

SECTION A

Program introduction

The uStart program provides high-achieving high school students from the Greater Victoria School District (SD61) the opportunity to enroll in selected courses at the University of Victoria (UVic) for dual credit during your grade 12 year.

As a uStart participant, you will:

- ☒ Explore a university environment while completing high school
- ☒ Experience post-secondary education with your tuition paid by SD61
- ☒ Receive elective credits toward your high school diploma and university credit from UVic
- ☒ Get a head start on your post-secondary studies

Eligibility

Participation in uStart is open to students who are:

- ☒ In their Grade 12 year at a secondary school in SD61
- ☒ Canadian citizens or permanent residents

Applications are submitted during the Grade 11 school year, enabling students to plan how they will fit courses at UVic into their Grade 12 studies.

Students who are not eligible for uStart may wish to consider UVic's Accelerated Entry program. Speak with your high school counsellor and visit uvic.ca/acceleratedentry for details.

Getting started

Review the program guide to see if uStart is the right fit for you and your educational goals. You'll need to think about your future post-secondary plans, what class you'd like to study at UVic and if you'll have room with your high school timetable and busy schedule.

If you're thinking about applying, you should speak with your high school counsellor or principal as early as possible about your interest in the program. Together you can decide if participation is a good option for you.

Your high school counsellor or principal can help you prepare your application package.

Tuition and program fees

Your uStart tuition will be paid by SD61. However, you are responsible for paying student fees and other costs related to your studies, such as textbooks and lab supplies.

Note that your student fees enable you to use the services and facilities provided by the UVic Students' Society (UVSS) and UVic Athletics & Recreation.

Estimated student fees per term (based on 2020-21 rates)

UVSS:	\$36.93
U-PASS (bus pass)*	\$81.00
Athletics & Recreation	\$46.23

**Students who already have valid BC Transit bus passes may opt out of the U-PASS program.*

April 8, 2022	Early May	Mid-May	May/June	End of June	Fall/Winter
Deadline for submission of applications	Selection committee reviews applications	Selection decisions are sent by email	uStart students select courses (with help from high school counsellors)	Official admission letters confirming registration are mailed to uStart participants	Participants attend classes at UVic

SECTION B

Application and admission process

Admission criteria

uStart applicants must meet the following admission criteria:

- ✎ Enrolled in Grade 12 at an SD61 school (Grade 11 at the time of application)
- ✎ Completing the full range of grade 11 and 12 courses required to be admitted to degree studies at UVic
- ✎ Minimum 85% average in all academic subjects to date
- ✎ High academic standing (approximately 90%) in the field of study you plan to pursue at university
- ✎ Complete all prerequisites identified for the course(s) you've selected prior to the first day of classes
- ✎ Demonstrate language proficiency if English is not your primary language (uvic.ca/enpr)
- ✎ Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- ✎ At least 16 years of age (except under special circumstances)

Application package

Your application package must include:

- ✎ Completed application form
- ✎ Cover letter introducing yourself and why you want to participate in uStart, as well as your future post-secondary plans
- ✎ Recommendation from your high school principal verifying your potential for success in the uStart program and future post-secondary studies
- ✎ Diploma Verification Report, including in-progress grades for all courses to be completed by June
- ✎ Student education/transition plan
- ✎ **\$20 application fee** (non-refundable)

Completed applications must be submitted to your counsellor or principal by the deadline stated on Page 1.

uStart checklist

Have you decided that uStart is right for you? Use this checklist to apply for the program and prepare for classes.

- Review the uStart program guide
- Talk to your high school counsellor about the uStart program and the fields of study you might pursue at university
- Confirm that participation in the uStart program will fit with your high school timetable and other commitments
- Complete the uStart application prepare supporting documents
- Submit the application package to your counsellor or principal by the deadline (keep a copy for your own records)
- Make a list of UVic courses you'd like to take via uStart, ensuring that you can meet any prerequisites before the first day of classes
- Prepare for UVic financial commitments, such as student fees and textbooks

Selection, fee payment, and withdrawal

Selection Process

Applications are reviewed by a UVic selection committee, and applicants will be notified of their decisions via email.

An official University of Victoria letter of acceptance will follow at the end of June, once course registration has been confirmed.

Paying your student fees

Fees are due at the end of the first month for each term in which you are taking classes. You will be able to check your balance online via your UVic student account.

Payment deadlines

Fall term (Sep-Dec):	September 30
Winter term (Jan-Apr):	January 31

Withdrawing from uStart

uStart students must meet the same academic regulations and deadlines as other UVic students. Withdrawal deadlines for each term are listed in the UVic calendar and admission letter.

Withdrawal from a course is only permitted until the specified deadline and will be deemed a failed course after that date. Student fees will only be refunded if you withdraw before the end of the second week of classes.

Requests to withdraw must be sent via email to ustart@uvic.ca.