

# 2021/22 Tuition and Fees Q&A

On February 22, 2021, Mount Royal University's Board of Governors approved an increase to student tuition and fees in the 2021/22 academic year. The following information answers the most commonly asked questions.

## Why are you increasing tuition and fees?

The Government of Alberta has advised that we should expect a reduction in our Campus Alberta grant going forward. At the same time, we are still required to balance our budget every year, and the years of the pandemic are no exception. For this reason, we need to reduce costs and increase tuition and fees.

Leading up to last year, tuition was frozen for five consecutive years. The government allowed post-secondaries to increase tuition by 7% a year for three years starting in 2020/21. We expect most post-secondaries in Alberta will raise tuition by the full 7% this year.

MRU needs to increase tuition and fees to meet changing demands, to continue to offer the quality programs and services students rely on to support their success and to better account for the costs of program and service delivery.

## What exactly is increasing and by how much?

This table reflects increases for full-time students only. Refer to Tuition & Fee Schedules for complete breakdown.

	2020/21 (\$)	2021/22 (\$)
Domestic tuition (full course, varies based on program)	558 to 611	591 to 647
International tuition (per course)	2,100	2,150
Program Specific Fees (varies by program - fall/winter terms only)	No change	No change
Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees <sup>1</sup> (varies by fall/winter and spring/summer)		
Student Services Fee <sup>2</sup>	152	213
Recreation and Athletics Fee	105	116

<sup>1</sup> Mandatory Non-instructional Fees will increase to an average of 41 per cent cost recovery.

<sup>2</sup> Supports Academic Advising, Accessibility Services, Student Learning Services, Health Services and, Student Counselling and Career Services.

## How much new money will that bring in to MRU?

The exact figures will depend upon enrolment numbers and are part of the process to develop next year's budget. The increase in tuition is estimated to generate \$4.3 million, with approximately \$1 million going to bursaries. The increase in Mandatory Non-instructional Fees is estimated to generate an additional \$1.8 million, which will go to recover just a portion of the costs to deliver these services.

## Will tuition be increased again next year as allowed by the provincial government?

We will continue to review our tuition and fees to appropriately account for costs of delivery, and to preserve the quality of programs and services students rely on to support their success. We will continue to consult with student representatives as part of the process.

## Will Mandatory Non-instructional Fees continue to increase until they reach full cost-recovery?

We will continue to review fee structures to be competitive in the sector, to better account for costs and to preserve the quality of programs and services students rely on to support their success. It is important to note that Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees cover only a portion of the cost to deliver these services and supports. We will continue to consult with student representatives as part of the process.

## Will tuition for some programs go up more than others?

While the average increase in tuition will be 7%, the range of tuition increases by program will be between 5.9% and 10% based on demand for a program and the cost to offer a program. We need to align tuition with the cost of delivery to maintain and enhance the quality of the student experience in higher-cost programs.

## Will international students face a greater tuition increase?

No. Because international student tuition was not frozen for five years like domestic tuition was, it will only increase in line with inflation and the market. International tuition will increase by 2.4% for the 2021/22 academic year. Increases beyond 2021/22 are projected to be 5% or less annually.

## Is MRU recruiting more international students to help offset costs?

Mount Royal has identified increased internationalization as a significant benefit to both domestic and international students. A goal to increase the number of international students on campus, and the number of international experiences available to domestic students on an annual basis, is featured in the University Strategic Plan.

## What are Mandatory Non-instructional Fees and what do they pay for?

Mandatory Non-instructional Fees are made up of the Student Services Fee and the Recreation and Athletics Fee. The Student Services Fee supports Academic Advising, Accessibility Services, Student Learning Services, Health Services and Health Education, Student Counselling and Career Services. Even with the increase, the Student Services Fee at Mount Royal will be second-lowest in the province and much lower than other universities for similar services. Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees cover only a portion of the cost to deliver these services and supports.

## Were students consulted before these changes?

Yes, there are three student members on the University Tuition Fee Consultation Committee who represent the Students' Association of Mount Royal University. They were part of a consultation process that began in October 2020. Students are also represented on the Board of Governors. We will continue to work with students going forward.

## Will current students have a lower tuition increase compared with new students?

It would be too complicated and costly to administer different tuition increases for current and new students. Instead, the tuition increases are applied to all students, with a portion of the increase (approximately \$1 million) once again directed to bursaries to help those who are in the greatest financial need.

## Will the increase in tuition and fees close Mount Royal's budget shortfall?

No, tuition and fee increases alone will not close the budget gap MRU is facing but it is a source of revenue that cannot be overlooked. We will learn more about our Campus Alberta grant after the next provincial budget announcement in late February 2021.

Does the 25% portion going to bursaries come from increases to tuition, or non-instructional fees or both?

The bursaries are funded from a portion of the tuition increase. Increases to Mandatory Non-instructional Fees help cover more of the costs for students' services.

How much money is available to students in bursaries and scholarships?

Mount Royal intends to commit approximately \$1 million to bursaries from the tuition increase, similar to last year. This is in addition to the \$3.6 million available in all scholarships and bursaries, which were given out in 2,669 individual awards last year.

How many bursaries will there be and for what amount?

While the details are yet to be worked out, it is intended that this new bursary could provide up to \$1,000 each to 950 qualifying students, with the remaining amount going to emergency bursaries. Additional information on bursaries is available [here](#).

What is the deadline to apply for bursaries?

Additional information on bursaries is available [here](#). Students who complete an awards application prior to the deadline will be considered for the bursary on the basis of financial need. The deadline to apply for awards is March 1, 2021.

Who is eligible for a bursary?

Bursaries are based on financial need. For more information on scholarships and bursaries, go [here](#).