

BAS Incoming First Year Town Hall

Revised July 29, 2020

- Information that has been revised is below the **highlighted** questions

1) General

Q – Will tuition be reduced because class is online?

A – Tuition will not be reduced. This is a university, not departmental decision which is in line with universities across the province.

Q – Will any classes be held at the university in the fall?

A – there will be no BAS classes this fall

Q - Will there be a chance of fall term transitioning to on-campus learning?

A – No, classes will remain closed till the winter term at the earliest

2) Online Learning

Q - How effective will the online classes be if there is supposed to be a lot of hands on work?

A – They are effective, we have developed the workflow in the winter and summer terms of 2020. While nothing can compare to learning in a space together, we are confident that our online learning is able to adequately give students the knowledge and skills to pursue their BAS education.

Q - Have you tested the online classes to see if it works? Will you do a test with the students in August before the program begins?

A – Yes, we have been testing different software since February, and particularly for the summer studio. We will have made a final decision by the middle of the summer which we will convey to our current students

Q – Will classes be on Zoom or pre-recorded?

A – Both, lecture classes will most likely be pre-recorded, classes with more interaction with the instructor will be on Zoom. This is to the discretion of each instructor, but our focus is on equity, to ensure everyone has equal access to material, and faculty.

Q - Will assignments be the same as the usual in-person courses? How will tests/summative work function?

A – No, certain assignments will have to be amended at the discretion of individual faculty and our current standards of best practice.

Re: exams: Carleton had a number of issues with testing at the end of last term. We are looking for new ways that will reduce 'collaboration' during exams.

Q - Will there be a reduced amount of work in each class because classes are online?

A - No, course outputs will remain relatively the same, but we are working to ensure that the work is possible off-campus, and that some skills are difficult to learn online. Therefore, the changes to workload are more related to technique than the amount of output.

Q - Will we be submitting everything online for these classes? (With scans of our work?)

A – Yes, you might produce physical work where you live, but you will be submitting images, or videos, etc. through the university's online portal - CULearn

Q - Will there be lessons/courses that allow us to interact with other students as well (such as drawing inspiration from their work), as opposed to just one-on-one with TAs or professors?

A – Yes, this is what we are trying to develop over the summer. We know that learning online is not a replacement for physically being together but what we hope with the optional summer activities, and developing a new workflow is that students can get as much interaction with each other as possible – to build a strong student community. This has always been important to the school, but it is even more important this year because people are so dispersed and isolated. That means we have to put in place a lot of support systems and accessible modes of social interaction.

Q - What are you planning as the alternatives to the field trips during fall term?

A – Those will have to be deferred until we can come together again. We have the opportunity to use mediums like film and other digital modes, but arguably there is nothing like being physically at a place.

Q - Will you be doing some in person teaching? I think that students in Ottawa should be able to gather in smaller groups. Could even do walks together downtown to see buildings

A – For reasons of equity we have decided as a faculty not to meet with local students. Therefore, we will not organize field trips through the school. Students are welcome to meet as long as they follow the provincial guidelines.

Q - Will we be model making even though we may not have access to the studio?

A – Yes, but the models will be smaller, of readily available materials and we are simplifying the techniques that we are teaching you.

Q - I currently live in outside of Ottawa, and I was wondering since classes are being given online, will I be able to complete the semester from home?

A – Yes, you should live where you feel the most comfortable and most supported. You will need a workspace and we will discuss what that might look like a little later in the Town Hall, but because the experience of learning architecture online will be new for everyone, we recommend that you live in a place where you do not feel isolated.

Q - What is the computer requirement in the first year?

A – most standard laptops or desktops are fine. The recommendation for Adobe CS is Intel® or AMD processor with 64-bit support; 2 GHz or faster processor, 8 GB of RAM, and 3.1 GB or more of available hard-disk space (more required for installation).

As important is a reasonable internet speed for both download and upload speed. Zoom needs approx. 1.5Mb/s. You can test your internet speeds on a website like: [speedtest.net](https://www.speedtest.net)

Q - Are there any suggestions for timetable structures? (In terms of putting certain courses ahead of others or just any tips that you might have for the process)

A – In the first year your core courses are fixed. The BAS grid for upcoming year is not yet on our website, but we are revising it now. If you have a specific question related to courses please contact Michelle Fotheringham, our Undergraduate Administrator

Q - Could you talk about course selection in terms of math and physics and the suggested or ideal balance for those types of courses with our normal design/ arch. history/theory courses?

A – There are no additional math or physics courses that you have to take. There is math (beam calculation) in our Tech courses. You are welcome to take them math and physics as free electives if the subject interests you.

Q - For course registration, if we missed the first live workshop and are unable to watch the next one, is there a recorded one that we can watch ourselves?

A – If you have any questions concerning registration contact Michelle. The registration will be completed in specific groups based on surname. Registration is completed in a block which mean that all core courses are together as a unit. The free elective for both the fall and winter term will need to be carefully considered and applied for now so that the course you would like to take is not full.

Q - What are tutorials, and do we need to add them when we are submitting our course registration or is that done at a later date?

A – you will have to apply for a tutorial when you register for particular classes (e.g. Architecture History courses).

3) Drawing & Multimedia classes

Q – What materials and assignments are in the Drawing class

The drawing class is an EXPLORATION OF PROCESS AND MATERIALS THROUGH TRANSMEDIALITY. We begin the semester with modeling exercises, then we proceed to freehand drawing and build the skills for drafted architectural drawings with the use of a drawing board. You will become familiar with measuring and survey as well as design drawings, and learn about orthographic projection such as plans, sections, and elevations. You can find more information about the combined approach of the drawing and multimedia classes and the notion of transmedia in the booklet that the school provided to with.

Q – Are we going to have to buy a 24” x 36” drawing board / drafting set at the start of the year?

A - It will be best to purchase the drafting board and the supplies well in advance of the start of the year. A full list will be provided in early July.

- While 24” x 36” is preferred, students can get a smaller table at 18” x 24”

Q – Will we have to buy drawing supplies?

A - The class relies on the use of a number of drawing and modeling supplies. The faculty is working to update the list of required drawing and modeling materials and optional materials. She is working with DeSerres (St. Laurent Mall, Ottawa), a local store that provided materials for our students for several years. DeSerres agreed to work with each of you individually and ship the materials you order to you. You will have the chance to buy the bundle with a discount, and/or customize your list and remove items that you already have or add items to the list.

Q – When will we receive the supply list

A – Early August. The faculty is in the process of completing the revised supply list for this academic year and working with DeSerres (St. Laurent Mall, Ottawa) to make sure they have everything in stock, as they are reopening the store on June 15. The faculty plans to mail you the

complete list in early July and inform you about when DeSerres will be ready to receive your orders. You will be provided with the store manager's contact information. You can decide if you want to take advantage of the opportunity to work with this store, which will have all the supplies for the class. You could be in touch with them to order your supplies. The faculty recommends ordering materials well in advance of the start of school (i.e. 4 weeks in advance) to make sure to account for possible shipping delays and be equipped when we begin school in September.

Q - What software will be available to us from the university (or at discounted prices) that will be useful in our years studying architecture?

A - We are currently setting up a baseline for our digital infrastructure and so we will send you specifics later in the fall.

- You have access to one-year, revised each year for educational licenses of Autodesk products like AutoCAD and Revit, but this is not necessary until later in your education

- We will provide Adobe CS licenses for first year which is important for Multi-media

- We are looking at a series of online workflows, which include programs like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Figma but this will be forthcoming later in the summer

<https://help.figma.com/hc/en-us/articles/360041061214-Verify-your-Education-status#verify>

- Microsoft Office

4) Intro to Architecture Class

A - Because Professor Connah is on leave, we have found a great replacement. Mokena Makeka, an award-winning architect in Cape Town South Africa and international leader in socially relevant design, will be teaching the course. You can read a bit about him here:

<https://www.globalteacherprize.org/person?id=4660>

5) Student Experience & Safety

Q - What type of activities will you introduce to have the first-year students get to know each other during this different environment?

A - Currently working on a summer workshop with AASA to create what we think will be a really fun and enjoyable time over a few days. AASA is also working on our Spirit Week, concrete plans and a schedule will be out in the coming weeks, some of our members are currently taking online studio so once they are completed with that course we will be able to get out more planning and detailing for those summer events. For support systems we will have the buddy system out once registration is done, but AASA and I are always available to take questions or chat about any questions, concerns, or comments.

Q - Will there be an online alternative to frost/orientation week? Or will it be postponed to when we go back on campus?

A - Carleton University will be holding an online alternative to orientation week, registration for that begins July 6th. For architecture, AASA is planning a Spirit Week event, where every day is a different virtual activity regarding a different medium (ex. Photography) that you use or will become introduced to in your first year.

Q - Can you tell us more about the Buddy assignment?

A – the Buddy assignment is our way of getting you acquainted with the architecture school environment and start you on your journey of meeting the interesting characters of this school. Once first years are registered we gather a list of volunteers upper-year students, many of which are in second year. In a virtual setting we will act as both mentors and your new friends, answering any questions, giving you advice, tips, and even help you set up your studio if you want help with that. You and your buddy will exchange social media and contact information, and you can reach out to them and them to you.

Q - Can we join AASA?

A – Heck yeah you can! AASA will be holding a by-election in the beginning of the Fall semester. Every year has a representative that will attend meetings, help organize events, and act as a communicative tool to share resources and answer questions your peers might have. More information on that once the elections near, and if you have any questions about what AASA is currently working on you can reach out to our official email.

Q - We have a Discord server where we already gathered 30-35 of the incoming architecture students! Is it alright if we leave a link so that the other 70-80 people who do not know about it yet can join too?

A – AASA is working on an overall discord server for all of architecture this summer in coordination with our media team. In this larger discord server, you will be able to talk with students outside of your year, see work from students outside first year, get advice, etc., on top of our buddy program we have.

Q - Will it still be possible for architecture students to use the studio space during the first term in September? If not, will that mean that everything will be strictly online? In such cases, will it still be possible for students to stay on residence and still have enough space to work on anything that would have otherwise been done in a studio space or will this also be altered?

A – No, students will not have access to the studio or workshop or computer labs in the Architecture Building

- Yes, everything will be online

- Yes, students can stay in residence. I will discuss other facilities later in the Town Hall. Each residence room has a desk and chair. Abbi stayed in Residence last year, she mentioned that “Technically yes, the desk will fit larger pieces of paper. But if you have things like a computer, printer, etc, it’s a bit crowded. I would definitely recommend getting a slanted craft desk or the drafting table, but in a pinch the res desks will work.”

Q - Some people are planning to stay in residence for the fall semester, if restrictions are lifted during the fall semester, will some classes become in person or remain online?

A – all classes will remain online, the earliest possible in-building classes are for the winter term

6) Student Health Services & Paul Menton Centre

A – From Kristie Tousignant, Director of Health and Counselling Services, student health services and they have moved all of their services online including mental health support. The clinic is open Monday to Friday 8:30-4:30 for all services. They are almost exclusively virtual; however, the medical clinic can take face to face visits when necessary and they have a protocol in place to facilitate physical visits.

Anyone can call for medical and counselling services.

- From Larry McCloskey, Director of the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities, students can contact PMC by email or phone, and they will be connected to a coordinator for their individual discussion and assessment of needs.

7) University Resources (benefits to living near campus)

- Building Access (Computer labs and Workshop facilities)

A – The Architecture Building facilities will not be available to students in the fall term

- Residence

A – Students can be in residence; all double rooms will only have a single person, but they will share a bathroom with one other student

- Library

A – Library will be pick-up and drop-off only

- Campus Recreation

A – As of right now, our understanding is that Campus Recreation will be closed

8) Winter Term – January 2021

Q – If the winter term studio is online, how will we procure materials?

A – We have only partially considered the winter term. I think it will be very similar to fall term in the use of easily accessible materials, and amended projects to account for online learning

Q - How will studio time work online?

A – This summer we are working on a workflow. At the moment it seems that Zoom, Figma and Teams that work best, but we want to try a couple more software packages before making a final determination

Additionally, this is tricky because of time zones. We will have regular studio hours from 1:30 – 5:30 but will accommodate on a case-by-case basis. We will contact everyone later in the summer to determine who might need accommodations because of geographical location.

Q - When will we find out about if the winter term is in person or online?

Q - When is the decision being made?

A - At a departmental level the decision is on-going, and this is at the forefront of our minds, to give you sufficiently informed as updated information becomes available. Broadly speaking the university is considering a hybrid model. We have to be very careful in noting that this is tentative, and that these decisions may change depending on the timing of the second wave of infections, and the length that the second wave stays.

But in the interest of keeping you up-to-date, in an email today from the University it writes: “We remain hopeful that it will be possible to welcome some students back to campus in January; however, it seems very unlikely that the pandemic will have fully resolved by then.

In planning for Winter 2021, we must remain responsive to evolving public health guidelines. We will continue to be guided by the key principles outlined by the Carleton University Scenario Planning working group, and we will continue to place the health and well-being of students, staff, faculty and the broader community above all other considerations. Even if public health restrictions are eased such that some face-to-face instruction could resume, many students may not be able—or may not be comfortable—to return to campus. Therefore, as [departments]

develop [their] Winter 2021 Term courses, please do so in a manner that will allow them to be delivered to our students who will be taking their courses remotely.”

9) Any Other Questions

Q - Is it possible to switch streams?

A – Yes, but it is difficult, we are currently considering some changes to the policy, but it will be available for you to consider at the end of the academic year (April 2021)

Why be close to Ottawa?

A – that is really a personal choice. As mentioned, you should live where you feel the most comfortable and most supported. Ottawa is a wonderful city with a number of opportunities, but with the university largely closed you may want to consider other, ancillary reasons to move to Ottawa if you want to move to the city in September.

Is a minor in a different subject possible if you have transfer credits from a previous year?

A – it is possible but would require an addition term of study