



NEWS RELEASE

August 21, 2020

For immediate release

EDMONTON, ALBERTA – U-Pass in its typical form will not be available for the fall semester, and students will not be charged the fee. Because the majority of classes moved to an online platform due to concerns around COVID-19, the U-Pass program was suspended in mid-March. Since current circumstances continue to prevent most students from attending in-person classes, it will remain suspended into the fall.

Our negotiations with ETS concluded this week with the announcement that the Youth Pass and the Ride Transit Program will be expanded until the return of the U-Pass. Students will be able to purchase a monthly Youth pass (\$72.50 per month) or Youth tickets (\$19 per 10 tickets) with a valid student I.D. regardless of their age. In addition, the Ride Transit program has been expanded to include students who are 18+ and fall within the income ranges below.

- If a student earns less than \$29,069, they may qualify for a \$34/month pass.
- If a student earns between \$29,070 & \$33,033, they may qualify for a \$48.50/month pass.

International students will not be eligible for the Ride Transit Program but will be able to purchase a monthly Youth pass or Youth tickets. We encourage any student applying for the Ride Transit Program to apply as soon as possible due the potential processing time of this application.

Please note, these options were offered by ETS and Edmonton City Council and they do not apply to the surrounding municipalities. Check with your local transit service to see their offered alternatives.

We will continue to work with ETS and City Council to address the various gaps in coverage as we find them. We encourage all students who experience difficulties navigating this system, or

discover gaps in coverage to reach out to the Vice President External at savpexternal@macewan.ca.

For more information, visit ETS's [Universal Transit Pass \(U-Pass\)](#) page.

Ride Transit Application Form: [Leisure Access Program Application 2020](#)

From the ETS website:

Temporary expansion of the age eligibility for the Youth Fare category

- From September 1 - December 31 to include ALL post-secondary students, no matter their age, at U-pass institutions and institutions that were eligible for the post-secondary pass. Effective, September 1, a Youth monthly pass will cost \$72.50. Students who occasionally use transit may purchase a Book of 10 Youth tickets for \$19 (an \$8 discount from adult price).

Temporary expansion of eligibility to the low income Ride Transit Program

- This program has two tiers (that is, a sliding scale) and is based on an individual's personal income. Personal income can be proven through a Notice of Assessment (NOA), Employment Insurance (EI) document or CERB document.
- Students will need to apply through the **Leisure Access Program**.
- If a student is 18+, and earns less than \$29,069, they may qualify for a \$34/month pass.
- If a student is 18+, and earns between \$29,070 and \$33,033, they may qualify for a \$48.50/month pass.

Note: For context, a U-Pass costs approximately \$45/month.

Note: International students do not qualify for the Ride Transit program, however, they will have access to other discounted fare products like Youth passes/tickets, or seniors passes/tickets.

Note: Students who are considered a dependent (i.e. their parents/guardians claim them on their taxes as a dependent) would have to include their parents/guardians income on their application, so they may not qualify for the Ride Transit Program.

We will do our best to process Ride Transit applications as quickly as we can. We will continue to work closely with the U-pass institutions to ensure this process is working smoothly.

People in Household**	Household Income for Ride Transit Program (\$34 monthly pass)	Household Income for Ride Transit Program (\$48.50 monthly pass)
1	\$29,069	\$29,070 - \$33,033
2	\$36,189	\$36,190 - \$41,124
3	\$44,490	\$44,491 - \$50,556
4	\$54,017	\$54,018 - \$61,383
5	\$61,265	\$61,266 - \$69,619
6	\$69,095	\$69,096 - \$78,518
7	\$76,929	\$76,930 - \$87,419

*Household income is being regarded as individual income for students who are 18+.

Note: Due to Covid-19 passes are being mailed free of charge and the service center will remain closed for transit pass sales.

About SAMU: The Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) is a student-centered organization governed by students, for students. Providing many programs and services that serve the student body including but not limited to the The Pantry, Peer Support, Breakfast Club, and our emergency loan program. Acting within MacEwan, while maintaining independence from the University. It is an organization, serving students, inspired by students.

For more information visit www.samu.ca.

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