

Summer U-Pass Program FAQ

What is the U-Pass?

The MSVU Students' Union, in partnership with Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) and Halifax Metro Transit introduced the U-Pass for Mount Saint Vincent University students in the fall of 2007. This decision was reconfirmed in November of 2010 when the students overwhelmingly voted in favor of continuing with the U-PASS program at MSVU in a student referendum. The Students' Union is now seeking a referendum to add a summer U-PASS program.

The University's agreement with Halifax Metro Transit gives all eligible MSVU students unlimited and affordable access to all Metro Transit Bus (with some limited exclusions and fare conditions), Ferry and Access-A-Bus (for registered users) services.

Because of the nature of the program and in order to make it feasible, it had to be a mandatory program for all full-time students (with a few minimal exceptions). While we recognize that some students may see limited benefit from the program but will still be required to pay the U-PASS fee, it was felt that overall this is an excellent program for the majority of students.

Your U-Pass isn't just for commuting back and forth to school, it is your passport to Halifax. You can explore everything the Halifax Regional Municipality has to offer - shopping, food and entertainment venues are all a bus ride away!

Who is eligible for the U-Pass?

All graduate and undergraduate students who are registered full-time at MSVU for the summer sessions, will receive a U-Pass. Full-time students are students who are enrolled in at least 1.5 units of credit across both summer sessions as of the fee payment deadline in each summer session. Co-op students and students on dietetic internships are also considered as full-time for purposes of the U-Pass.

Students enrolled in less than 1.5 units of credit in Summer Session 1 (SS1) and enrolls in more courses for Summer Session 2 (SS2) *after* the SS1 fee payment deadline are eligible for the Summer U-Pass only during SS2, given that the total number of summer courses are now greater than or equal to 1.5 units of credit.

Ex. Captain Crow is enrolled in BUSI-2230 (0.5 units) for SS1. After the SS1 payment deadline, he decides to enroll in BUSI-2231 (0.5 units) and BUSI-2214 (0.5 units) for SS2, bringing his total units of credit to 1.5 for the summer. In this case, Captain Crow will only be eligible for the Summer U-Pass for SS2.

How much does the U-Pass cost?

The cost of the U-PASS for the 2020 summer session would be \$79 and would be required to be paid by the fee payment deadline in the term that you become eligible for the U-PASS. If you do not become eligible (registered in 1.5 units of credit) for the U-PASS until the second summer session, the cost is still \$79. If you withdraw or drop to part-time after the start of the term in which you are charged, there is no refund. The cost may increase each year to a maximum of the consumer price index.

Why U-Pass?

Save money - At a cost of \$79 for the summer sessions (valid from May to August), students save approximately \$60 per month over the cost of buying a monthly pass. Taking just one round-trip per week during the summer sessions would be enough to get your money's worth!

Car owners save money too - The U-Pass can help reduce your fuel, parking, insurance and maintenance expenses. Plus, you can let someone else worry about the traffic. Good for the environment - Choosing public transit instead of driving your own car reduces air pollution. One bus can help remove up to 50 cars from the road at any point in time, reducing air pollution by 15 - 20%.

For more information about the U-Pass, check out Halifax Metro Transit's [website](#).

How does the U-Pass work?

You will be assessed/billed at the beginning of the summer session in which you become eligible (by the last date to register for that summer session). At Financial Services, you will have a U-Pass sticker applied to your student ID card, that will be valid from date of issuance to August 31, 2020, and will provide unlimited use of Halifax Metro Transit services with some exceptions and conditions. U-Passes shall be valid for MetroLink services with payment of the Metrolink fare premium each time MetroLink is used.

The U-Pass acts the same as monthly student passes provided by Halifax Metro Transit: Show your Student ID Card with your U-PASS sticker on it to the bus driver, Get on the bus and begin your adventure!

Can someone else use my U-Pass?

No. Your U-Pass is for your use only. It can't be sold, loaned or transferred to any other student. Bus drivers will be checking the picture on your student ID and looking at the U-PASS sticker to ensure you are validly using it. If U-Pass privileges are misused, bus drivers are authorized to take your student ID with U-PASS sticker and you will not receive a refund.

If I am completing a co-op term or internship outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality will I still be charged for the U-Pass?

You will be initially assessed for the U-Pass. However, if you will be outside of the metro area for a co-op term or internship, simply email Financial Services and you will be credited \$79.00 for the UPass for that semester. You must notify Financial Services by the last date to register in the Summer Session in order to be exempted.

MSVU Financial Services
Evaristus 211
(902) 457-6277
financial.services@msvu.ca

Who can request an exemption?

The U-Pass fee is mandatory and exemptions will only be allowed if:

- You officially withdraw from the University, or change from full-time to part-time status before the academic ADD/DROP date for the Summer Session in which you would be charged.
- You use the Access-a-Bus system, or have a CNIB pass, and provide proof of registration before the deadline noted below
- You are taking all your classes at MSVU via distance education.
- You are completing a co-operative education work-term, internship, or practica for the summer term outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

What happens if I am currently registered for a thesis or thesis continuation? Am I eligible for the U-PASS?

Students who are registered for a thesis or thesis continuation can opt into the U-PASS program by contacting Financial Services at financial.services@msvu.ca.

What happens if I am registered in all distance courses but I live in Halifax and want the U-PASS?

Students who meet the full-time definition noted above and are registered in all distance courses can opt into the U-PASS program by contacting Financial Services at financial.services@msvu.ca.

What happens if my Student ID card with U-Pass sticker is lost or stolen?

If your Student ID Card and U-Pass are lost or stolen you must report it to Financial Services immediately. There will be a \$10 replacement fee for the Student ID Card, which you will obtain in the library. There will also be a \$25 replacement fee for each U-Pass sticker and the University reserves the right to refuse to replace a U-PASS sticker depending on the circumstances. Replacement U-PASS stickers can only be obtained from Financial Services in Evaristus Hall.