

October 16, 2020

Dear AUArts Students, Faculty and Staff,

Due to continued public health restrictions and following consultation with the chairs and faculty, for the Winter 2021 semester AUArts will continue to deliver most of its courses online with some in-person studio instruction. This has an impact on students, faculty and staff.

What does this mean for students?

Students will continue to take many courses online. The exception is courses that rely entirely on access to campus studio equipment and technology. We are offering a few of these courses this Winter semester to enable students at all levels of study to progress through their declared major.

To take these courses, students must be in Calgary and willing to enter the campus. The method of delivery of these courses will be adapted to ensure compliance with public health guidelines and to minimize the risk of exposure to the campus community.

Please contact a Student Advisor who will have all course details by the end of October, including the impact of deferring at all levels of study in any program.

What does this mean for faculty?

Most faculty should expect to work from home until the end of the Winter 2021 semester, with some access to the campus. This access includes recording or livestreaming studio demonstrations, using campus technology for teaching purposes or conducting research that cannot take place off campus. Making this decision now allows all faculty more time to plan and adapt courses for the Winter semester.

What does this mean for staff?

Most staff will continue to work from home until the end of the Winter 2021 semester. The exception is team members required to maintain campus operations such as IT, maintenance, bookstore and security. Educational Art Technicians will also work on campus to support faculty teaching and students working in studios and to provide supports to students working in their studios at home. Managers will shortly receive a survey to determine the specific needs of their teams working from home.

Why is this decision being made?

AUArts continues to make decisions based on the first guiding principle for campus access which is “to place the health, safety, and wellbeing of students, staff, and faculty above all other considerations”. The decision about the Winter 2021 semester aligns with this principle. As public health guidelines change, so too will AUArts and we continue to follow guidance from the public health authority and government. We are prepared to rapidly modify our process if the situation changes, including closing the campus if required. However, we cannot shift mid-semester, so everyone should expect mainly online instruction and work for the Winter semester.

We recognize there are many unknowns in our lives, including your study and work at AUArts. COVID-19 continues to take a toll and impact us in many ways. We encourage you and your families to maintain self-care and to reach out to any of the many supports and resources in the community and through AUArts.

AUArts faculty and staff can access Homewood Health 24/7 at 1-800-663-1142 or online at homeweb.ca. Students can access mental health resources available through your respective extended health benefit plans including the plan administered by the Students' Association. Additionally, telephone and MS Teams counselling support for students is available from 8:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday. Please email counselling@auarts.ca to set up an appointment.

We will provide more details as they become available.

Regards,

Daniel

Dr. Daniel Doz

President and CEO