

PAF ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

WHAT IS PAF?

The Professional Activity Fund (PAF) at UBC Okanagan's School of Engineering supports undergraduate students by funding co-curricular projects, industry engagement, and professional development. Committed to fostering experiential learning and career readiness, PAF invests in student-led initiatives, travel, and competitions, equipping future engineers with real-world skills and industry connections.

KEY ENHANCEMENTS

Comprehensive PAF Application Redesign

A fully revamped application process with an updated tracking system launched in August 2024.

New Student Reimbursement Model

A simplified and expedited reimbursement process, ensuring students receive funding support efficiently.

PAF Policy Overhaul

Policy completely updated in 2024 to reflect student needs and best practices, effective September 2025.

Strengthened PAF Committee Structure

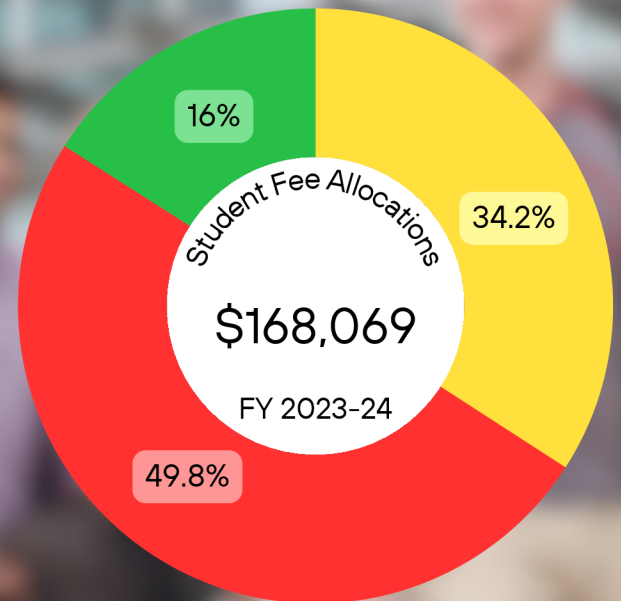
Restructured committee with increased expertise while maintaining strong student voice in 2025.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Capital Purchases:
memberships, prototyping
supplies & equipment

Travel:
airfare, conference fees,
accommodation & meals

Net Surplus:
carried forward for
strategic investment



WHY PAF MATTERS

**DIRECTLY
SUPPORTED
OVER 200
STUDENTS**

**OPPORTUNITIES
AND
RECOGNITION**

**INVESTING
IN STUDENT
SUCCESS**

**SIGNIFICANT
FINANCIAL
INVESTMENT**

With over \$141K invested in 2023-24 and an even greater commitment in 2024-25, PAF is a cornerstone of student professional growth.

**GLOBAL
EXPOSURE**

PAF enables SOE student participation in attending Professional Development conferences and design competitions at local, national and international level.

**CAREER
ADVANCEMENT**

PAF connects academia and industry, funding real-world engineering experience, networking, and skill development.

TESTIMONIALS

Women in STEM

"Thanks to PAF, we hosted Meet a Woman in STEM with McElhanney speakers sharing career insights and strategies for navigating male-dominated fields, inspiring attendees to seek mentorship and build confidence in STEM."

Noor Hamdona, Civil Engineering

"Thanks to PAF, I had the incredible opportunity to present my research at MURC, connect with faculty and peers, and expand my academic network, opening doors for future research and graduate studies."

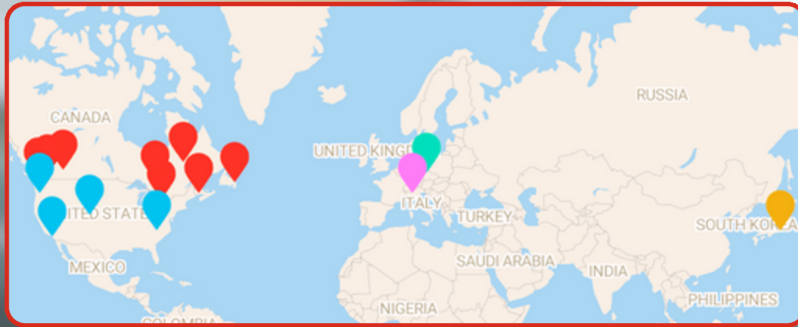
Hellen Lacava, BioMedical Eng.

"Thanks to PAF, I attended the BEST - Slice of Future course in the Czech Republic, where I gained hands-on experience in 3D printing with plastic and stem cells, and visited industry leaders like Prusa."



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INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT



PAF empowered UBCO students to showcase their expertise worldwide

Canada 🇨🇦 – Competed and networked in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Kelowna, St. John's, Quebec City, Timmins, and Southport.

USA 🇺🇸 – Advanced innovation in Denver, Irvine, Charlotte, and Portland.

Japan 🇯🇵 – Presented at an Automation & Control Systems Conference in Yokohama.

Czech Republic 🇨🇪 – Explored 3D printing and biomedical engineering in Prague.

Italy 🇮🇹 – Engaged in astronautics and space research in Milan.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



🏆 UBCO Aerospace

2nd place & Innovation Award at Aerial Evolution UAS Competition; Team Spirit Award at AEAC National for an autonomous air taxi prototype.



🏆 GN Concrete Toboggan Race

1st place overall at the 50th Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race (GNCTR) in St. John's, dominating multiple technical categories.



🏆 OK Motorsports

Advanced UBCO's first electric formula race car, securing key EV components and simulation software.



🏆 UBCO Solar Decathlon

2nd place in Single-Family Housing at the 2024 Solar Decathlon Design Challenge in Denver, CO.



🏆 Okanagan Tech Industry Night

Supported IEEE to host OTIN 2024, connecting 220+ attendees with 30+ companies for industry networking.



🏆 Simon Cox Design Competition

Awarded 1st place in Vancouver for an innovative biomedical assistive technology device at the Simon Cox Design Competition.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

Conferences & Seminars

Students attended Professional Development events like the World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (Canada), Engineers Conference (Canada), International Astronautical Congress (Italy), and IFAC World Congress (Japan).

Workshops & Training

Skills development at the Hendrick Motorsports EV Workshop (USA) and CFES Conference on Computational Science and Engineering Workshop (Canada).

Research Presentations

Showcased work at the Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference, Solar Decathlon (USA), and NSERC Research Awards.

Competitions

Supported SOE students attending over 10 different engineering design and prototyping competitions.

Networking

Industry connections at UBCO Industry Nights, Collision Conference (Canada), and Launch Canada.

GET INVOLVED!

Looking to gain industry experience, present research, or compete in engineering competitions?

The Professional Activity Fund (PAF) supports student-led projects, travel, and professional development.

- **Apply Now** – Applications are open!
- **Get Guidance** – Attend PAF/PD Office Hours or connect with past recipients.
- **Ask Questions** – Visit the SOE PD Office or contact Grant Topor, Professional Development Officer, at grant.topor@ubc.ca.

PAF is your gateway to global exposure, hands-on learning, and career-defining experiences. Don't miss out—apply and take your engineering journey to the next level! 🚀

Visit the PAF website for more details:

<https://experience.apsc.ubc.ca/okanagan/professional-activity-fund>

