Promoting International Research Collaborations

Dr. Don Brooks
Associate Vice President, Research & International
About UBC

- 4 campuses in Vancouver and Kelowna, B.C.
- 5 affiliated hospitals & Health Authority Research Institutes
- 18 faculties
- 9,480 faculty members (incl. clinical)
- 40,000 undergraduates
- 9,000 graduate students
International Reputation

• UBC ranks among the world’s top 40 universities
  – Shanghai Jiaotong University (#36)
  – Times Higher Education, UK (#30)

• In 2005, UBC was ranked 9th among top North American universities according to number of patents filed
UBC creates rich opportunities for international engagement for students, faculty, staff and alumni, and collaborates and communicates globally.

**PLACE AND PROMISE: THE UBC PLAN**

- More than 200 formal institutional partnerships
- 2430 international graduate students at UBC
  - 25% of total graduate enrolment
- 800 outbound undergrad + grad students on exchange programs per year (course, research)
- 700+ incoming exchange students per year
- Commitment to increase graduate research exchange
  - Doubled PhD research abroad in 2009/10
- Joint PhD Programs
Fostering Collaboration between UBC & U of Melbourne

- International Research Collaboration Workshop Grant
- Student Exchange
- UBC Graduate Student International Research Mobility Award
- Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships
- International Council for Canadian Studies
- Joint PhD Degree
Academic Staff
International Research Collaboration Workshop Grant

- Catalyst for international research collaborations in areas of mutual excellence
- Lead to the development of joint research proposals
- Strengthen or develop long-term partnerships
- Up to 50% of workshop costs to $10,000 CDN max
- Held in Canada or overseas
- UBC faculty submits application with lead international research collaborator
Student Exchange

- UBC and Melbourne share membership in two international consortia: *Universitas 21* and the *Association of Pacific Rim Universities*.
- Enables exchange of Undergraduate, Master’s & PhD students – for coursework *and/or* research.
- Students pay tuition to their home university.
- Scholarship and mobility award opportunity.
- For more information ⇒ Melbourne Global Mobility
UBC Graduate Student
International Research Mobility Award

Objectives

- Increase graduate student mobility and enrich graduate research learning through short-term international research abroad opportunities.

- Facilitate the exchange of high-level expertise and research skills.

- Build and enhance research collaborations between UBC and research-intensive universities in areas of mutual excellence.
UBC Graduate Student International Research Mobility Award

- Priority to PhD students
- $1500 CAD for outbound and incoming students
- 1-3 months average length of stay

Eligibility:
- Be a full-time student in good standing with high level of academic achievement.
- Have completed one academic year in residence in graduate degree at their home university.
How to Apply: Plan in Advance

- Student exchanges often emerge from current or emerging collaborations between faculty members.
- Details of the research abroad program must be arranged prior to application, in collaboration with the UBC and Melbourne research supervisors.
- Applications should be submitted at least 3 months prior to travel.
- Students must also apply to their respective mobility offices for nomination as an exchange student.
Application Process

Deadlines: Feb 1, June 1, Oct 1

Melbourne Student → UBC:
- UBC host submits application in collaboration with incoming student

UBC Student → Melbourne:
- UBC student submits application

Applications require:
- 2-3 page summary that describes the proposed research abroad program and goals
- Letters of support from home supervisor
- Student CV
2009-10* UBC Graduate Student International Research Mobility Awardees

60 Graduate Students
(58 PhD, 2 Master’s)

*As of Nov 2010
Funded Students by Faculty (2009, 2010*)

*as of Nov 2010
Additional Funding* Received by VPRI Mobility Awardees for their Research Abroad Program

- Canadian Funding (n=45)
- International Funding (n=24)
  - Europe, Australia, China
- No Funding (n=10)

* Not including continuation of RA or TA student stipend
Student Survey - Description of research program:

N=31

Other:
- Computational-based
- Theory and Literature Review
- Theoretical
- Archival
Student Survey - On a scale of 1 to 5, how much did this research abroad program enhance or enrich your dissertation?

N=31

>90% of students expect to produce a publication or make a conference presentation as a direct result of their research abroad program.
Student Survey - On a scale of 1 to 5, what is your overall level of satisfaction with your research abroad program?

N=31
Student Testimonials

“I was able to work with experts in [my field] and was able to learn skills in techniques that I hope to apply to my dissertation work.”

“My research supervisor was outstanding. He provided a lot of specialized knowledge that I couldn’t have gained anywhere else”

“I am confident I’ll publish an excellent paper in a good journal as a result of this research experience.”

“I have been able to complete my dissertation fieldwork... The program gave me an opportunity to work in some of the best libraries in the country and interact with some of the top scholars and politicians.”
Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Two-year fellowships
- $70K CAD per year
- Open to Canadian and international researchers who have recently completed a PhD, PhD equivalent or health professional degree
- 70 fellowships available each year
- Distributed equally across Canada’s three federal granting agencies: Health, Natural Science & Engineering, Social Science & Humanities
- Canadian citizens or permanent residents may hold their award at either a Canadian institution or an institution outside of Canada (max 15)
International Council for Canadian Studies

Faculty Research Program

- Funding for research and mobility costs to undertake short-term research about Canada or on an aspect of Canada’s bilateral or multilateral relations.

International Research Linkages

- Funding for seminars or other forms of linkage to facilitate international collaboration and foster the development of permanent exchange networks.

Priority given to projects that have policy relevance for Canada and Canada’s foreign policy (democracy & rule of law, economic development, environment, peace and security etc) interdisciplinary studies, comparative studies, and Canada’s bilateral relations with participating countries.

www.iccs-ciec.ca
U 21 International Jointly Awarded PhD Degree

“A jointly awarded PhD is a single qualification conferred upon a student on completion of a collaborative program of work designed, supervised & examined by the two universities.”

Normally characterized by:

- Meeting academic requirements of both universities
- Agreement regarding the lead university
- Joint supervision and examination
- A single degree awarded for one PhD thesis
- Parchment(s) issued that explicitly state that there has been joint supervision and examination

Can be initiated by the supervisors – advertise program for competitive recruitment – or by the student.
Joint PhD Benefits

- Enhanced academic research program through collaboration with two high-quality research environments and cultures
- Enhancement of collaborative research between universities
- Undertaking research of explicit global significance
- Access to unique and/or sophisticated research equipment and resources
- Additional sources of financial support – eligibility for scholarships/awards at both participating universities
- Opportunities for international leadership and global engagement.
- Improved employment opportunities on an international scale

www.universitas21.com
QUESTIONS ?