

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Masters of Surgery Program
Department of Surgery
Faculty of Medicine
950 West 10th Avenue, Room 3100
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V5Z 1M9



Thank you for your interest in our M.Sc. program. **The most important requirement for admission is finding a Department of Surgery faculty member willing to be your supervisor.** The research interests of the faculty can be found at www.surgery.ubc.ca. Please contact potential supervisors directly (advice on finding a supervisor on page 2).

Once a supervisor is found, the requirements for admission are as follows:

- i. an M.D. degree or equivalent
- ii. B+ or greater in the last two years of medical school
- iii. three letters of reference to the program
- iv. TOEFL score of 216 on the computer exam, or greater than 550 if written

Please note:

- i. The MSc in Surgery is a basic science degree worth 30 credits – 18 credits for the thesis and 12 credits of course work. It is not a clinical research program.
- ii. The department does not have funding available for student salaries. This is provided by the supervisor or the student must have sufficient finances of their own to complete the program
- iii. Tuition fees for International Students are approximately \$7200 per year. A partial tuition scholarship is available which would reduce the student portion by approximately 50%.

Deadlines for receipt of completed application in the Department of Surgery Offices are:

- i. September semester: March 31 for International and April 30 for domestic students
- ii. January semester: August 31 for International and September 30 for domestic students

More information about graduate studies at UBC is available www.grad.ubc.ca

The UBC calendar is available on line at <http://students.ubc.ca/calendar/>

After you have found a Dept of Surgery faculty member willing to be your supervisor, please email ubc.surgery.msc@ubc.ca for more information.

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Advice on Finding a Research Supervisor

The Dept of Surgery receives more than 200 applications to the MSc in Surgery program a year. The single most important factor for the applicant to be accepted is finding a research supervisor:

- whose research the applicant is interested in, and
- who has the funds to support the applicant.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to find a research supervisor. The faculty members in the Dept of Surgery engage in research to advance our knowledge in areas relevant to human health, and to improve clinical care. As part of this, we mentor trainees who have shown exceptional commitment and aptitude for research. Because this research training is a substantial investment of the faculty member's time and resources, faculty are very stringent in selection of potential new trainees.

Here are some tips for convincing a faculty member to select you as a trainee.

1. Investigate the research interests of the faculty member. This information can be found by searching PubMed, and in some cases, listed in the faculty member's posting at www.surgery.ubc.ca.
2. Contact that faculty member directly, and provide evidence that you are familiar with and interested in their area of research. For example, you might write a few paragraphs outlining what research hypotheses/questions you would be interested in pursuing which would contribute to the research goals of the supervisor. BE SPECIFIC.
3. Provide examples of how you have already been engaged in research.

The most common mistake made by applicants is to send a generic email to faculty members that just states they are interested in research and want to join the MSc in Surgery program.