

# U-PASS REFERENDUM FACTS

The U-Pass is a universal bus pass program where all full-time UWinnipeg students pay a fee at the beginning of each term and receive an unlimited access bus pass for the Fall and/or Winter Term (September - December / January - April) at a subsidized rate. **The U-Pass has not been offered since the pandemic related closure of campus and a new fee is required to be approved by UWinnipeg students in order to reinstate the program effective September 2022.**



## USAGE + WHO RECEIVES IT

In Fall 2019, approximately 6000 U-Passes were activated at UWinnipeg According to Winnipeg Transit's review in 2017 and 2018. Approx. 90% of students used a U-Pass, with 53% using it on a daily basis or more.

If reinstated, all full-time UofW students (9 credit hours or more in one term) are enrolled in the U-Pass program. **In addition, eligible Transit Plus users and students residing outside city limits have the option to Opt-Out of the U-Pass.**



## QUICK HISTORY OF U-PASS FEES

- The U-Pass launched at \$130 per term for the 2016/2017 Fall/Winter terms.
- The U-Pass fee for Fall 2019, Winter 2020, the last terms it was active, was \$136.25 per term.
- The last approved U-Pass fee for Fall 2022 was \$160.75 per term.
- The U-Pass fee for Fall 2022 is \$212 per term.



## COST

2022/23 U-Pass fee (26% discount from the Post-Secondary Pass and 50% discount from the Full Adult Bus Fare).

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| 2022/23  | \$212 per term             |
|          | \$424 from September-April |
| Savings: | \$254.40 per year          |

Cost of the U-Pass will be adjusted annually to maintain a 50% discount from the Full Adult Transit Fare. The rate of discount from a Post-Secondary Semester Pass (presently 26%) could fluctuate as annual rate changes typically occur, although we believe this level of discount should be generally stable.



## STUDENT INITIATIVE

This U-Pass is a student-led initiative spearheaded by students at the UWSA in 2014, mirroring U-Pass programs practiced across Canada. UWinnipeg students voted and passed in a referendum on October 29, 2014, with a majority vote of 81.7% in favour of establishing a U-Pass.



# U-PASS REFERENDUM

## WHERE AND HOW TO VOTE

The U-Pass is a student-led initiative, and we need direction from students again.

The U-Pass has not been offered since the pandemic related closure of campus and a new fee is required to be approved by UWinnipeg students in order to reinstate the program effective September 2022.

We are holding a referendum during the 2022 General Elections so that UWinnipeg students can vote on whether they would like to reinstate the U-Pass program.

### REFERENDUM QUESTION

Do you support the UWSA reinstating the U-Pass once the majority of University of Winnipeg courses are offered in-person, providing unlimited ongoing access to Winnipeg Transit for all full-time students, for a fee of \$212.00 per term (**adjusted annually to maintain a 50% discount from the Full Adult Transit Fare**)?

The options are:

- Yes, I am in favour of reinstating the U-Pass.
- No, I vote to end the U-Pass.



VOTE



#### What does a 'Yes' vote mean?

A 'Yes' vote means that the UWSA will reinstate the U-Pass to students at the rate of **\$212 per term**. This means that you will have unlimited access to Winnipeg Public Transit.



#### What does a 'No' vote mean?

A 'No' vote would lead to the end of the U-Pass program. The alternative would be to purchase a Post-Secondary Semester Bus Pass that costs (presently) **\$288/term** or another Post-Secondary bus fare product.

### HOW DO I VOTE?

You can vote in the UWSA General Elections on March 7, 8, and 9. On Monday, March 7 at 9 AM, an email will be sent to your UWinnipeg Email about your voting information.

### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE U-PASS IF THE MAJORITY OF UofW COURSES ARE NOT OFFERED IN-PERSON TO STUDENTS FOR THE 2022/23 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR DUE TO THE PANDEMIC?



The UWSA will have the option to temporarily suspend the U-Pass Program commencing at the beginning of the next full Fall Term or Winter Term that is to start. As a result, the program would be active and students at the UWinnipeg would not be required to pay U-Pass fees, and students will not have access to the U-Pass. Students will still be able to purchase the Post-Secondary Semester Bus Pass or other Post-Secondary bus fare products at Winnipeg Transit retail locations.

The U-Pass would automatically start again, for the following term, if the majority of University of Winnipeg courses are offered in-person to students.