

Frequently Asked Questions - SOA 2020-2021 Academic Year

The following questions are designed to assist you with the many details you will encounter as a new or returning student at the University of Manitoba—and specifically, in the School of Art.

What will the fall term look like overall?

In general, most of your classes will be taught remotely. However, a very small number of studio courses will be offered in-person, using robust social distancing protocols to ensure everyone's safety.

Should I defer my program this year?

You can, however, this will mean you will be extending the time to complete your degree. We do not want your progress to stall, and we are coming up with innovative and creative ways to facilitate your growth in this area. If you are considering this, please connect with Ms. Heather Nicolson, the SOA Student Advisor at heather.nicolson@umanitoba.ca.

Will I have access to a studio space?

There will be limited use of studio spaces for students enrolled into in-person classes, undergraduate students enrolled into in-person Senior Studio, and for graduate students. However, we are encouraging you to work at home, if at all possible. Please note, though, that access to these spaces is restricted to 8:30 am to 8:00 pm. The building is closed to all students outside of these hours.

Will I have access to the Maclab?

The Maclab will be not be open for general use and restricted to students enrolled in Senior Studio and Graduate students.

SOA Cleaning Protocols:

- Entrances will be controlled via programmed swipe access— there will be designated entrance and exit points to access the building.
- Generally speaking, we are requesting that students who need to be on campus for an in-person class minimize their time on campus to the absolute minimum.
- To ensure the safety of everyone, all the lounge areas and congregation spaces in Taché will be either removed or barricaded.
- At present, there is no general study space in Taché, and students are encouraged to travel to the Elizabeth Dafoe library to do any necessary work.
- Studio classes will be scheduled so that the flow of traffic in hallways is controlled and social distancing protocols are maintained.
- Social distancing protocols will be maintained in all studio classes. That said, we acknowledge that social distancing will not be possible at all times (e.g. when an instructor or Technician is helping a student with a piece of equipment). In such instances, masks will be required in those instances, as well as encouraged overall whenever walking through Taché.

- Students and instructors will be responsible for cleaning their equipment and work areas; custodial services will clean commonly touched surfaces, including washing floors, after each class.
- There will be hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, and alcohol-based disinfectants will be provided.
- The elevators and washrooms will be cleaned on a regular basis.

What are the non-in-person courses going to look like this year?

The studio and art history faculty are taking this opportunity to explore a variety of innovative approaches and technologies. You can expect to see a combination of virtual class meetings, project-based learning, video lectures, and virtual one-on-one consultations with faculty members. What will remain the same is the high-quality, expert instruction you will get from dedicated faculty who cannot wait to work with you this fall.

Technology support for students:

To which platforms will I be expected to have access?

- For information on remote learning support: <http://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/adapting-remote-learning>
- Some of the courses may use WebEx. Please take a look at the following link on how to set up and find support for WebEx: <https://centre.cc.umanitoba.ca/webex-support/>
- If you need support with your computer/UM email/UMnetID, contact IT for Students <http://umanitoba.ca/computing/ist/students/>

Will there be access to the library?

According to the information we have at this time, while the main floor of the Elizaeth Dafoe Library will be open as a study space for students, the Architecture/Fine Art library will be closed to patrons this fall. However, students can access all online materials (monographs, journals, etc.), and curbside pick-up of library materials is available. Students can also request to have scans of materials in the physical collection made (within copyright restrictions). [More information can be found on the Libraries website.](#)

What if I am unable to attend the University of Manitoba this fall in person?

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused untold disruptions to seemingly every aspect of our lives. Although our preference would be for you to experience the School of Art, we understand if that option is not feasible to you this fall. In such cases, please contact Ms. Heather Nicolson, the SOA Student Advisor, at heather.nicolson@umanitoba.ca to make alternative arrangements to ensure your experience this year will be as positive and fulfilling as possible.

Will the residences be open this year?

Yes, Student Residences will be open and operational for the 2020-21 academic year. Go [HERE](#) for updates on Residence.

Where can I live if not on campus?

For information about off-campus living visit: [Off-Campus living or Homestay Accommodations.](#)

What student services are open in the University Centre?

Please take a look at the available on-campus services: <http://umanitoba.ca/campus-services/umsu-uc>