

## Fall Semester 2020 Q&A

### General Fall Decision Making

What assumptions have you made about Fall?

- Some form of physical distancing as directed by provincial health restrictions and Phase 1 of the province's post-secondary guidelines
- Continued remote instruction in Fall 2020 with some access to campus facilities as permitted by public health officials
- Staff and faculty will continue to work remotely where possible, returning to campus only when resources allow and when needed to directly support campus operations and studio access
- Financial challenges due to performance-based and decreased Alberta government funding, and decreased enrollment as a result of the implications of the pandemic

### Physical Distancing: General

What types of PPE will be provided?

- As we always do, all PPE will be provided for studios
- We are working on plans for general PPE, such as whether we would expect people to have their own masks

How can I be assured the campus, classrooms, offices and all facilities are clean?

- We will place your health, safety and wellbeing above all other considerations
- Access to the campus is being decided based on our capacity to manage safety and clean spaces

Why are you making this decision when gatherings of 50 people are allowed?

- We are following Alberta government guidelines
- 50 people with physical distancing are allowed, however if two or more individuals are required to come within two metres of each other there must be additional protections such as engineering controls (barriers or partitions), administrative controls (adapting the activity to minimize or eliminate close contact), or use of PPE by all individuals in close contact
- AUArts must have the resources in place to ensure restrictions are adhered to

How will physical distancing be arranged?

- Home studio and classroom spaces may be re-adjusted to allow for physical distancing

Will we be back to normal for Winter 2021?

- It is too early to say. It will depend on public health restrictions, and there are warnings of additional waves of infection during the flu season

## **Academics**

Will the same courses be offered?

- For Fall 2020, we are offering courses that are most conducive to learning at a distance

Will I be able to advance in my degree as I normally would?

- That is our aim. The timetable is being adjusted so that students can expect to advance in their degrees and graduate on time

What courses are/are not being offered?

- The timetable will be announced soon

Will I be able to make up courses if I defer?

- We are looking at additional studio and non-studio courses in Spring 2021 to help students looking to make up credits

What if I don't live in Calgary?

- Course descriptions will clearly indicate whether you must be in Calgary to enroll and the tools you will need to complete the course
- For those courses that require you to be in Calgary, no completion will be contingent on student access to the campus, however, some courses/areas of practice will require priority access/curbside service

What about my research activities?

- Pending health restrictions, research activity by faculty and students will be allowed on an appointment basis

What if I am an international student?

- We are pleased that new travel restrictions allow for international students to study wherever they live

What about continuing education and professional development?

- The same applies. Courses will be offered remotely for Fall 2020

## **Student Services and Campus Life**

Will I have a campus home studio space?

- No
- Pending health regulations, limited and adapted studio access will be available to students and faculty on a by-appointment basis

If I don't have a campus home studio, does this mean I need to have a studio at home?

- Yes, although SCD courses do not require a studio
- Pending health regulations, limited and adapted studio access will be available to students and faculty on a by-appointment basis

How will access to studio spaces be determined?

- We will share details when we have them

I am out of town and can't access studios on campus. Will I be disadvantaged?

- Course descriptions will clearly indicate whether you must be in Calgary to enroll and the tools you will need to complete the course
- For those courses that require you to be in Calgary, no completion will be contingent on student access to the campus, however, some courses/areas of practice will require priority access/curbside service

Will I be able to access any student services?

- Yes, and some services may even increase. For example, we will provide more access to mental health supports.

How are student accommodations being planned for?

- As they always are, with the potential for increased service to meet any increased demand

Internet access is a barrier for many. How will this be accommodated?

- We are looking at making some computer banks available onsite pending regulations
- Beyond this we do not have the capacity to make accommodations for this

Many students do not have computers. How is this being accommodated?

- By replacing computers for faculty and staff, AUArts is able to donate 50 computers to students. This will be announced soon and managed through a bursary application
- Beyond this we do not have the capacity to make accommodations

Will communal spaces be accessible, such as computer labs?

- We are examining whether a computer lab could be safely made available. Otherwise you should assume communal spaces are not accessible

Will campus hours be the same?

- The campus is currently on lock down with the exception of essential services
- When we are allowed to offer some access, the hours will be significantly reduced

Will the library be open?

- Stage 1 of the provincial guidelines mean libraries remain closed

Will there be any social activities?

- No social gatherings will be permitted until health restrictions allow and can be conducted safely with the available University resources

Will there be food service operations?

- Not on our campus. We await decisions from SAIT on their food services

Will I have access to SAIT facilities such as recreation?

- It depends on SAIT

What other facilities/services are impacted?

- The full list is to be determined, but you can expect things like no water fountains

Will I have a place to live on campus?

- Yes. SAIT is planning for student housing that accommodates physical distancing and other measures

## **Tuition, Fees, Financial Support**

Will my tuition be lower?

- No. You can expect the same quantity of instruction and credential
- Temporary, changed delivery methods are being made due to COVID, not the University
- Our aim is for the quality of instruction to be the same or better

Will my student fees be lower?

- Studio fee: Fees will vary depending on the ability for students to safely access their studios.
- Students' Association membership: Fee will remain the same as 2019-20 fee rate as the association will continue to be offering adapted programs and services throughout the year.
- Health and Dental Plan: No decreases to the fee, as a new provider will be implemented in the fall with several additional services (more information to come in August). Please note that this year all students will be automatically assessed the same fee rate so long as they are enrolled in a minimum of 3 credits, and will have the opportunity in September to opt out should they have adequate alternative coverage.
- Universal transit pass: UPass is allowing us to defer charges for Fall 2020. There will be no UPass fees, but this means also no UPass access.
- SAIT wellness centre: SAIT tells us fees will vary depending on the ability for students to safely access SAIT's wellness centre. At this time, SAIT has told us their wellness centre is closed due to health restrictions.
- Network access: Will remain the same, especially as network access is even more important.
- Student services fees: Will remain the same as students can expect the same student services.
- Processing fee for first year and part-time only: Will remain the same.
- Locker fee: No fee as students will not be able to access their lockers.

Will there be more bursaries or scholarships like the ones just offered?

- If we can secure additional donor support
- The University issued 83 bursaries (\$500 each) in April-May, and 17 scholarships (\$1500 each) available for research in May-June

I have lost my summer and part time job. Are you able to help?

- We realize financial circumstances may have changed. AUArts already offers generous scholarships and bursaries, and if we can secure additional donor support this could increase

## **Building Access and Operations**

What is being done to support the work that needs to happen to ensure that students are safe if they can enter the building?

- Our Health and Safety team are working very diligently on ensuring we are putting appropriate safeguards in place. We have nearly 300,000 ft sq that needs to be prepped up in order to be able to manage access. This planning and preparation will continue over the summer months and up to the start of the Fall term based on the guidance provided by public health officials.