

Tuition Freeze Now Consultation Results

This presentation is compiled from the Tuition Freeze Now survey that is up on our website.

During the past few months, Tuition Freeze Now members have tabled in the AQ asking students to fill out the survey. This document will present statistics and anonymously share some of what students have expressed to us thus far in the data collection process.

Demographics

To start, this summary will explore demographics of who took the survey. We asked respondents if they were an undergraduate, graduate, domestic, or international student.

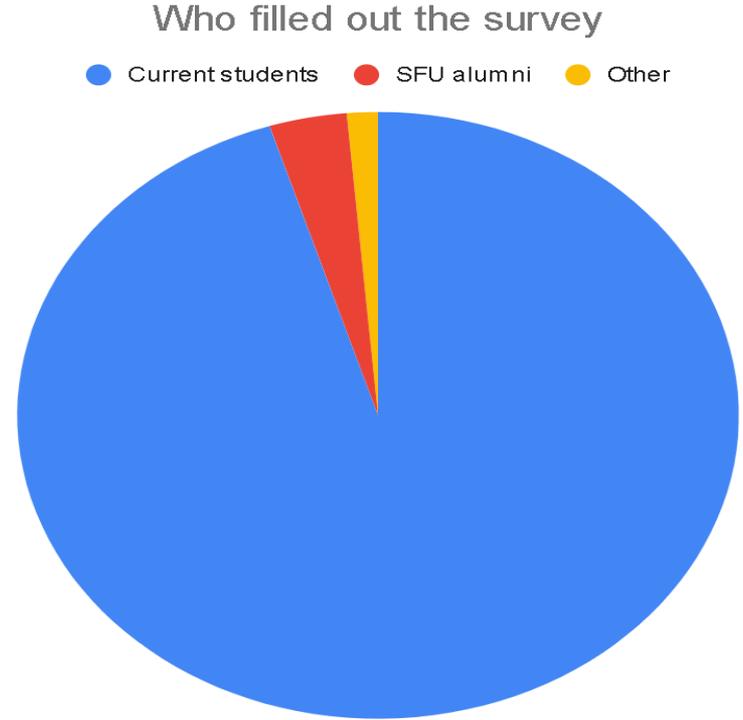
The survey received 144 responses total.

137 responses were received from current SFU students. Of those, 109 were undergraduate students and 28 were graduate students.

5 responses were received from SFU alumni, of which 3 were undergraduate students and 2 were graduate students.

2 respondents identified as neither a current SFU student or SFU alumni.

Data on the respondents' status as domestic or international students — questions which have only recently been added to the survey — will be available in a future summary.



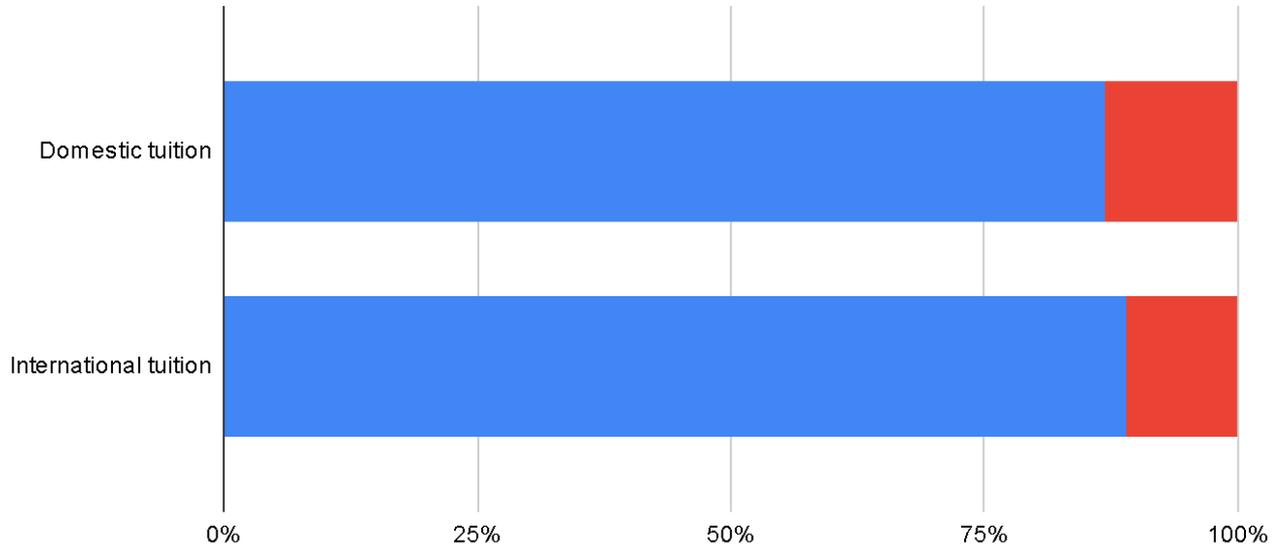
Tuition costs

Next, this presentation will address student opinions about tuition costs. We asked students about how affordable they think domestic, international, undergraduate, and graduate tuition is. The results show that the vast majority of students agree tuition is unaffordable.

Even the high rates of agreement here are likely an under-estimate as the five-point scale to answer these survey questions included the middle option 'Neutral/Not relevant'. This may have lead some respondents to choose this option for types of tuition they themselves do not currently pay, even if they are in agreement that the rates are too high. For this reason, rates of disagreement and agreement among relevant groups where data is available are also included here.

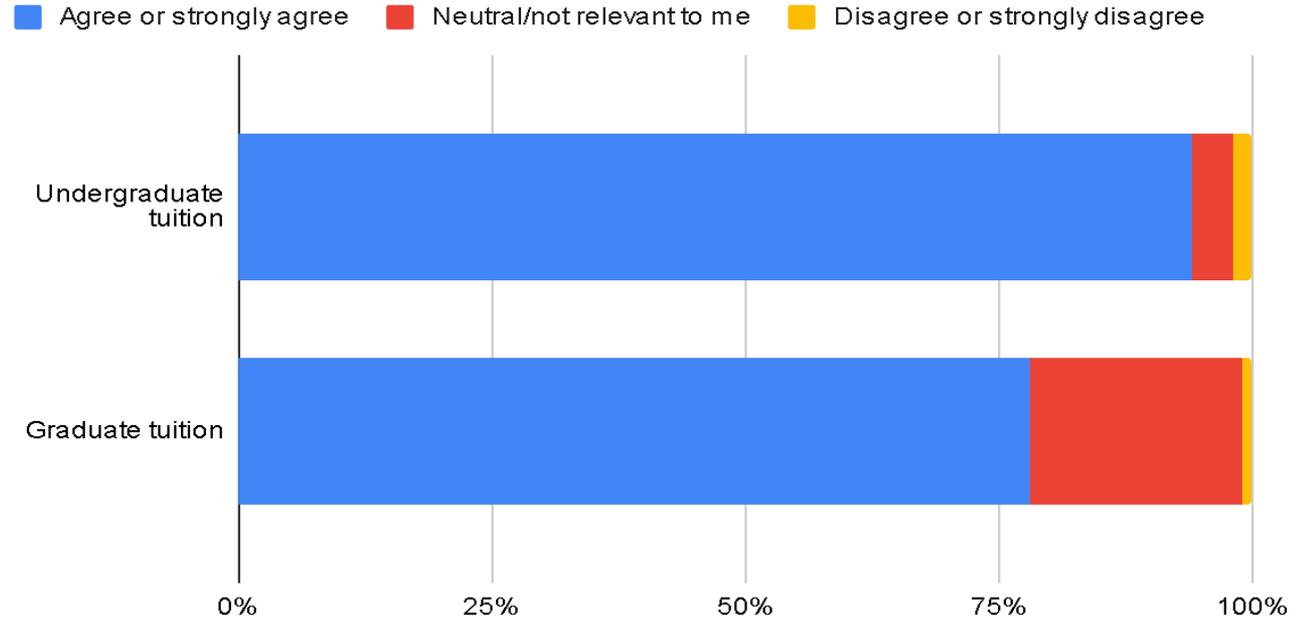
tuition affordability among domestic and international

■ Agree or strongly agree ■ Neutral/not relevant to me ■ Disagree or strongly disagree



With regards to domestic tuition, 86% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that domestic tuition is too unaffordable. Of those who answered the question, only one respondent disagreed. When looking at international tuition, 89% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree international tuition is too unaffordable. No respondent disagreed.

tuition affordability among undergraduate and graduate



As this chart shows, 94% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that undergraduate tuition is too unaffordable. 96% of current or former undergraduates agreed or strongly agreed.

78% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree graduate tuition is too unaffordable. 100% of current or former graduate students agreed or strongly agreed.

“The thing is, Vancouver is already a very expensive city to live in. any additional expense will count.”

“I am a student who is paying his own tuition I am having problems trying to pay for other necessities this is completely unacceptable”

“I can't afford to be a full time student and yet my application for work study was denied—despite having a research/lab work position set up for me. I repeat: I cannot afford to be a full time student, and my application for work study was denied.”

““As a full-time SFU Now student, I already feel the pressures of tuition costs and am obligated to supplement my student loans with full-time work. I can't imagine what sort of stresses international students are faced with and can only anticipate it worsening with the planned increases.””

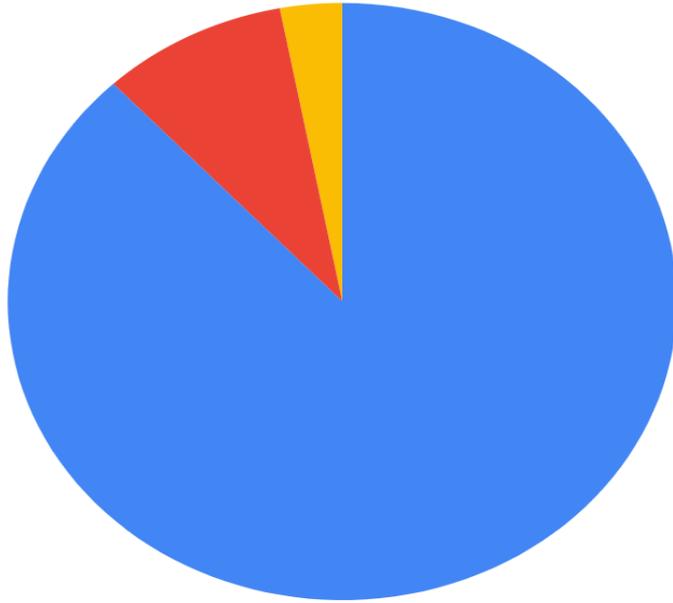
As we are all familiar, rent and other costs are constantly increasing in the lower mainland. In the “other” section of the survey, where students could elaborate on their earlier responses, students expressed to us how they are often faced with pressures to pay for the cost of living, and are forced either to cut expenses, to take on full time work along with their studies, or pursue both options.

Supplementary funding

We will now look at supplementary funding. We asked students if they think there is adequate supplementary funding, and if the requirements for this funding are too high. Survey respondents expressed that they struggle to gain adequate supplementary funding to pay for school.

There isn't enough supplementary funding

● Agree or strongly agree ● Neutral ● Disagree or strongly disagree



88% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that there isn't enough supplementary funding. 94% of current or former graduate student respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

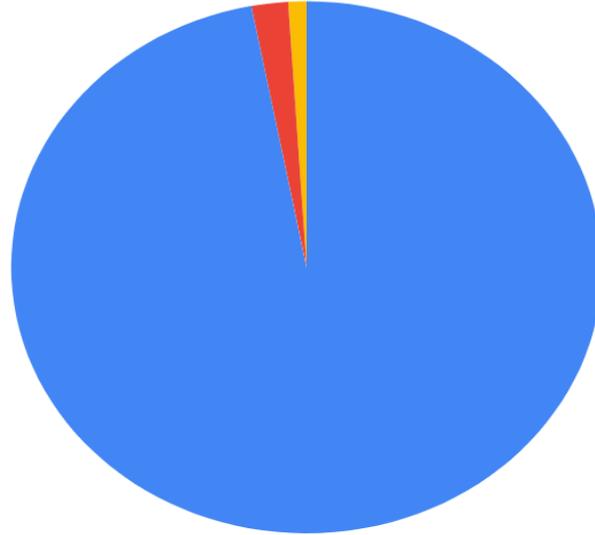
88% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that requirements for supplementary funding are too high.

Why is my tuition increasing?

We asked respondents if they knew what their tuition money is being used for or if they know why it is increasing.

I'm not sure what my tuition money is being used for/ why it is increasing

● Agree or strongly agree ● Neutral ● disagree or strongly disagree



The vast majority of students feel there is lack of transparency and information. In fact, 97% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that they are not sure what their tuition money is being used for or why tuition rates are increasing.

“I think we are paying more for the construction. We are paying for ... noise and annoying blockades. This campus is a mess, we should be paying less! Chant with me.”

“You increase the tuition while the quality of our education decreases every day. Why should we keep paying more?”

“Tuition rates are a constant source of stress. The fact that they keep raising is piling on to a seemingly endless cash grab from sfu”

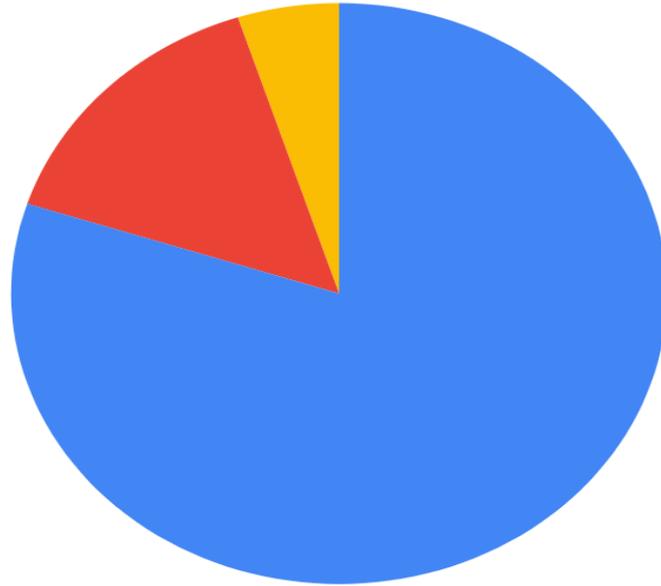
In our “other” section, where students could express their opinions, several students questioned what their tuition money is going towards.

Impacts on wellbeing

The survey asked students if the tuition rates have impacted their mental health or social life.

Tuition rates have had a negative impact on my mental health

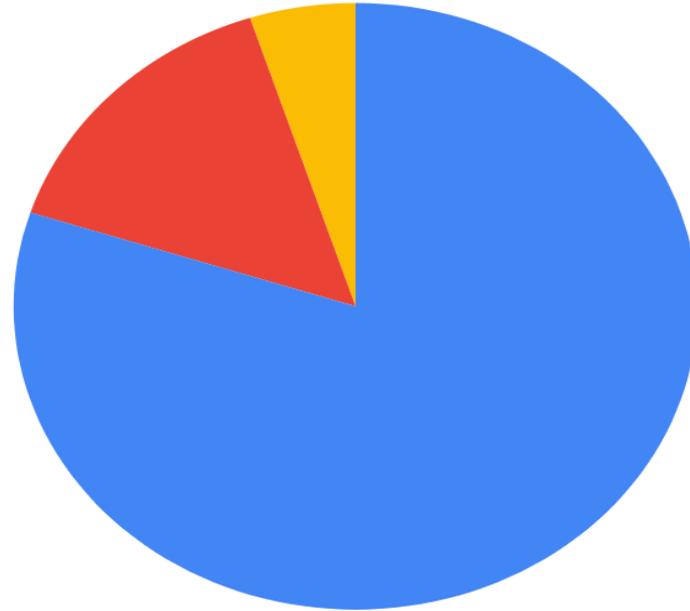
● Agree or strongly agree ● Neutral ● Disagree or strongly disagree



Respondents let us know that tuition increases have significant negative impacts on their well-being. 80% of survey respondents report that tuition rates have had a negative impact on their mental health.

Tuition rates have had a negative impact on my social life

● Agree or strongly agree ● Neutral ● Disagree or strongly disagree



80% of survey respondents report that tuition rates have had a negative impact on their social life.

“Tuition rates have also had a negative impact on my physical wellbeing with my inability to feed myself due to lack of money to buy food and lack of time to cook because I'm working to pay tuition.”

“since transfer to SFU my stress level has drastically increased, and mental health has taken a turn for the worse given that i am forced to work multiple jobs while being a full time student just to afford SFU's exorbitant tuition.”

Once again, the survey included an “other” section where respondents could let us know what they think. One respondent let us know that tuition rates have also affected their physical health. Among those responses, many others told us about how SFU tuition is impacting their mental health and stress levels.

Thank you!

Thank you for viewing and participating in the survey. This consultation is ongoing so feel free to go on our website and fill out our survey at <http://tuitionfreezenow.com>