SIDE BEACHES

**22** KM OF SEAWALL

**23** PUBLIC LIBRARIES

DESTINATIONS SUCH AS:

Granville Island, Stanley Park, Grouse Mountain, Gastown, Capilano Suspension Bridge, and more!

Vancouver is:

**50** KM FROM THE US BORDER

**81** KM FROM VANCOUVER ISLAND WHERE YOU CAN GET TO PLACES LIKE HISTORIC VICTORIA OR SURFING DESTINATION TOFINO, BC

**121** KM FROM WHISTLER, BC for the best skiing and mountain biking around

**230** KM FROM SEATTLE, WA



## Home Sweet Home

You can choose to live in residence at UBC or find housing in Vancouver. Either way, UBC has resources to help you find your new home.

**LEARN MORE:**  
[vancouver.housing.ubc.ca](http://vancouver.housing.ubc.ca)



**Nikos Harris**  
Instructor & Director  
of Experiential Learning

- ✦ **AWARDS:**  
Killam Prize for Teaching  
Excellence (2008),  
Indigenous Law Students  
Association's Courage  
in Law Award (2015)

“Studies show that the amount of information that you can retain through experiential learning is exceptional. Students are interacting with alumni; they’re interacting with those in the legal profession... It really is a tremendous opportunity.”

# Finances

Each year we distribute just under \$1 million to incoming and current students in recognition of their achievements as well as to those who demonstrate financial need.

Tuition for one year at the Allard School of Law:

## TYPE OF STUDENT

### Domestic

#### PER CREDIT

\$402.87

#### FULL YEAR

\$12,891.84

## TYPE OF STUDENT

### International

#### PER CREDIT

\$1,167.50

#### FULL YEAR

\$37,360.00

All accepted applicants are automatically considered for entrance scholarships based on academic merit.

Student fees are approximately \$1,200 per year. JD books costs approximately \$1,600 for first year and \$1,400 annually in your second and third years.

#### LEARN MORE:

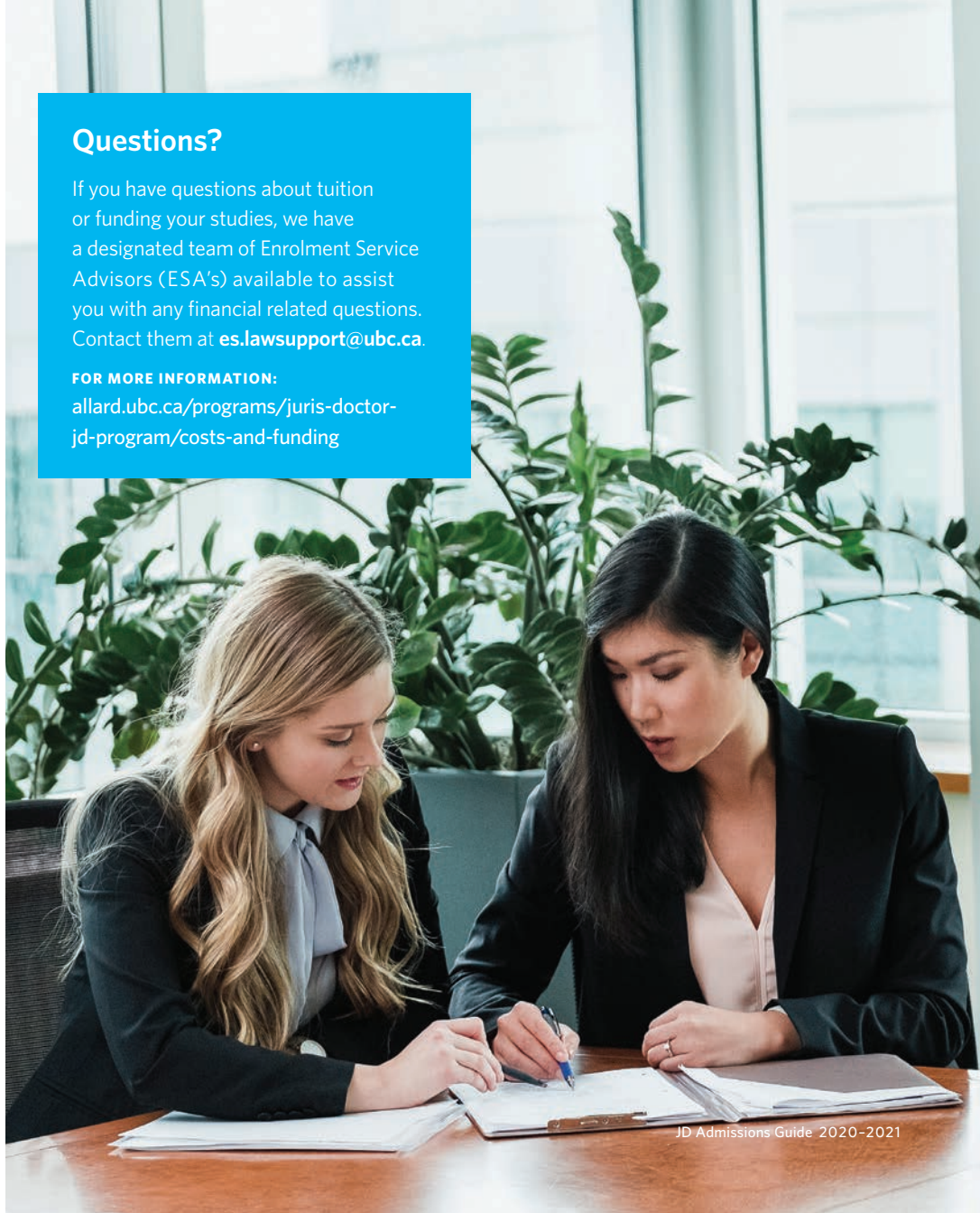
[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/costs-and-funding](http://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/costs-and-funding)

## Questions?

If you have questions about tuition or funding your studies, we have a designated team of Enrolment Service Advisors (ESA's) available to assist you with any financial related questions. Contact them at [es.lawsupport@ubc.ca](mailto:es.lawsupport@ubc.ca).

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/costs-and-funding](http://allard.ubc.ca/programs/juris-doctor-jd-program/costs-and-funding)





# Alumni

The Allard School of Law has educated generations of outstanding leaders who have made their mark in a broad range of spheres, from the legal profession and the judiciary to business, government and academia.

Our alumni not only excel in their professions, they are contributing to their communities, working in diverse ways to improve the world around them and create a more just and equitable society.

**NOTABLE ALUMNI INCLUDE:**

Chief Justices of the Supreme Court, Prime Minister of Canada, ambassadors and diplomats, Attorney Generals of Canada, government leaders, CEOs of multinational corporations, globally recognized authors/public speakers, and many others.

12,500

ALLARD SCHOOL  
OF LAW ALUMNI  
PRACTICE  
WORLDWIDE IN

46

COUNTRIES





**Jared Knott**  
third year JD student

**+ ROLES:**

Student Ambassador,  
President - Sports Law Club,  
Member - Executive for the  
Allard Beavers Rugby Club,  
Member - Indigenous Law  
Students Association (ILSA)  
Member - Allard Hockey

“I love being able to study in the most beautiful building on one of the most scenic campuses in the world. Allard is a great place to learn and grow as a student and a person.”

# Frequently Asked Questions



**HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED? HOW MANY APPLICATIONS DO YOU RECEIVE?**

The Allard School of Law will admit 200 students to first year law. Generally, we receive in excess of 1,500 applications. Typically we make 340+ offers to fill approximately 200 positions.



**WHAT UNDERGRADUATE COURSES SHOULD I TAKE TO ENSURE I GET INTO THE ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW?**

There is no specific educational background that will guarantee admission into the Allard School of Law. Instead, we suggest that you study in a field that you are interested in, and one in which you will excel. The majority of applicants have a BA or a BSc, but we accept applicants from a variety of programs including Architecture, Criminology, Forestry, Commerce, Science, International Relations, Engineering, etc.



**HOW MANY CREDITS DO I NEED TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IN THE REGULAR CATEGORY?**

To be eligible to apply, prospective students must:

- + Have obtained an undergraduate degree in an approved course of studies from an approved university. Diploma or Certificate programs are ineligible; or
- + Have successfully completed the first three years (minimum 90 credits) or more of an approved course of studies leading to an undergraduate degree at an approved university. A full complement of third year level courses must be completed by the end of the Spring Semester. Applicants completing their third year at the time of the application deadline are eligible under this second option; however, an offer of acceptance will be conditional on the maintenance of the academic average obtained in the first two years of studies. The third year of studies must be completed by the end of the Spring Semester of the year of admission (Spring Semester runs from January to April.)



**DO YOU LOOK AT ALL MY MARKS? DO YOU ELIMINATE ANY CREDITS?**

When calculating your GPA, we consider all completed courses leading to your first undergraduate degree. However, we do

exclude 12 of your worst credits if you have a four-year degree. Generally, this is the equivalent of four semester-long courses, or two year-long courses. If you are in your third year when you apply, we will exclude 6 of your worst credits. Please note that if you are currently enrolled in your final year, those final-year courses will not be included in the calculation of your GPA.



**DOES APPLYING EARLY INCREASE MY CHANCE OF RECEIVING AN OFFER?**

If we receive a file that is complete and is highly competitive, an offer could be given as early as November. However, we honour the December deadline as well as the January writing of the LSAT. Therefore, we cannot and do not fill all our spots early. Applying early does not increase an applicant's chance of being given an offer, but it does allow us to begin evaluation as soon as possible.



**MY MARKS ARE GIVEN ON A 4.33 SCALE OR 4.0 SCALE. HOW DO YOU CONVERT THEM?**

We use the same conversion scale used by the UBC Registrar's Office. On that scale, 4.0 is an 86%, 3.7 is an 80%, 3.0 is a 73% 2.0 is a 60%.



**DO YOU HAVE AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM?**

Through the UBC Go Global Program, we offer an exchange program with leading law schools around the world.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

[students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/go-global](https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/go-global)



**DO YOU OFFER TOURS OF THE LAW SCHOOL?**

Our Allard School of Law Student Ambassadors are available to offer tours to prospective and admitted students.

**TO BOOK A TOUR EMAIL:**

[ambassadors@allard.ubc.ca](mailto:ambassadors@allard.ubc.ca)



**CAN I DEFER MY STUDIES FOR A YEAR?**

We generally only offer deferrals in extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical or compassionate reasons). An applicant wishing to defer their studies should contact the admissions office outlining the reasons for which they are requesting a deferral.



Didn't find the answer  
you were looking for?

**Contact us!**

604-822-6303

[admissions@allard.ubc.ca](mailto:admissions@allard.ubc.ca)

## Stay Connected

**EMAIL:** [admissions@allard.ubc.ca](mailto:admissions@allard.ubc.ca)

**PHONE:** 604-822-6303

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[allard.ubc.ca](http://allard.ubc.ca)

