

August 5, 2015

International Students to save \$256.80 on Health Insurance

International undergraduate and graduate students on study terms longer than six months will no longer have to pay an additional \$300 for Guard.me health insurance. Effective September 1, 2015 these students will be fully covered by a combination of Manitoba Health benefits and the UWSA Health Plan. International students at the UW Collegiate, PACE, ELP or on study terms shorter than six months will still receive coverage through Guard.me.

In addition to standard coverage currently offered under our UWSA Health Plan, international students will receive an enhanced accidental death and dismemberment benefit of \$50,000, repatriation coverage of up to \$15,000 and a family transportation benefit of \$5,000 for two family members plus \$1,500 in living expenses. The total cost of this increased coverage is \$43.20 per student per year, meaning international students will save a total of \$256.80 each on their health insurance.

Over the last several years, the UWSA has consistently advocated for an end to needless duplication in health coverage that international students were forced to pay a premium for. Aside from the areas mentioned above, Guard.me offered equivalent or lesser benefits than either Manitoba Health or the UWSA Plan. For international students, who are already paying 3.7-4.3 times what domestic students pay in tuition fees, this added cost undermined affordability even further. We're pleased that the University of Winnipeg has recognized this and responded to our request by eliminating this duplication.

This victory follows on our successful effort to extend Manitoba Health benefits to international students in 2012, and reflects our commitment to providing a not-for-profit, high-quality and affordable safety net for all of our members.

For more information about our Health Plan, visit <http://theuwsa.ca/healthplan/>.