

The Creative Writing Program at UBC:

Resources for Distance Education Students

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Campus Wide Login / SSC

When you initially registered with UBC you may have had access to the Student Service Centre by using your student number as your user name and your birth date (in the form YYMMDD). This gives access to fee payments, etc. The SSC is at: www.students.ubc.ca/ssc. As of April 12, all students are required to use the Campus Wide Login system to access the SSC. This system allows access to most UBC online resources, including webmail, WebCT, wireless Internet access on the UBC campus and others.

To obtain a CWL, follow the link from the 'login' button on the SSC, or go to www.cwl.ubc.ca. Your web browser must have cookies enabled and support javascript in order for the process to work. You will start with your SSC username and password and create an unique CWL user name and password.

Student ID Card / Library Card

As a Distance Education student, you can get your UBC ID / Library Card through the web by following the link below if you're registered at UBC and not resident in the lower mainland (Vancouver area). Otherwise you must do it in person. If you wish your card to have your photo on it, you may apply in person during the summer residency by going to the UBC Bookstore.

Applying Online

<http://www.bussops.ubc.ca/UBCParkingServicesForms/UBCCard.CFM>

Applying in Person

<http://www.ubccard.ubc.ca/Obtain.htm>

Free Email Account

Although students will have email accounts already, UBC does provide a free student email account if you want it. Advantages include keeping your UBC email separate from your private email, and having an address you can use to mark you as a member of the UBC community. You also receive dial-up modem time, which may be useful when you are in Vancouver for the residency.

To activate your account, go to www.itservices.ubc.ca and click the 'Get a free email account' link under the title *For Students*.

Free Antivirus Software

At the same website, www.itservices.ubc.ca you will also find a link titled 'Download free antivirus software.' UBC has contracted with Sophos, an antivirus company, to provide free software for all UBC students and faculty. While you are a registered student you are able to download and keep this software updated on your computer. Versions exist for all versions of Windows from Windows 95 onwards, and for Mac OS 8 and above.

Our Security Recommendations

All students **must** have an antivirus package, whether the free Sophos program, or your own (Norton, etc.). We also strongly recommend that students, especially those with high-speed connections, have **firewall** and **spyware detection** software. Firewalls protect your computer from unauthorized access through your Internet connection, while spyware detection programs scan your computer for unauthorized software which may be slowing down and clogging up your computer.

Macintosh users are less vulnerable to these problems than PC users, but still should investigate firewall options.

You can buy integrated security suites from the major security companies: Norton Internet Security is one, for example, and comes for PC and Mac. There are also free options available for download.

ZoneAlarm is a free and effective firewall for Windows. It can be downloaded at www.zonelabs.com – follow the link that reads 'free ZoneAlarm and trials'.

Two good free spyware detection and removal tools are: **AdAware** (www.javasoft.de – then follow the 'download' link on the left menu under *Resources*). **Spybot Search & Destroy** is also well thought of: www.safer-networking.org.

Firefox: We also strongly suggest that you use this web browser instead of Microsoft's Internet Explorer (Mac users are relatively safe with Safari, but Firefox also exists for

Mac, and is worth a look). Firefox not only is more secure than Internet Explorer, but it shows many websites faster and has a great ‘tabbed’ browsing interface.

Get it at: www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/

Computer Discounts

As a registered UBC student you are eligible for discounts on computer hardware and software from many vendors. The UBC bookstore sells computers and software at academic prices. The best deals are on software, which is often much cheaper than in regular stores, and there are some modest deals on Macintosh, IBM Thinkpads and some HP printers. The bookstore doesn’t sell hardware and software online, however, so you can only access these deals when you are in Vancouver.

Apple has an academic store online, and offers discounted hardware (including iPods!) and software to registered students. Visit www.apple.com/ca/higheredindividuals/ for details and prices.

Studica, an online reseller, also offers academic licenses for many software programs. They are at www.studica.ca – we do not have a great deal of experience with them, and cannot currently vouch for their reliability or service, but include this link for student investigation/information.