UBC CS Grad Students Cost of Living Survey

Devyani M & Tommy N
Problem

- Difficult living in Vancouver on CS Grad stipend
- Vancouver is expensive
  - $2,500 for 1-bedroom
  - 7% increase in food price in 2022
  - 8.8% inflation in 2022
- UBC CS graduates’ stipends between $19,000 - $33,000
- To focus on academics or making money?
## Deivyani M & Tommy N

### CS Grad Cost of Living | 2022WT1 | CPSC 547

#### UBC CS Graduate Cost of Living Survey Data

**January 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>400g &amp; 19f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$850</td>
<td>60f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>$550</td>
<td>5f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>10f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>$350</td>
<td>10f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone &amp; Mobile</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>10f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel costs</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>10f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent from/to emergency &amp; savings</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>10f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared expenses</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>10f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>10f</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifts</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Considering and Coding with feast.

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Data

- January 2022 survey
- Anonymous reports
  - 94 grad students
  - 15 CS research areas
- Highlighted concerns:
  - Inflation
  - Food prices
  - Rent
  - Tuition
  - Quality of life

Figure 28: Extra work hours a week (aside from RAship and TAship, N = 25).
Data Themes

1. Basic Expenses
   Commute, food, health, housing, tuition, etc.

2. Quality of Life
   Gifts, pet, travels, etc.

3. Life Contexts
   Contextualizes personalized conditions

4. Funding Sources
   For graduate students

5. Workload
   For potential or other employment

6. Safety Net
   If/how one is able to manage current finances
Our Vision

Understand Students
- Empathize with students
- Recognize cost of living concerns
- Identify disparity between school services and students’ perception

Informed Decisions
- Advocate for more fundings
- Faculty & staff to provide more support for students
- Improve student-supervisor relationships

Interactivity
- Visualization tool for incoming and current CS graduate students
Our team

**Devyani**
- PhD-Track - Year 2
- HCI experience
- Programming Experience
- Looking to explore more design softwares

**You!**
- Share concerns addressed in Cost of Living data
- Data Viz Experience
- Willing to learn data viz with us
- Wanting to explore new tools (D3)

**Tommy**
- MSc CS - Year 1
- UI/UX Design Experience
- Front End Web Development
- Loves learning new softwares
UBC CS Graduate Cost of Living Survey

Come join us and make this a better visualized concern!

Contact us:
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